Problem Statement

Presenter: Erica Olsen, Safety Net Project Senior Director, National Network to End Domestic Violence

• Bluetooth trackers are being misused as a tactic of abuse to perpetrate harassment, stalking, theft, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

• The ability for us to control our location privacy is deeply connected to our safety and well-being.

• The lack of standardized design and implementation of these devices allows for wide misuse and significant safety risks.
Location Tracking as a Tactic of Abuse

- Common tactic of abuse, long before Bluetooth tracking devices.
- Bluetooth devices increase the accuracy and ease, creating significant and urgent safety concerns.
- Location and safety are critically linked for survivors. Leaving an abusive partner is the most dangerous time.
Media Coverage (Helpful?)

I Used Apple AirTags, Tiles and a GPS Tracker to Watch My Husband’s Every Move

A vast location-tracking network is being built around us so we don’t lose our keys: One couple’s adventures in the consumer tech surveillance state.

CONSUMER ALERT: Attorney General James Warns New Yorkers of Tracking Threat From Malicious Apple AirTag Users

February 16, 2022

TECHNOLOGY

Consumers beware: Personal tracking devices can track you, too

February 20, 2022 · 5:19 PM ET

Heard on All Things Considered

NPR’s Michel Martin talks to Eva Galperin, Electronic Frontier Foundation Director of Cybersecurity, about recent controversies surrounding Apple AirTags and unwanted tracking.
Reports of Abuse

- Victim service providers and survivors have reported the misuse of trackers as a method of stalking and surveillance.

- Trackers of all kinds have been found in the belongings of survivors or their children.

- Dec 2022: Two women filed a class action lawsuit against Apple after discovering their exes were stalking them using AirTags.
Challenges for Survivors

● There are MANY ways that location can be tracked. How do you begin to narrow down the options to identify what is happening?

● Current design places a significant burden on the person being stalked/tracked.

● Shelters are struggling with how to respond.

● Concern over tracking is often minimized.