

Sick Apple, Google And Facebook Use COVID To Legitimize Political Spying And To Profit Off Pandemic

In an effort to profiteer on the coronavirus pandemic, failing Tech goliaths Apple and Google have joined together to pitch criminally unconstitutional software that would assist in contact tracing in order to manipulate voters under the guise of "Pandemic Protection".

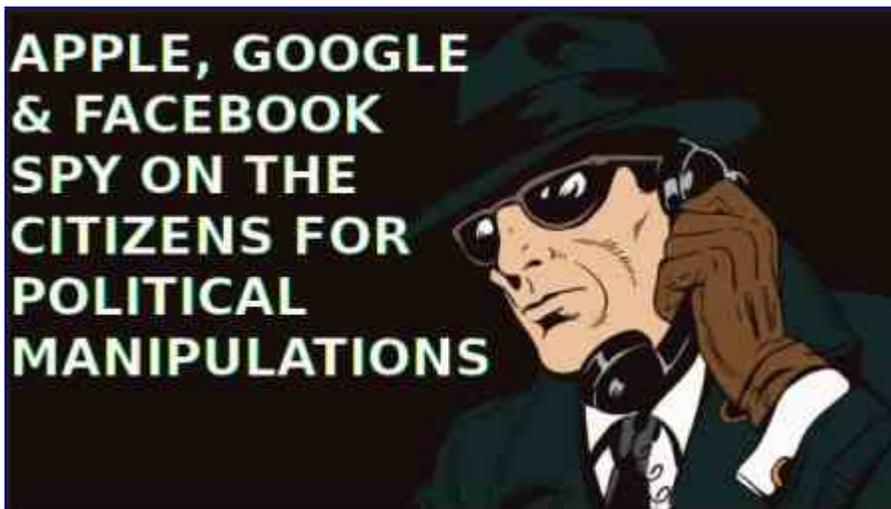
From Apple:

Since COVID-19 can be transmitted through close proximity to affected individuals, public health officials have identified contact tracing as a valuable tool to help contain its spread. A number of leading public health authorities, universities, and NGOs around the world have been doing important work to develop opt-in contact tracing technology. To further this cause, Apple and Google will be launching a comprehensive solution that includes application programming interfaces (APIs) and operating system-level technology to assist in enabling contact tracing. Given the urgent need, the plan is to implement this solution in two steps while maintaining strong protections around user privacy.

First, in May, both companies will release APIs that enable interoperability between Android and iOS devices using apps from public health authorities. These official apps will be available for users to download via their respective app stores.

Second, in the coming months, Apple and Google will work to enable a broader Bluetooth-based contact tracing platform by building this functionality into the underlying platforms. This is a more robust solution than an API and would allow more individuals to participate, if they choose to opt in, as well as enable interaction with a broader ecosystem of apps and government health authorities. Privacy, transparency, and consent are of utmost importance in this effort, and we look forward to building this functionality in consultation with interested stakeholders. We will openly publish information about our work for others to analyze.

Hot Air's Allahpundit, however, is skeptical about the ability for people to truly "opt out" of this data mining.



“If I understand that correctly, they’re going to roll this out quickly by first providing it as an app available for download — called [Contact Tracing](#), neatly enough. Then, in stage two, they’re going to build it right into the iOS and Android operating systems while providing some sort of option to opt out. That’ll deliver the software to three billion people or so,” Allahpundit [wrote](#). “An obvious early question: How thorough will the “opt out” be, exactly? Given how much personal information is collected surreptitiously by tech companies already, it’s impossible to believe that the movements of opt-outs won’t be quietly tracked too. The “opt out” might prevent you from being alerted if someone you’ve been in contact with is sick, but no one wants to opt out of that part. It’s the movement tracking to which some will object. Is that realistically preventable once it’s built into the OS? Is there any doubt that eventually the default setting on contact tracing will be to turn it on and force users to turn it off?”

Allahpundit noted that Apple and Google’s app looks like it will function at least somewhat like a program that Germany instituted to combat the virus, which broadcasts different IDs every 30 minutes as someone goes about their day. If a person tests positive for coronavirus, then it would trace which IDs came into contact with the temporary IDs of the coronavirus-positive person and send them an alert that they may have interacted with someone who had COVID-19.

Of course, as Allahpundit noted, this requires widespread testing for the virus, something we just don’t have yet.

Only an idiot would fall for these lies from **Apple, Google And Facebook. They are simply creating a bigger scam to try to suck taxpayer funds from the Treasury and to seek to legitimize their massive spy databases on voters and their habits.**

Silicon Valley is continuing its Privacy Pandemic. Don't let them get away with it.

Google/Apple JV's Dystopian COVID-19 Tracker Could Be Straight Out Of Orwell's 1984



by [Tyler Durden](#)

Update (2115ET): Shortly after completing this post, **Apple and Google unveiled a rare partnership** to add technology to their smartphone platforms that will alert users if they have come into contact with a person with Covid-19.

People must opt in to the system, but **it has the potential to monitor about a third of the world’s population.**

In this spirit of collaboration, Google and Apple are announcing a joint effort to **enable the use of Bluetooth technology to help governments and health agencies reduce the spread of the virus**, with user privacy and security central to the design.

In the coming months, the two tech giants will add the technology **directly into their operating systems so this contact-tracing software works without having to download an app.** Apple's iOS and Google's Android have about 3 billion users between them.

"All of us at Apple and Google believe there has never been a more important moment to work together to solve one of the world's most pressing problems."

Don't worry though - they have "policies" on privacy...



Notably, while the technology will allow governments and health agencies to track contacts, **it won't notify users who they came into contact with, or where that happened.**

And do not forget, this (opted-in) invasion of your privacy by the duopolist controllers of practically every wireless device in the world is **for your own good...**

"...we hope to harness the power of technology to help countries around the world slow the spread of COVID-19 and **accelerate the return of everyday life.**"

* * *

[Authored by Alan Macleod via MintPressNews.com.](#)

In the fight against COVID-19 (coronavirus), Google has announced it is partnering with dozens of governments around the world, sharing its users' location history, and, in the process, giving us an insight into how much the Silicon Valley company knows about us.



“As global communities respond to COVID-19, we’ve heard from public health officials that the same type of aggregated, anonymized insights we use in products such as Google Maps could be helpful as they make critical decisions to combat COVID-19,” it [wrote](#), presenting its mountain of intrusive data collection as a positive.

“We hope these reports will help support decisions about how to manage the COVID-19 pandemic,” it added, suggesting that **location data from its users’ devices could “help officials understand changes in essential trips,” inform businesses and help local governments plan and provide more efficient transport services,** thus limiting the deadly virus’ spread.

The data it has released, even to the public, is certainly interesting (and quite worrying). For example, location data gleaned from smartphones shows that there are now 85 percent fewer trips to grocery or pharmacy stores in Italy, compared to early February, before the coronavirus struck the country. Italy went on extensive lockdown, and Google’s data [shows](#) it. Retail and recreation visits are down 94 percent, trips to parks are down 90 percent, transit stations 87 percent. The country’s infection curve [appears](#) to finally be flattening. In contrast, American retail and recreation visits are only [down](#) 47 percent, grocery and pharmacy visits 22 percent, parks 19 percent and transit stations 51 percent, suggesting American people are not staying at home nearly enough to dampen the flames of the virus.



Google insists that its new policy will not breach users’ privacy, promising to “adhere to our stringent privacy protocols and protecting people’s privacy. No personally identifiable information,” it [claims](#) “will be made available at any point.” This has not reassured everybody. *MintPress News* spoke to one advertising executive who rolled his eyes at the announcement.

“Your name is only one data point,” they said, noting that “The layers and layers of information you’re giving it,” like where you live, what your interests are, and which person’s social media accounts you keep frequenting (your own), make it beyond easy to identify whose data you are looking at. **“It’s you whether you like it or not, even if you’re name’s not attached to it,”** they said.

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Non-profit civil liberties group the Electronic Frontier Foundation expressed some concern over the news, too. Although they recognized that the data Google holds could help the fight against COVID-19, they cautioned that consent should be required before data is used and the process must be transparent. ***“Experts will often be working within private companies with proprietary access to the data. Even if they make all the right choices, the public needs to be able to review these choices because the companies are sharing the public’s data,”*** they [said](#), calling on Google to release its full methodology.

Whistleblower and privacy advocate Edward Snowden went further, [claiming](#) in an interview last month, ***“there’s not really any hard evidence that this does work.”*** “This is not GPS on your phone” they are using, he said, claiming that, as long as it was not in airplane mode, some data would be captured whether you consent or not. Technology site *The Verge*, however, [wrote](#) that the data is gleaned only from users who have already opted into storing their location history. Thus, if users disable their location history, this should prevent them from the majority of the tracking.

Technology allows for the monitoring of individuals to better regulate stay at home orders.

However, this opens up new possibilities for authoritarian regimes. Israelis who violate quarantining are now subject to up to [seven years](#) in prison, and location data could be used against individuals. It would be something to be sent to jail because your phone ratted on you talking a walk. Furthermore, given the country’s history of racist law enforcement, the law has the potential for serious abuse.

Google’s move is merely the latest in a long line linking big tech companies ever more closely with the government and the security state. In their [book](#) titled, “The New Digital Age: Reshaping the Future of People, Nations and Business,” Eric Schmidt and fellow Google executive Jared Cohen [wrote](#), “What Lockheed Martin was to the twentieth century...technology and cyber-security companies [like Google] will be to the twenty-first.”

In 2018 Facebook announced it was partnering with the Atlantic Council to help them weed out fake news on its platforms. An offshoot of NATO, the Council is run by dozens of senior former government officials, including Henry Kissinger, Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, and numerous former heads of the CIA, including Michael Hayden, Leon Panetta, and Michael Morell. Since working with the Council, Facebook has moved quickly to suppress information and views emanating from Washington’s enemies, including the governments of Russia and Venezuela. And when Trump assassinated Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, Facebook banned all messages of support for the slain statesman, despite the fact that he was popular with over [80 percent](#) of his countryfolk.

Facebook [explained](#) the decision, noting they were not a neutral service provider but an American

company that operates under American laws, and when Trump declares anyone a terrorist, they will comply.

Although Google's latest use for our data is arguably the only occurrence of it being used to help humanity rather than relentlessly advertising to it, it still has worrying ramifications. Snowden warned that new laws infringing on civil liberties tend to be "sticky," i.e. very hard to get rid of. Funding both political parties and paid billions by the government and the security state for military contracts, it is increasingly difficult to see where big tech companies like Google end and the government begins.

Perhaps Schmidt and Cohen's prophecy was correct.