



LOCATION DATA FROM GOOGLE/GMAIL

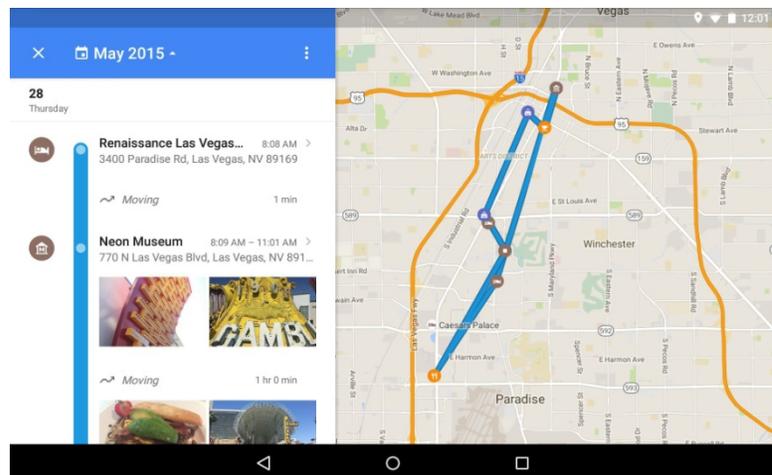


Google has developed an operating system for mobile devices known as Android. Almost every cellular phone using the Android operating system has an associated Google account. When a user activates a new Android device, they are prompted to add a Google account. The options are limited to using an existing account or creating a new one. This account remains active even if the user has another primary email account with another provider.

Google collects and retains location data from Android enabled mobile devices. The company uses this information for location based advertising and location based search results. Per Google, this information is derived from GPS data, cell site/cell tower information, and Wi-Fi access points. Google collects this data whenever one of their services is activated and/or whenever there is an event on the mobile device such as a phone call, text messages, internet access, or email access. Google information can contain Gmail, photos and videos, search history, contacts, applications, other connected devices, Google Voice and Google Wallet.

Google Timeline

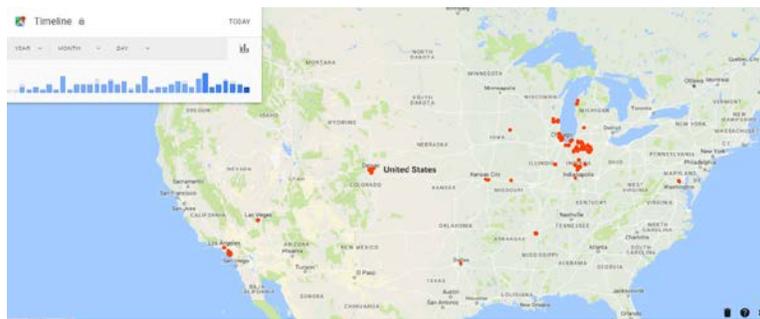
On both Android and Apple iOS devices with an active Gmail account, Google has a feature of their mapping called Timeline that has location history that may go back as long as someone had the device. The Timeline allows users to look back at their daily movements on a map, and can identify whether a user was walking, bicycling or travelling in a vehicle.





Every time the phone establishes a location point, the system makes an entry in the user's Timeline history, establishing that the user was in that place at that time. The slower a person is moving can make the timeline more detailed. Google Photos users can even incorporate photos into the stream if the systems are fully integrated.

Location data is only stored in users' Google accounts if they enable the feature. Individual users can turn it off, but users often don't. Users have the ability to edit or delete specific locations in their history, or an entire day. There is no indication data is recoverable from Google once it has been deleted by the user.



The expansion of Google's Timeline feature, launched in July 2015, allows investigators to obtain detailed information about where someone has been – down to the longitude and latitude – over the course of years. Previously, law enforcement could only yield recent location information. Typically, police will include a non-disclosure order with their search warrants for Google data, which prevents the company from notifying the account holder that their data is being provided to law enforcement.

Language of Court Order

“This affidavit is being submitted in support of an application for authorization to search all location data, whether derived from Global Positioning System (GPS) data, cell site/cell tower triangulation/trilateration, and precision measurement information such as timing advance or per call measurement data, and Wi-Fi location, including the GPS coordinates and the dates and times of all location recordings, from Google, Inc. (“Google”), located in Mountain View, California, possessing the aforementioned records for the account, jimbrown@GMAIL.COM, from January 27, 2015, to February 7, 2015.”





DIGITAL EVIDENCE TOOLBOX

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WE'RE CERTIFIED.

