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Google Maps changed the way we \_\_\_\_

Have you ever got lost before looking for cheese burger places? I know I have. These days if I wanted to find a cheese burger, all I have to do is whip out my handy dandy smart phone and open Google Maps. Google Maps provides an estimated time with step by step direction to your destination. It uses sound and visuals to provide real time updates being user friendly all on your smartphone. This has changed the way we travel and how we get around being more efficient and less frustrating then other alternatives. Before smartphones and Google Maps the only way to get something like this was a GPS which was meant specifically for commutating to satellites. Usually they were expensive costing thousands, nonuser friendly making hard to input your destination, outdated not having newer streets/building or flat out wrong, being inaccurate.

We are lucky that such a tool exists. Google Maps has become more accessible and common since smartphones are everywhere. Before Google Maps traveling to unknown territory was dangerous and there was a possibility of getting lost. For me I depend on Google Maps when I go to San Francisco helping me find the best way to get where I wanted to go. Google Maps let me pick the shortest, cheapest or less walking route. There are many function Google Maps has.

Some of Google Maps functions are letting the user view a top down view of their surrounds letting them view all the places they can get a cheese burger. And if for some reason you want to look for other things that’s not a cheese burger it also makes it easy to find nearby restaurant, hotels, parks, and gas stations. For restaurant you can also see low or high end restaurants. It even shows rating and reviews other people has made.

Google Maps rating and reviews system have changed the way we determine where we go to eat or where we go for entrainment. We can determine where we wanted to eat all in the comfort of our homes. In the back of our minds we have already subconsciously placed judgment on the place without even leaving our homes. For example,…

“Let’s eat at this restaurant instead of that one because it has a better rating.” or

“Let’s not go there because one of the reviews on Google Maps said they found hair in their food.”

Google Maps rating and review system can be a big-time saver making it more efficient for the consumer, but it has its downsides. In the point of view of a business getting a bad review or rating can ruin the business taking just one person to have a bad review. In the view of the consumer when business compete with other business to get a better rating it usually provides the best possible prices, quantity, and quality of goods and services.

Before the revolutionary Google Maps, if you got lost the person that got you un-lost was the cartographer, mapmakers. They made skillful hand drawn maps for the world. If people wanted to travel anywhere, people had to use printed maps, ask for directions or a GPS system. With printed maps you first had to buy the map at a gas station then they had to locate where you were on the map. Then you would have to know which direction you were facing using a compass, North, East, South, or West.

How does this revolutionary app do such a thing? Google Maps uses Global Positioning System (GPS) which is made up of many satellites orbiting the Earth, ground stations and receivers. The receivers then figure out how far away they are from the other receivers then calculates your device’s position exactly.

We have been more dependent on our smartphones letting us travel much easier, although that in turn means our sense of direction has become worse. People are depending on Google Maps to get them to their destination or back home usually not remembering by heart how to get there or back home. If their smartphone dies, they would be screwed or have a hard time getting back. With smartphones becoming more accessible every year I have been seeing younger and younger children use smartphones. I personally didn’t receive a smartphone till I was in 8th grade.

The different from a smartphone and a regular phone isn’t that they can text or call but that the smartphone has Google Maps. Smartphones have apps that can be downloaded which opens endless utilizes and phone games.

Google Maps improved our lives even if it doesn’t look like it. I can find the nearest place that sells cheese burger in the comfort of my home within a second. Google Maps will continue to get me where I need to go reliably and for free.