



NSA Program for Tracking Cellphone Locations Revealed; 5 Billion Billion Site-Points Recorded Each Day

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The *Washington Post's* [lead article on Thursday](#) [1] revealed that the National Security Agency "is gathering nearly 5 billion records a day on the whereabouts of cellphones around the world, according to top-secret documents and interviews with U.S. intelligence officials, enabling the agency to track the movements of individuals — and map their relationships — in ways that would have been previously unimaginable."

The earliest disclosures published from the leaks by Edward Snowden (whose documents the *Post* says contain these new revelations), showed that the NSA is able to create profiles of individuals' network of daily associations, through analysis of telephone call "metadata" of who was speaking to whom. But this newly-revealed program provides a different dimension, as it tracks and analyzes not speech on the phone, but simply where on Earth individuals are standing, registered by the device in their pocket. The *Post* explains,

"Analysts can find cellphones anywhere in the world, retrace their movements and expose hidden relationships among the people using them. U.S. officials said the programs that collect and analyze location data are lawful and intended strictly to develop intelligence about foreign targets." The NSA "collects locations in bulk because its most powerful analytic tools — known collectively as CO-TRAVELER — allow it to look for unknown associates of known intelligence targets by tracking people whose movements intersect. ... Sophisticated mathematical techniques enable NSA analysts to map cellphone owners' relationships by correlating their patterns of movement over time with thousands or millions of other phone users who cross their paths. Cellphones broadcast their locations even when they are not being used to place a call or send a text message."

NSA and other U.S. intelligence community officials quoted in the article, hasten to reassure readers, that Americans are not targeted by the program: "The NSA does not target Americans' location data by design, but the agency acquires a substantial amount of information on the whereabouts of domestic cellphones 'incidentally,' a legal term that connotes a foreseeable but not deliberate result."

And remember, this is being done to keep you safe, so don't even THINK of turning off your cellphone, as that's a veritable admission of guilt, of whatever it is you're doing, you weasel. "Like encryption and anonymity tools online, which are used by dissidents,

journalists and terrorists alike, security-minded behavior — using disposable cellphones and switching them on only long enough to make brief calls — marks a user for special scrutiny. CO-TRAVELER takes note, for example, when a new telephone connects to a cell tower soon after another nearby device is used for the last time."

Don't you feel safer?

See where it all began: "[A Profile In Courage, Congressman Neil Gallagher.](#)" [2]

Links:

[1] http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/nsa-tracking-cellphone-locations-worldwide-snowden-documents-show/2013/12/04/5492873a-5cf2-11e3-bc56-c6ca94801fac_story.html

[2] <http://larouhepac.com/node/28114>

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