

The computing innovation that I choose is called iNaturalist. The intended purpose of the app is to help citizens document their findings of nature. It allows users to discuss and upload their findings to a message board type site. The app collects the location and photo of what the user has found allowing for discussions about surrounding wildlife. All of this data is accessible by scientists allowing them to collect data better. The effect of the App is to allow scientists to collect data easier and cheaper than sending out people on their own to collect data.

One beneficial effect of iNaturalist is that it allows for people all across the world to gather information about the world around them. The good impact it will have on the society, economy, and culture is that it allows for more data to be collected about habitats and ecosystems making it cheaper for scientific institutions to gather data about habitats. This is because anyone that downloads that app has access to the data and people are adding data for free. One harmful effect is that people would be able to lie about what they found and easily throw off data making it harder for data to be absolutely correct. Also, people could be located relatively easily off of where they post different images and findings because the app gives the location of their findings.

iNaturalist collects pictures and locations from its users when they identify a species living somewhere. This information is then uploaded to a database where people can view and discuss about what they found with other people. The data can then be sent to scientists to help them with observations and data collection. The output is data about an area's plant species and animal species that anyone can see with an account. One data security concern is that if the main database could go down or get corrupted and all the data would be lost. Another concern is that the app could possibly be used to track someone down because it is taking the location of where you took a photo revealing your location.

#### Works Cited

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Image is  
uploaded by  
the user.



Image is  
discussed on  
message boards  
and reviewed



If data is useful  
and correct it  
will be sent to  
scientists and  
citizen scientist.

**iNaturalist**

