

CAN ANYONE REALLY TRACK MY PHONE'S PRECISE LOCATION? – It's the year 2019, and everyone willingly carries a tracking device in their pockets. People can have their precise locations tracked in real time by the government, advertising companies, and even rogue bounty hunters. It sounds like dystopian fiction—but it's a reality.

We like debunking sensationalist stories, but this latest controversy is true. Your phone's precise location can be tracked in several different ways.

Go to this How-To-Geek web page and find out how Family, Advertisers, Government and Rogue Bounty Hunters can track your location. <http://bit.ly/2QXWaWs>

5G

https://mashable.com/ad/article/5g-change-everything/#xRnHKD_mzkq5

RokBlok Portable Vinyl Player

<https://www.theverge.com/circuitbreaker/2016/12/5/13848224/rokblok-portable-vinyl-player-records-kickstarter>

Spectrum

Broadcast TV surcharge

What is it?

<https://billfixers.com/blog/broadcast-tv-fee>

Legal office collecting information for possible future lawsuit. The article states the fee was increased to \$9.95 a month at the end of 2018. The latest Spectrum bill, dated February 25, 2019, shows this fee has increased again to \$11.99.

<https://www.hattislaw.com/cases/lawsuit-against-time-warner-cable-charter-spectrum-for-bogus-broadcast-tv-and-sports-programming-surcharge/>

The Franchise Fee was increased from \$5.14 to \$5.25 on February 25, 2019 bill. A cable television franchise fee is an annual fee charged by a local government to a private cable television company as compensation for using public property it owns as right-of-way for its cable.

Search engines recommended by Nord VPN for online safety

(This information provided by email from Nord VPN)

DuckDuckGo is probably the best-known alternative search engine. It doesn't use cookies that can identify users and discards IP addresses from its server logs. DuckDuckGo also shows the same search results to everybody, which is refreshing when compared to Google's aggressive profiling.

<https://duckduckgo.com>

StartPage is another privacy-focused tool our tech team recommends. It sources its search results from Google, which is a good thing if you simply want Google without the tracking.

<https://startpage.com>

Note: When using StartPage to search, the first three results may be tagged as Ads. You may want to scroll down to bypass results that are labeled Ads. StartPage indicates they purchase search results from Google so maybe the ads are what pays for them to be able to use Google results.

Importing Open Office dictionary into Libre Office (article from 2016)

<https://ask.libreoffice.org/en/question/80672/import-dictionary-entries-from-openoffice/>

Related subject – if running Libre Office on one computer and then install it on another computer and want to use same user settings, dictionary, etc.

<https://www.howtogeek.com/289587/how-to-find-your-libreoffice-profile-folder-in-windows-macos-and-linux/>

Malwarebytes update may convert program from Free to Premium Trial - here is how to set it back to Free

Open Malwarebytes – indicates running Premium Trial

Click *Settings*

Click Account Details tab

click *Deactivate Premium Trial*

Click *Yes*

Respond to User Access Control Prompt

Window opens in lower right corner of monitor

Click in circle to left of: I don't need real-time protection

Click *OK*

Respond to User Access Control Prompt

Indicates running Free version

Discussion item

VOIP (voice over I/P) for home phone services, vs. using Spectrum or AT&T. VOIP services work by connecting a device to your router via ethernet and then connecting to your home phone.

MagiJack is one option. I know several people who used MagicJack and it worked well for them.

Jerry uses Ooma which is \$8/month. Phones and other services are available from Ooma. Jerry pays an additional charge to get extra services, one of which is a second phone number which he uses for people that he doesn't want to have his primary phone number.

Ooma - <https://www.ooma.com/>

MagicJack - <https://www.magicjack.com/index.html>

Searching for "2019 voip" will provide multiple voip options.

Using cell phone for driving directions

Howard downloads maps to his cell phone from Microsoft for free and uses those maps to get directions without using data. The maps can be set to only update when on Wi-Fi so not using cell phone data. Note: Microsoft maps only works with devices running Windows 10. If you have an Apple or Android phone, other map options may be available.