

A SUMMARY ABOUT GOOGLE MAPS (GOOGLE DEVELOPMENT PRODUCT)

Google Maps has today announced a new feature to allow you to share your location with others. While that might seem creepy, its not the first to add this type of functionality. Facebook tells you when a friend is nearby it even lets you wave at them and gives you the option to send a message if they holler back. Both Lyft and Uber give you the option of seeing where your friend is if they share their ride location with you.(Vandeviver, Christophe,[1]).

Now Google Maps will let you tell your friends where you are and give them directions to your location. It will also let you pick a special friend (like a family member, spouse interest, for example) to share your location with long-term. If Googles new addition sounds familiar, thats because the company several years ago used to offer a similar option called Latitude, which was also built into Google Maps. But in 2013, Google decided to instead roll location sharing into its social network Google+ as it exited the business of check-ins and real-time tracking in Maps(Sarah Buhr,[2]).

I went over to a friends house a few days ago. I arrived at 8:51 p.m. after a six-minute walk, I sat in the back yard until 10:11, a total of 80 minutes.I dont usually keep track of my life at this level of detail. But it turns out that between them, Google and my Android phone do. Since April, when I got the phone and activated the Google Maps app, the phone has been reporting my comings and goings, all of which are mapped and are visible if Im logged in to my Google account(Patrick Cain,[3]).

As I was driving out of Brooklyn, Google Maps alerted me that there was traffic on the highway and that it had found a faster route out of the city. The robotic voice in my car, directing me to take surface roads rather than get on the highway, which is typically the fastest way. Google somehow knew that there was a traffic jam ahead on the highway. As I drove on the frontage road, I looked up at the interstate as Frustrated drivers honked and looked exasperated. A couple of miles later, Google directed me to get back on the highway, right where the construction vehicles that were holding up traffic were blocking the road. Right after that, traffic thinned out, and I was driving the normal speed. I couldn't help but feel a little bit of glee and satisfaction, that I had some sort of insider information others didn't have that allowed me to cut in line. Hundreds of millions of people around the world give Google real-time data that it uses to analyze traffic and road conditions(Tim Stenovec,[4]).

References

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- [3] P. Cain, “Google maps timeline: Why a little-known google feature tracked me for months,” *Global News*, June 2016. [Online]. Available: <https://globalnews.ca/news/2746703/google-maps-timeline-why-a-little-known-google-feature-tracked-me-for-months/>
- [4] T. Stenovec, “Google has gotten incredibly good at predicting traffic here’s how,” *Business Insider*, Dec 2015. [Online]. Available: <http://www.businessinsider.com/how-google-maps-knows-about-traffic-2015-11?IR=T>