'Open' Surveillance 'Apps'

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The app, named TraceTogether and its government is urging citizens to run so that if they encounter a Coronavirus carrier, it's easier to trace who else may have been exposed to the virus. With that info in hand, health authorities are better-informed about who needs to go into quarantine and can focus their resources on those who most need assistance.

The app is opt-in and doesn't track users through space, instead recording who you have encountered. To do so, it requires Bluetooth and location services to be turned on when another phone running the app comes into range exchanges four nuggets of information - a timestamp, Bluetooth signal strength, the phone’s model, and a temporary identifier or device nickname. While location services are required, the app doesn't track users, instead helping to calculate distances between them.

Less than a week after launching an app to track potential exposure to the coronavirus, Singapore is making the technology freely available to developers worldwide.

The city-state rolled out an app called TraceTogether on March 20 and described it as a supplementary tool for its contact tracing efforts that relied on the recall and memory of infected individuals. Contact tracing is the process of identifying those with close contact with infected patients.
A mobile application developed by the Government Technology Agency (GovTech) that helps in contact tracing for Covid-19 has been installed by more than 620,000 users since its launch last Friday.

With a decision to make the technology behind it available to developers around the world, even more people could stand to benefit.

Developed in collaboration with the Health Ministry (MOH), the TraceTogether mobile app works by exchanging short-distance Bluetooth signals between phones.

- **620,000 people installed TraceTogether in 3 days, Singapore's open source contact tracing app**[5]

  TraceTogether, a mobile app to support contact tracing efforts developed by the Government Technology Agency (GovTech), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH), was launched on Friday, Mar. 20.

- **The Shield: the open source Israeli Government app which warns of Coronavirus exposure**[6]

  A new Israeli app can instantly tell users if they have crossed paths with someone known to have been infected with the coronavirus.

  On Sunday, the country's health ministry unveiled the app, called ?The Shield? (?HaMagen?, in Hebrew.) The app takes location data from the user's phone and compares it with the information in Health Ministry servers regarding the location histories of confirmed cases during the 14 days before their diagnosis.

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**OSS**

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**Links:**

[7] https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-israel-unveils-app-that-uses-tracking-to-tell-users-if-they-were-near-