

Does privacy even matter?

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I'm not doing anything wrong, so I don't have to care about digital privacy.”

While it is true you don't *have to* care about online privacy, it is also true that there are compelling reasons why you might want to pay attention.

Identity theft is one obvious reason why digital privacy should be safeguarded. As a precaution against a malicious person or organization now or in the future, you might serve yourself well by protecting your privacy. If you believe that privacy is an essential principle of democracy, then respecting privacy might just be a personal value.



Interested in learning more about digital privacy?

Do Not Track is a free seven-part documentary that you can watch online at <https://donottrack-doc.com/en/>

Check out this book from the LBCC Albany campus library: *Data and Goliath: the hidden battles to collect your data and control your world* by Bruce Schneier

Introduce yourself to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, <https://ssd.eff.org/en/module/problem-mobile-phones>

Linn Benton Community College Library

<https://library.linnbenton.edu/home>

Phone: 541-917-4638

Email: libref@linnbenton.edu

Smartphone Privacy Tips



Basic Smartphone Security Practices

- ◆ Use a secure password to unlock your phone
- ◆ Routinely monitor privacy settings
- ◆ Keep apps updated
- ◆ Be deliberate in giving permissions to apps
- ◆ Avoid sending secure information over public wi-fi
- ◆ Opt for auto-login selectively (if at all)
- ◆ Be prepared to track and lock your phone

What is Geotracking?

According to *PC World*, geotracking refers to identifying a person's current, physical location by obtaining GPS data from their smartphones or other GPS-enabled devices.

You may not care that others know where you are at every minute of every day. If so, the real-time tracking in Google Maps or the interactive map on Snapchat that lets "friends" know exactly where you are may be considered great perks.

Many people, however, would prefer to avoid sharing their location publicly for any number of reasons; probably the #1 reason is personal safety.

While it may be impossible to stop all location tracking on your phone, you can make it harder for your location to be tracked by giving permissions to your location selectively and turning on permissions on an as-needed basis.

Restrict which apps can see the information about your location and make sure that your location is only shared with trusted apps and friends.

Be mindful of "checking in" on social media as that tells people exactly where you are and may betray your habits.

If you have reason to be concerned about your phone tracking your location and revealing your whereabouts, take the batteries out.

Learn more about geotracking by reading this online article at PC World, <https://www.pcworld.com/article/192803/geolo.html>

Checking Privacy Settings

iOS settings:

Settings → Touch ID & Passcode
Settings → Spotlight Search (off)
Settings → Keyboard → Predictive Text (off)
Settings → Keyboard → Enable Dictation (off)
Settings → Privacy → Location Services
Only give access where necessary
Settings → Privacy → application data requests (review)
Settings → Privacy → Diagnostics & Usage (don't send)
Settings → Privacy → Advertising → Limit Ad Tracking

Android settings:

Settings → Connections → turn off all
Settings → location (off)
Settings → more → Security
Password
Encrypt device
Device administrators
Unknown sources (uncheck)
Verify apps (check)



DuckDuckGo

Consider downloading the DuckDuckGo app so that you can use a search engine that doesn't track your searches