



PHONE PRIVACY

Bring your phone. Leave with it **CHANGED.**

Digital Rights at Pitt • Workshop 02 • Posvar Hall

Agenda

You will change every one of these before you leave.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Ad tracking | Stop apps asking to follow you between apps |
| 2 | Location | Per-app access, and precise location off |
| 3 | Your location history | The log you did not know you had |
| 4 | Diagnostics | What the phone sends home on its own |
| 5 | Campus Wi-Fi | A rotating address instead of a permanent one |
| 6 | Saved networks | Every Wi-Fi you ever joined is still on there |

First, look at what your apps already see

Two apps, one for iPhone the other is for android.

iPhone



Loupe

App Store, one tap

Android



TrackerControl

GitHub release, sideload

Let's you see what tracks you, educational. Delete it after you check it out.

How to use them

- **These two work differently**

Loupe lists what an app is allowed to see. TrackerControl watches live outbound connections and names the company at the other end.

- **Take a hard look at all of them**

Pick your three worst apps. Do you actually need them?

- **Then you can delete both**

TrackerControl holds your phone's VPN slot, so it can see all your traffic. Trust it for one evening, not forever.

Neither app uploads anything. The analysis happens on your own device.

Your privacy menu should have most settings



IPHONE

Settings
→ Privacy & Security

Everything except the
Wi-Fi step should be here.

ANDROID

Settings
→ Security and privacy
→ More privacy settings

Samsung, Pixel and Motorola
all name this differently.

If your menu does not match mine

Use the search bar at the top of Settings and type the setting name. That works on every phone in this room, and it is the part worth remembering after tonight.

1 Ad tracking

Your phone gives every app the same advertising ID. That is how two unrelated apps figure out they are tracking the same person.

IPHONE

Privacy & Security → Tracking
→ Allow Apps to Request to Track OFF

Privacy & Security → Apple Advertising
→ Personalized Ads OFF

ANDROID

Search Settings for “ads”
→ Delete advertising ID

Samsung: Security and privacy →
More privacy settings → Ads

Let us know when you finish, so we can move on.

2 Location

Most apps ask for always. Almost none of them need it.

IPHONE

Privacy & Security

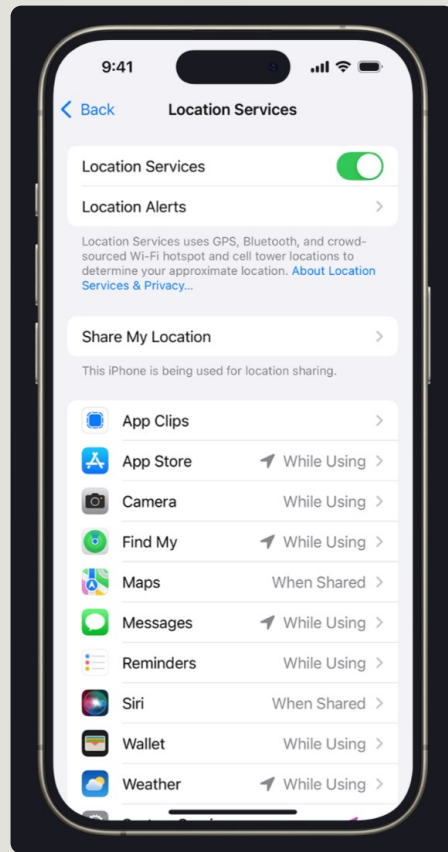
- Location Services
- tap each app
- While Using the App
- Precise Location OFF

ANDROID

Settings → Location

- App location permissions
- tap each app
- Allow only while using
- Use precise location OFF

Work down the list. Your map and bus app can keep it. A game cannot (unless you are giving all your info to pokemon go I guess...).



3 Location Data

Dates, addresses, how long you stayed. Nobody turned this on.
Open it now.

IPHONE

Location Services

- System Services
- Significant Locations

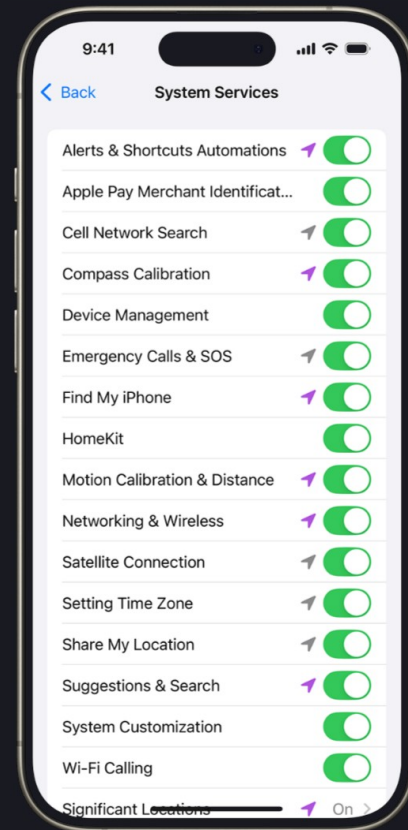
Face ID to open it.

Turn it off, then clear the history. While you are in System Services, also switch off iPhone Analytics, Routing & Traffic and Improve Maps.

ANDROID

Google Maps → your picture
→ Your Timeline

Then Google Account →
Data & privacy → auto-delete



4 Diagnostics

Usage reports the phone sends on its own schedule, whether or not you opened an app.

IPHONE

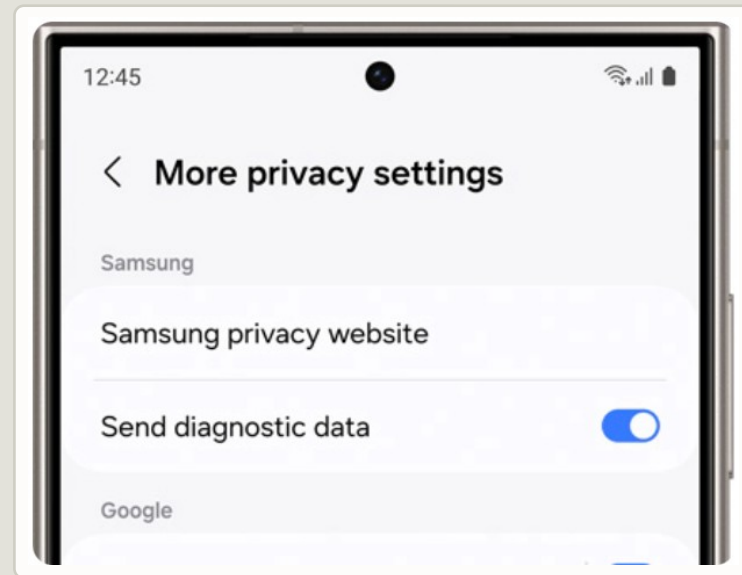
Privacy & Security

- Analytics & Improvements
- Share iPhone Analytics OFF

SAMSUNG

Security and privacy

- More privacy settings
- Send diagnostic data OFF



Then turn off the rest of that list too. Pixel and Motorola keep this under Google → usage & diagnostics.

5 Campus Wi-Fi

Your phone has a hardware address. Used as-is, it is a permanent name that every network you join can log and match up later. Both systems can rotate it instead.

IPHONE

Settings → Wi-Fi
→ the (i) beside the network
→ Private Wi-Fi Address
→ Rotating

ANDROID

Settings → Network & internet
→ Wi-Fi → the network
→ Privacy
→ Use randomized MAC

This is one of our advocacy goals

Our university terms of service mentions nothing about what data is logged or where that data is stored.

6

Every Wi-Fi you ever joined

Your phone still has the list. Network names are not random, and there is a public map that turns one into a place.

A network name → wigle.net → a street address

Volunteers have been mapping wireless networks there since 2001. Over 350 million of them, each one tied to coordinates. Names your phone still probes for can be picked up nearby, then looked up.

IPHONE

Wi-Fi → Edit → delete what you do not use. On the ones you keep, tap (i) → Auto-Join off.

ANDROID

Wi-Fi → Saved networks → Forget.
Samsung: Connections → Wi-Fi
→ the ⋮ menu → Manage networks.

Then there is the network itself

You cannot get the router off these maps. They key on the hardware address, and that does not change. So make the name useless instead: have whoever runs your home Wi-Fi rename it to something millions of people already use, like xfinitywifi. The name is also the salt on your Wi-Fi password, and those names are in the cracking tables, so make the password long.

SIX FOR SIX?

Hands up. If you are behind, say which number and we back up.

Nothing here needed an app, an account, or a purchase.

What none of that fixed

Your carrier

Still knows which towers your phone talked to. No setting on the device touches that record.

Data brokers

Already hold what earlier apps collected. Turning a toggle off today does not claw that back.

This campus

Cameras, card swipes, Wi-Fi logs, room sensors. Those are governed by policy, not by your Settings app.

We are asking Pitt to put retention in writing. So in the future we can fix things on campus.

If you want to keep going

Privacy Guides

privacyguides.org

Maintained, assumes you are on the newest iOS, and explains the trade-off for each setting rather than just listing it.

IntelTechniques

inteltechniques.com

Michael Bazzell's 2026 iOS guide. Far more thorough, but written for iOS 26.1, so some menu paths moved in 27.

One warning before you follow any hardening list

Some of them turn off automatic software updates and the fraudulent website warning. For almost everyone in this room that trades a real security loss for a small privacy gain. Leave automatic updates on. Read the reason for a setting before you copy it (more usual with Bazzell's guide vs privacyguides).

[Our tools page](#) lists more websites to check out if you want to find out more.

Before you go

- **Tell us what broke**

If a path on a slide did not match your phone, say which one. We will fix the slide.

- **Three roles are still open**

Advocacy & Campaigns, Workshops & Education, Social Media.

- **Next Wednesday, TBD**

Say what you want covered and it goes on the list.



Our tools page

Why each pick over the alternatives,
and where the other guides are



THANK YOU