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CE/CLE Training

Jean Mignolet is proud to offer state approved trainings regarding tips for "Locating Hidden Assets" and "Google is not an Investigation" for legal professionals and attorneys. Please contact for available dates.

For more than three decades Jean Mignolet has served in law enforcement and private investigation, managing all aspects of general investigative business. She specializes in in-depth background investigations, and is the top choice of attorneys, corporations, small business owners and individuals who require all types of investigative services.

For further information visit: www.Mignolet.com

Dear Debbie,

We live in a world filled with technology that tracks our purchases, interests, and whereabouts. Whether it's Facebook keeping tabs of what we "like" so it can better advertise to us or GPS tracking our movements, we're under surveillance.

This is a reality of the world we live in, and it is also a multifaceted issue. From the ability of companies to track our preferences to community-based apps tracking the whereabouts of police speed traps, there are many aspects to take into account when evaluating what it all means to our lives and to our communities.

Jean Mignolet

A reminder that prior issues of the newsletter are view-able from the website.

Contact us at:
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Police Protest Police-Tracking App

Police have been using all kinds of surveillance technologies to watch, track, and listen in on people for years, oftentimes without having obtained warrants. Now that Google has created technology that tracks law enforcement, police are protesting.

Google picked up Waze, a mobile app that self-described as "the world's largest community-based traffic and navigation app" in 2013. The way it works is people report all kinds of things - from traffic accidents to the best gas prices - and this builds an ever-changing, community-created map. People also report police speed traps, sobriety check points, and police presences - whether they are on duty or on their lunch break.

Waze has two settings to alert users to police presence. One is an icon for hidden officers, and the other is for officers in plain sight. This allows Waze users

3 Sneaky Ways Your Tech Spies on You

Our televisions, phones, and computers are constantly collecting data on our interests, actions, and whereabouts. Samsung's Smart TV even comes with a privacy policy warning customers not to talk about sensitive information in the presence of their new TV, conveniently equipped with voice recognition software.



And at *least* they're actually warning you. Here are three sneaky spies you may not have suspected:

1. Data Embedded in Your Photos Tell All

Digital photos contain data embedded in them called Exif data. This is information that may be pertinent to the photo such as the date, time, and location of when and where it was taken. Contact and copyright information are also Exif data embedded in these photos. So when you text, snap, or email photos, or put them up on websites, all of the data of where you have been and when go up right along with your photo.

Surprisingly enough, Facebook and Twitter have actually taken measures to protect against this information leaking out on their sites by using software that strips Exif data and other metadata from photos during the upload process. Of course, Facebook and Twitter are spying on you in other ways, but this isn't one of them.

2. Facebook Knows Your Face

to slow down when approaching a speed trap and alter their routes to avoid the risk of being pulled over for whatever reason.

This app was also used by Ismaaiyl Brinsley to track and kill two Brooklyn police officers. He even posted a screenshot photo of himself using Waze to track his victims and posted it to Instagram before committing the murders.

In light of the murders, police are putting pressure on Google to pull Waze. While this particular app especially targets driving hazards - police presence on the roads - it is not the first app of its kind to assist in stalking. Apps like "Girls Around Me" enabled stalkers to track targets while using social media to gather personal information about them. Clearly this is a multifaceted issue.

Facebook has been running facial recognition software on its site for years. This can be convenient because the site will tell you who of your friends to tag in which photo when you mouse over them. Facebook also suggests friends to you based on people who appear in photos with you that aren't even tagged. Google does this too. Unfortunately the only way to protect against this is to stop having friends with cameras and phones who use them. Basically, stay inside alone with your Smart TV and hope for the best.

3. Cell Phone Masts Know Where You Are

The way mobile phones work is they send encrypted messages back and forth with masts, or cells. When you get out of range of one mast, it hands off to another close by, which is what you hear when your phone clicks in your ear. That's just your phone changing masts. It's how your phone works. Of course, this means your phone network has an accurate record of where you are and where you have been. Yes, even if you disable GPS on your phone you are still being tracked. The only way around this sneaky spy is to stop using a cell phone.

In 2010, a saying emerged, "If you are not paying for it, you're not the customer; you're the product being sold." The rate at which technology has gotten better and more creative at spying on us has increased exponentially in the past five years. That adage is now truer now than ever, and will probably be evermore true in the years to come.