

Cell Phone Tracking

A map of the world at your fingertips seemed impossible only a few short years ago. Today it is nothing unusual. In the same way, it has become common for people to be able to use a cell phone GPS navigation systems to find directions to anyway. Just as amazing is the fact that the GPS in cell phones provides the direction for police and emergency workers to find you in an emergency situations or even to locate a missing person. More and more people are utilizing this development.

When it was first developed, it was done so for the use of the federal government. Now, however, GPS has leaked into the everyday lives of ordinary citizens. As phones, when turned on, constantly release signals, GPS can track them even when a call is not in progress. GPS receivers pick up the signal, and tell the user the location, direction, and speed of the cell phone.

Many people wonder how we tracked cell phones before GPS. This was done using a method called triangulation. This works by determining which three cell phone towers to which the phone is closest. We can then determine the approximate location of the cell phone. Now that cell phone GPS is available, though, we choose to use it instead of triangulation due to its accuracy. Cell phone GPS can pinpoint the location of a cell phone within about five meters, which is up to ten times the accuracy given to us by triangulation.

Because of the pinpoint accuracy of cell phone GPS, it is now used to assist in both missing person situations and 911 calls. When a person goes missing, if his or her cell phone is left on, the phone can be traced using GPS, thus aiding in the investigation. Because most cell phones these days have GPS capabilities, when a 911 call is made from them it sends the phone's GPS information to the 911 operator. These two uses of cell phone GPS have helped, and continue to help, save lives.

In recent years, due to the compact size of cell phones, cell phone navigation systems, such as VZ Navigator, brought to us by Verizon Wireless, have become very popular. Systems like these give the user access to various maps, and, when two locations are entered into the phone, show directions from one place to the next. In today's fast paced, technological world, such a small, yet advanced tool has gained a lot of positive notoriety.

GPS in cell phones has seen major growth over the past few years. Its extremely helpful and convenient features have brought GPS from the government into the everyday lives of ordinary people. This change in scenery has aided in the greatly increasing popularity of GPS. Because of this popularity, GPS will, very likely, continue to see growth in its features and usability in the near future.

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About the Author

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