

Secrets of a stalker

Are your privacy settings really private?
Who could be watching you!



Safety, Privacy & Apple iOS 8

Sarah Kirkis



Location is a primary source involved with tracking, majority of iOS users don't understand the location services section in your iPhone settings.

iOS 8 and later give you the option to control which apps have access to your current location, with the recent 2017 update users can now track and record real time location tracking! Apps such as **Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram** access your location through your camera, live geo tags on snapchat and 'checking in' to a specific place on all these apps.

A lot of users don't understand the consequences when allowing an app to access location services.

For most millennials or Gen Y & Z (babies born between 1990-2000) being the most impatient generations produced, pop-ups on iPhones are annoying meaning most of us don't read what it says we just tap until it goes away! These pop-ups contain important info such as apps allowing access to location although we wouldn't know!

Baby boomers and Gen X love to read every word and understand what this iPhone is trying to tell you, this is usually followed by "What does this mean? Why is it asking me that" conversation.

When allowing a app to use your location, it will either state **"Allow app to use location when app isn't in use"** or **"Allow app to use location when app is in use"**. **"Don't allow"** disables the app to utilise your current location when app is in use or not in use.

With **emergency calls or SOS** current location is always active which means if you're in an emergency, emergency services always have access to your location. This is good for safety, although what isn't mentioned is your location services for your phone are always on! no matter if you chose allow or deny for particular apps. Furthermore if a hacker tried to locate you they could. Scary stuff! From a recent study by 'Security and Communication Networks' Location privacy could be leaked through sensory Data collection.

An iPhone contains 6 sensors this of which connect to cellular towers close to you thus showing your current location for apps like Maps. Scary enough when hacking into these sensors others may locate precisely where you are.

Find my Friends is an in-built app in all iPhones, its soul purpose is to locate your 'contacts' to see where they are. This is useful when at a concert or a festival but not useful in everyday life, this app has had evil consequences when it comes to hacking location privacy.

Of course Apple wouldn't have made an iPhone app without considering users privacy, when wanting to connect with your contacts to track their location they have to turn it on via 'contacts' its a simple click of a button and boom you're connected.

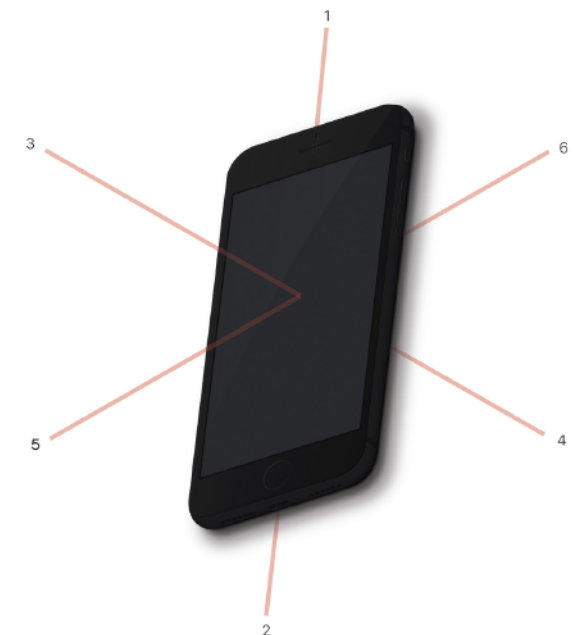
Another app produced called '**Life360**' this is an app that was designed for parents to locate their child for safety purposes. Technological advancements and major faults are outlined allowing parents to become aware they could be doing more

harm than good for their child's safety. With full access to the location services of this iPhone anybody with the correct technology could tap into this app and locate thousands of people, including children. The producers of Life360 would be right onto hackers in no time although a 30 second to 2 minute gap between fixing crashes could be enough for a pedophile to locate a child's location.

Apple have claimed to have tough privacy controls that only allow what users choose to access location. Although through 'Gadget Hacks' it became quite easy to follow someone using IOS 8.

This process is as simple as following them on Find my Friends, the user has to enable location services for apps like messages or GPS and the user you're following won't have a clue you're following them, they won't get a popup notification or a drop down alert, it's fairly secretive. There is even a '**Notify Me**' button to notify you when they're leaving a certain location.

Even in 2017 it's still easy to track others whereabouts without them knowing.



6 Sensors in an iPhone

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