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Teenager unlocks iPhone

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HACKERS have unlocked Microsoft's new iPhone, allowing it to be used by any network.

New Jersey youth George Hotz, 17, announced on his blog he had unlocked the iPhone and used it on T-Mobile, a rival to its sole US operator, AT&T.

AP news agency confirmed the iPhone had been unlocked, BBC reported.

Mr Hotz said he worked with four other people.

It should take someone about two hours and require some soldering and software skill to break the code.

"Some of my friends think I wasted my summer but I think it was worth it," Mr Hotz told US newspaper *The Record of Bergen County*.

Hackers have been trying to break the code that forces US users to use only AT&T.

Others copied the information on SIM cards to make the iPhone work on overseas networks, although special equipment was needed.

Mr Hotz said he hoped phone owners could eventually unlock their phones by themselves, and that the discovery would not be exploited for commercial gain.

The next step would be to unlock the iPhone using software alone.

Technology blog Engadget said last week it unlocked an iPhone using a method that needed no hardware tinkering.

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George Hotz, 17, has broken the lock that ties Apple's iPhone to AT&T's wireless network, freeing the most hyped cell phone ever for use on the networks of other carriers, including overseas carriers. Picture: AP

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