

Lara Bazelmans

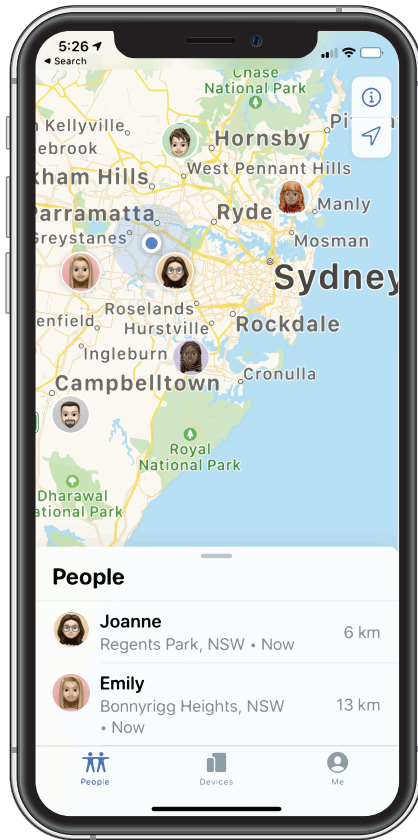
Check my Location

Communication is no longer a requirement to stay connected



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'Find My'



'Messages'

Apples location-sharing features allow individuals to be aware of where friends and family are at all times through the applications 'Messages' and 'Find My'. Once users share their location with selected contacts through these apps, the individuals location data is sent from one Apple device to another, allowing anyone with granted access to see exactly where the user is at any given moment. They can also receive notifications when friends and family leave or arrive at a saved address, such as school, work or home. To access these features, location services must be enabled in the iPhone's settings and when sharing location with others, access must be granted. When sharing their location, users have the option to share it indefinitely or for limited periods as little as one Hour or until the end of the day.

Location sharing with friends and family has become the norm in recent years through the integration of these services across multiple devices and apps. It provides a sense of interconnectedness that overrides the loss of privacy. Brett Kennedy, a clinical psychologist who specialises in digital

media and device addiction states "Privacy is so overrated for a lot of people, so this is sometimes seen as a really nice way to not have to deal with loneliness and isolation... When both people are consenting to it, it can be a nice way to connect." Apples location sharing not only displays your contacts location, it also aids in helping find children or friends in large crowded areas. Through the use of the 'Find My' app, users can select the person they wish to find from the contacts list and select 'directions', which automatically opens a separate application 'Maps' that provides instant coordinates to their exact location.

Location sharing services have also improved the way in which emergency services can help and assist individuals. In 2018, Apple announced that the iPhone will have the ability to automatically and securely share a users location data when calling emergency services (000) with the new iOS 12 operating system. This feature enables first responders to gain fast and accurate information on the individuals location and therefore reduce the time it will take for emergency services to get to

the person involved in the incident. Apple has built upon its existing HELO (Hybridised Emergency Location) technology that was launched in 2015. This technology uses the devices GPS and cell towers to estimate the emergency callers location. The new SOS feature on the iPhone allows the user to effortlessly call the local emergency number and alert emergency contacts that have been set on the users iPhone. Once an emergency call has ended, the emergency contacts are notified with a text message that contains the individuals location and will continuously update the location whenever it changes.

Location sharing has drastically transformed how people connect in recent years. It has played a huge role in the safety of individuals and efficiency of emergency services. Having constant access to the location of others replaces the need for communication between friends and family in relation to their activities. This can be a major tool in helping to reassure family and friends that their loved ones are safe and in the right location, especially if they aren't reachable.

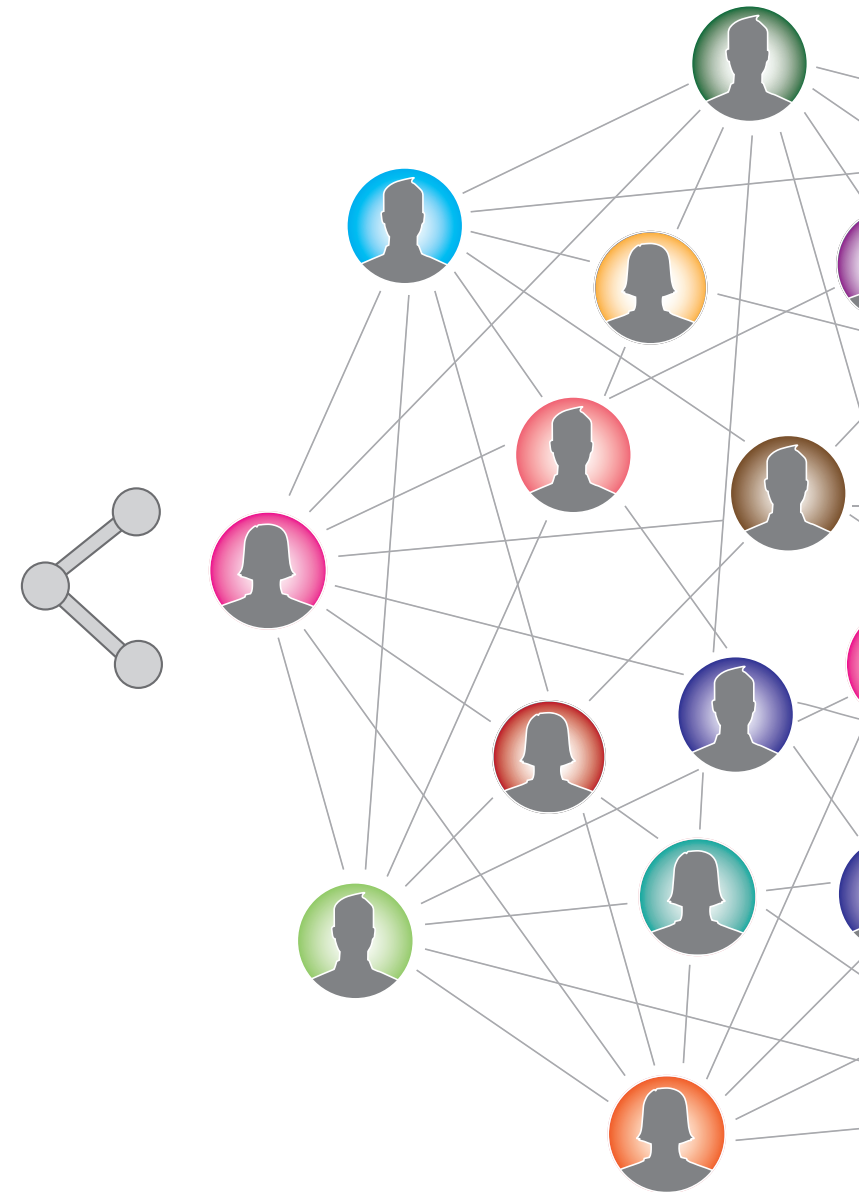
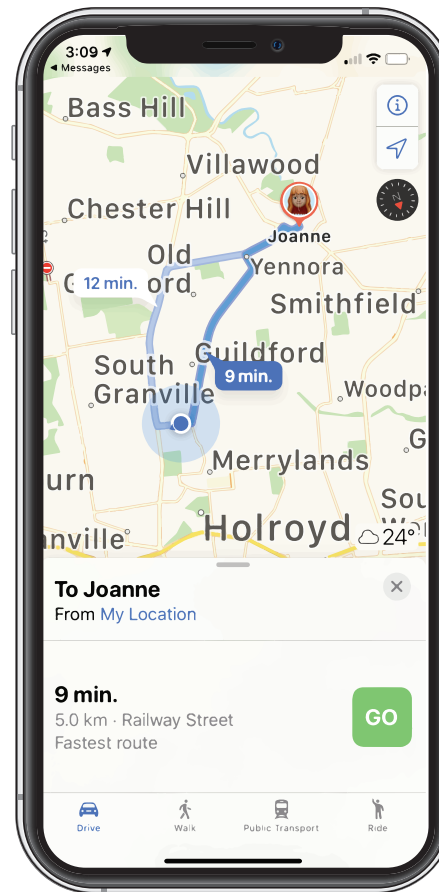
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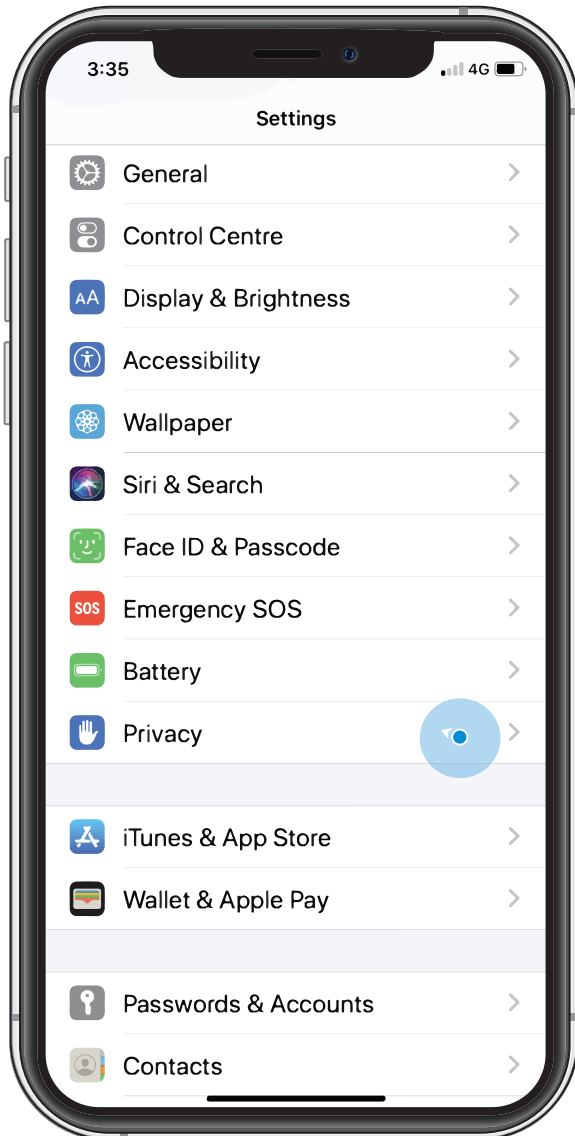
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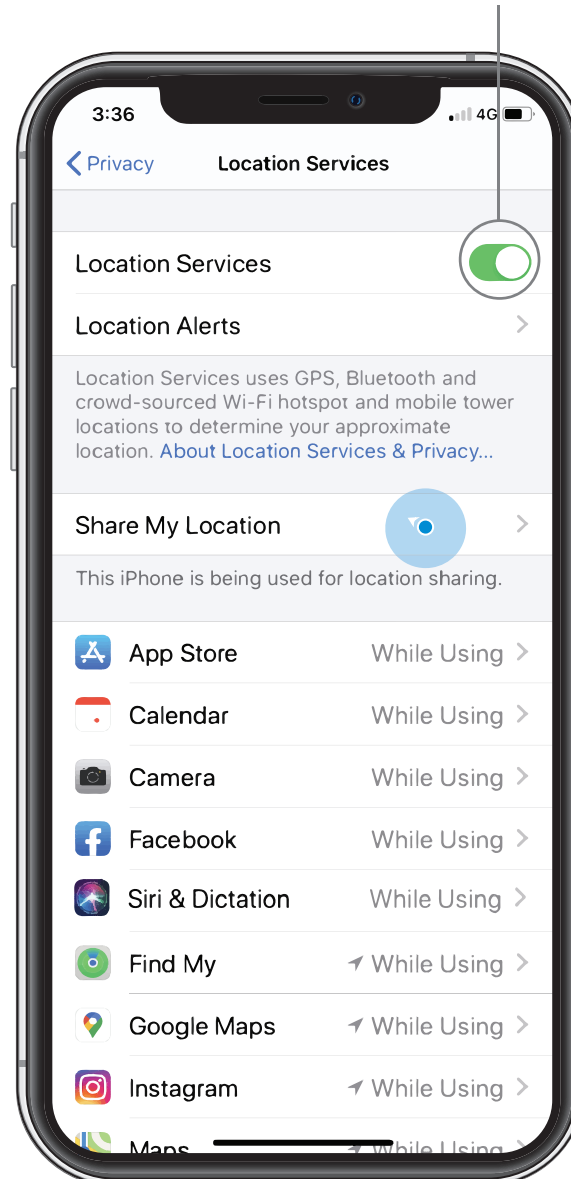
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How to use Location sharing services

Go into > Settings > Privacy



Turn on 'Location services' > Share My Location



Turn on > 'Share My Location'

