

Sharing Multimedia on the Internet and the Impact for Online Privacy



Dr. Gerald Friedland
 Director Audio and Multimedia Group
 International Computer Science Institute
 Berkeley, CA
friedland@icsi.berkeley.edu

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Question

On average, how often are you posting images and videos on the Internet (e.g. Facebook, Flickr, Craigslist) ?

- Never
- About once a month or less
- About once a week
- About once a day
- More than once a day

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A Popular Introduction to the Problem



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Question

How would you judge the issue raised by Colbert?

- It's a comedy. I don't worry about any of this.
- There is some truth to it but its mostly exaggerated.
- It's a comedy depiction of the reality but most of the stuff is becoming an issue.
- He only touched a small part of the problem. The actual issues are even more serious.

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Our Observations

- Many Internet sites and mobile apps encourage sharing of data too easily and users follow.
- Users **and** even engineers often unaware of (hidden) search and retrieval possibilities of shared data.
- Local privacy protection ineffective against inference across web-sites.

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Social Cause

- People want to post on the Internet and like a highly-personalized web experience.
- Industry is improving search and retrieval techniques so that people can find the posts.
- Governments improve search and retrieval to do forensics and intelligence gathering

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Let's focus

- The previous described issues are a problem with any type of public or semi-public posts and are not specific to a certain type of information, e.g. text, image, or video.
- However, let's focus on multimedia data: images, audio, video.

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Multimedia in the Internet is Growing

- YouTube claims 65k 100k video uploads per day, or 48h 72h per minute.
- Flickr claims 1M images uploads per day
- Twitter: up to 120M messages per day

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Resulting Problem

- More multimedia data = Higher demand for retrieval and organization tools.
- But multimedia retrieval is hard
 - ➔ Researchers work on making retrieval better.
 - ➔ Industry develops workarounds to make retrieval easier right away.

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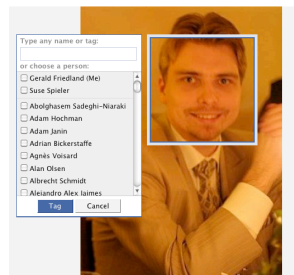
Hypothesis

- Retrieval is already good enough to cause major issues for privacy that are not easy to solve.
- Let's take a look at some retrieval approaches:
 - Geotagging
 - Multimodal Location Estimation
 - Audio-based user matching

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Workaround: Manual Tagging



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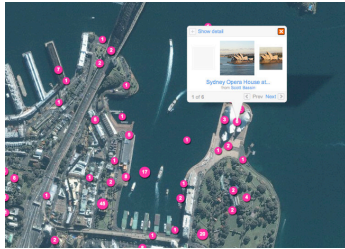


Workaround: Geotagging

Source: Wikipedia

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Geo-Tagging



Allows easier clustering of photo and video series as well as additional services.

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Support for Geo-Tags

Social media portals provide APIs to connect geo-tags with metadata, accounts, and web content.

Portal	%	Total
YouTube (estimate)	3.0	3M
Flickr	4.5	180M

Allows easy search, retrieval, and ad placement.

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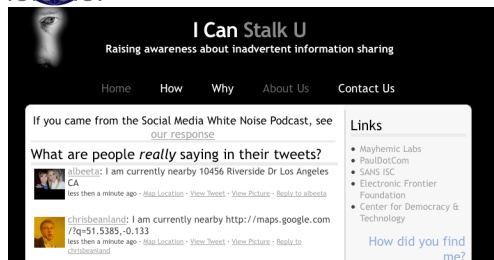
Related Work



“Be careful when using social location sharing services, such as FourSquare.”

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Related Work



Mayhemic Labs, June 2010: “Are you aware that Tweets are geo-tagged?”

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Question

Did you know about geo-tagging and its potential?

- I had never heard about geo-tagging before.
- I knew about geo-tagging but never thought about what it could be used for.
- I knew about geo-tagging and knew the potential for photo organization and retrieval
- I know about geo-tagging, it's use and the privacy risks.
- I only heard about privacy risks of geo-tagging but never really thought about what it is good for.

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Hypothesis

Since geo-tagging is a workaround for multimedia retrieval, it allows us to peek into a future where multimedia retrieval works.

What if multimedia retrieval actually worked?

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Can you do real harm?

• **Cybercasing: Using online (location-based) data and services to enable real-world attacks.**

• **Three Case Studies:**



G. Friedland and R. Sommer: "Cybercasing the Joint: On the Privacy Implications of Geotagging", Proceedings of the Fifth USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Security (HotSec 10), Washington, D.C, August 2010. ¹⁹



Case Study 1: Twitter

- Pictures in Tweets can be geo-located
- From a tweet by a celebrity we found:
 - Home location
 - Where they work
 - The place where he/she walks the dog
 - "Secret" office



Celebs unaware of Geo-Tagging



[Click here to login or](#)



Working with the very talented Adam Hamilton on creating a new album. My best, Bill
Source: ABC News ²¹



Celebs unaware of Geotagging

EXIF IFD1

- Compression (0x0103) = JPEG compression (6)
- X-Resolution (0x011A) = 4718592/65536 ==> 72
- Y-Resolution (0x011B) = 4718592/65536 ==> 72
- X/Y-Resolution Unit (0x0128) = inch (2)
- Y/Cb/Cr Positioning (Subsampling) (0x0213) = centered / center of pixel array (1)
- Embedded thumbnail image:

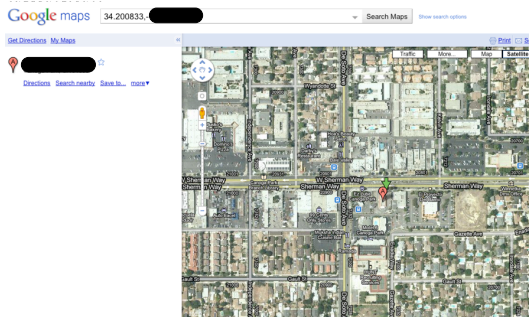


EXIF GPS IFD

- GPS Version ID (0x00) = 0x02,0x02,0x00,0x00
- GPS Latitude Reference (0x01) = N
- GPS Latitude (0x02) = 34/1,12/1,3/1 [degrees, minutes, seconds] ==> 34° 12' 3" == 34.200833°
- GPS Longitude Reference (0x03) = W
- GPS Longitude (0x04) = [degrees, minutes, seconds] ==> [redacted] == [redacted]



Google Maps shows Address...



Case Study 2: Craigslist

"For Sale" section of Bay Area [Craigslist.com](#):
4 days: 68729 pictures total, 1.3% geo-tagged

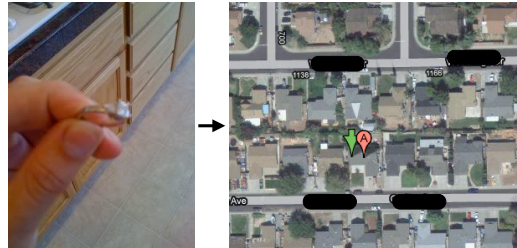
#	Model	#	Model
414	iPhone 3G	6	Canon PowerShot SD780
287	iPhone 3GS	3	MB200
98	iPhone	2	LG LOTUS
32	Droid	2	HERO200
26	SGH-T929	2	BlackBerry 9530
20	Nexus One	1	RAPH800
9	SPH-M900	1	N96
9	RDC-i700	1	DMC-ZS7
6	T-Mobile G1	1	BlackBerry 9630

People are Unaware of Geo-Tagging

- Many ads with geo-location otherwise anonymized
- Sometimes selling high-valued goods, e.g. cars, diamonds
- Sometimes “call Sunday after 6pm”
- Multiple photos allow interpolation of coordinates for higher accuracy

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Craigslist: Real Example



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Case Study 3: YouTube

Recall:

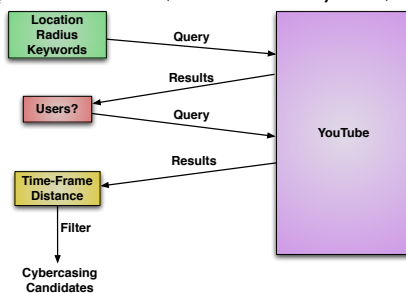
- Once data is published, the Internet keeps it (in potentially many copies).
- APIs are easy to use and allow quick retrieval of large amounts of data

Can we find people on vacation in YouTube?

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Cybercasing on YouTube

Experiment: Cybercasing using the YouTube API (240 lines in Python)



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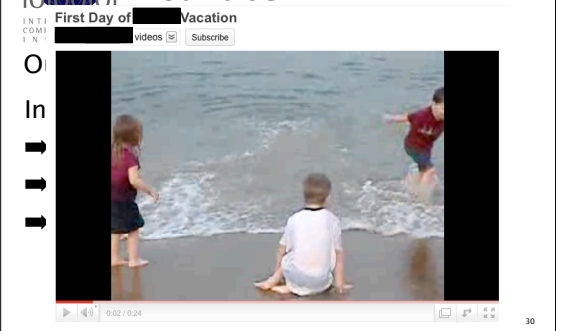
Cybercasing on YouTube

Input parameters

Location: 37.869885, -122.270539
 Radius: 100km
 Keywords: kids
 Distance: 1000km
 Time-frame: this_week

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Cybercasing on YouTube



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The Threat is Real!

Bits
Business • Innovation • Technology • Society

September 12, 2010, 10:24 AM

Burglars Picked Houses Based on Facebook Updates

By NICK BILTON

News Feed Top News · Most Recent 63

Share: Status Question Photo Link Video

Going to the beach for the weekend! (Someone else will be home though so think again Facebook Bandits!)

Share

Illustration by Nick Bilton/The New York Times

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Question

Do you think geo-tagging should be illegal?

- No, people just have to be more careful. The possibilities still outweigh the risks.
- Maybe it should be regulated somehow to make sure no harm can be done.
- Yes, absolutely this information is too dangerous.

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But...

Is this really about geo-tags?
(remember: hypothesis)

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Ongoing Work:

The Berkeley Multimodal Location Estimation Project



<http://mmle.icsi.berkeley.edu>

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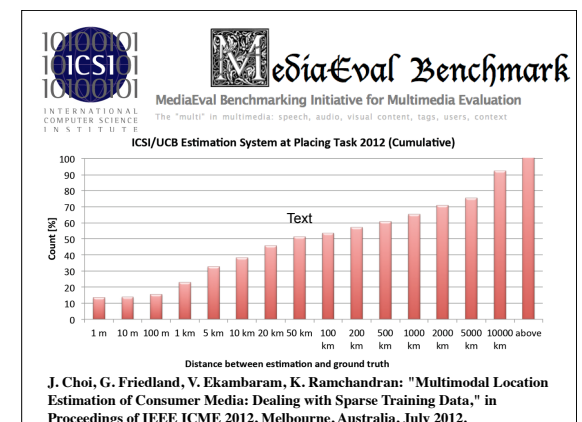
Multimodal Location Estimation

We infer location of a Video based on visual, audio, and tags:

- Use geo-tagged data as training data
- Allows faster search, inference, and intelligence gathering even without GPS.

G. Friedland, O. Vinyals, and T. Darrell: "Multimodal Location Estimation," pp. 1245-1251, ACM Multimedia, Florence, Italy, October 2010.

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YouTube Cybercasing Revisited

	Old Experiment	No Geotags
Initial Videos	1000 (max)	107
User Hull	~50k	~2000
Potential Hits	106	112
Actual Targets	>12	>12

YouTube Cybercasing with Geo-Tags vs Multimodal Location Estimation

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Question

Do you think research about geo-location should be abandoned?

- a) No, of course not.
- b) No, but regulated.
- c) Yes, absolutely.

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But...

Is this really only about geo-location?

No, it's about the privacy implications of multimedia retrieval in general.

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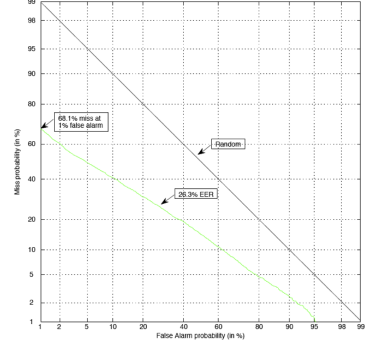
Example

Idea: Can one link videos across accounts?
 (e.g. YouTube linked to Facebook vs anonymized dating site)

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User ID on Flickr videos

User-ID = vector system, 6.4 million trials (2087 true positive trials), 1239 train users, 2794 test users, 60-10000 Hz MFCC



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Persona Linking using Internet Videos

Result:

On average having 20 videos in the test set leads to a 99% chance for a true positive match!

H. Lei, J. Choi, A. Janin, and G. Friedland: "Persona Linking: Matching Uploaders of Videos Across Accounts", at IEEE International Conference on Acoustic, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP), Prague, May 2011

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Question

And now? What do you think has to be done?

- a) Nothing can be done. Privacy is dead.
- b) We need to educate people about this and try to save privacy. (fight)
- c) I will really think before I post, and I agree with b).
- d) I will really think before I post, and I agree with a).
- e) I won't post anything anymore! (flee)

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More examples and more discussion

<http://cybercasing.blogspot.com>

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What to do about it?

<http://teachingprivacy.icsi.berkeley.edu>
(under construction)

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Thank You!

Questions?

Work together with:
Robin Sommer, Jaeyoung Choi, Luke
Gottlieb, Howard Lei, Adam Janin,
Oriol Vinyals, Trevor Darrel, Dan
Garcia, K. Ramchandran, E.
Venketsan, and others.

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