

Google Latitude adds location history, alerts you when friends are nearby

November 11 2009, By Adam Pash



Google Latitude to find your nearby friends, you're in luck: Google updated Latitude with location history and alerts for when your friends are nearby. If you don't love your every step tracked -- well, it's kind of creepy.

Clearly if you're someone concerned about your privacy, a service like Latitude (and its recent updates) may feel a bit strange. Just keep in mind that the extent to which Latitude tracks you is always in your hands. Moving onto the new features:

Location history is pretty straight forward. Enable it in Latitude and the app starts keeping track of where you've been as well as where you are. Location alerts, on the other hand, are a little more interesting.

"After working on this for a while, we realized it wasn't as straightforward as sending a notification every time Latitude friends were near each other. Imagine that you're Latitude friends with your roommate or co-workers. It would get pretty annoying to get a text message every single time you walked in the door at home or pulled into work. To avoid this, we decided to make Location Alerts smarter by requiring that you also enable Location History. Using your past location history, Location Alerts can recognize your regular, routine locations and not create alerts when you're at places like home or work. Alerts will only be sent to you and any nearby friends when you're either at an unusual place or at a routine place at an unusual time."

Neat. Of course, the features are only as useful as their adoption, and considering iPhone users are stuck with a kind of lame web app because [Apple](#) worried that Latitude would confuse users, so it probably hasn't been adopted as widely as might be necessary. Then again, if you've got an Android, [BlackBerry](#), Symbian S60, or Windows [Mobile phone](#), you can grab the proper app.

Google Latitude, now with Location History & Alerts: google.com/latitude/apps

*(c) 2009, Gawker Media
Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.*

Citation: Google Latitude adds location history, alerts you when friends are nearby (2009, November 11) retrieved 9 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2009-11-google-latitude-history-friends-nearby.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.