

# Design of a Privacy Infrastructure for the Internet of Things<sup>\*</sup>

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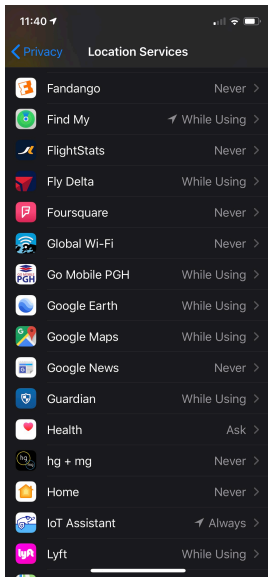
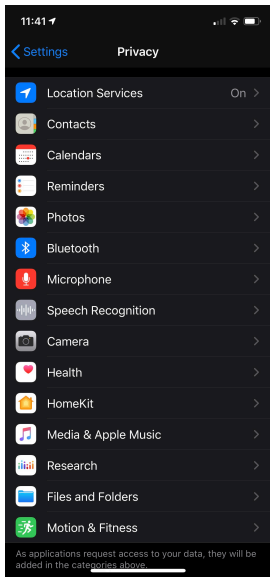
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<https://iotprivacy.io>

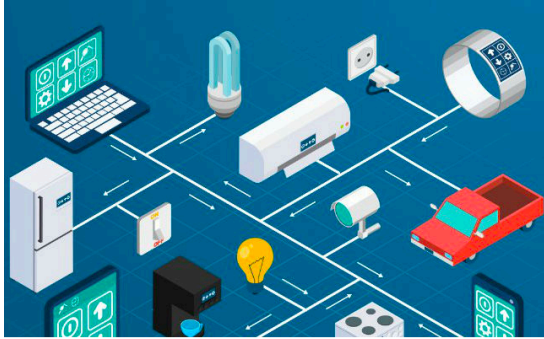
<sup>\*</sup>Patents pending

# Smartphone Permission Managers



All (or most of) your  
app privacy settings  
in one place

# But how about with the Internet of Things (IoT)?



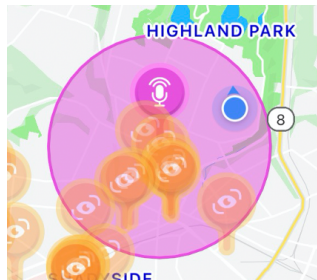
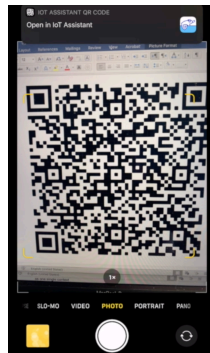
- Where **you don't control** many of the IoT technologies that collect data about you
- ...and are often **not even aware** of their presence



- How likely are you to notice this sign?
- Does this include facial recognition?
- What about facial expression or scene recognition?
- How long is the data retained?
- Do I get to opt in/opt out?
- Is this GDPR or CCPA compliant?

# Possible Solutions

- **QR codes**
  - Not always easy to spot;  
sometimes large area;  
sometimes area is too crowded
- **Location-based discovery**
  - More flexible, but could be missed  
too unless combined with  
notifications
- **...How about supporting both?**



# Why an IoT Privacy Infrastructure?

Offer unified platform/Uls to:

1. **Publicize IoT resources collecting data, incl. privacy options** (e.g., opt-in/out, deletion, portability)
  - IoT Portal for resource owners, device manufacturers, and volunteer contributors
2. **Discover nearby IoT resources, incl. privacy options**
  - Privacy Assistant mobile app to help data subjects

## Publicize IoT Resources and their data practices

- using a wizard
- or by instantiating IoT resource templates



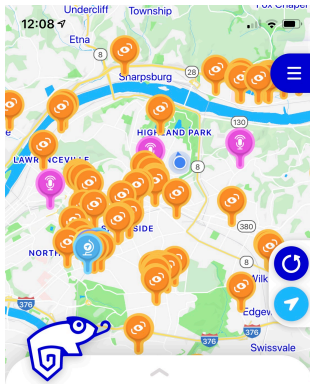
IoT device manufacturers or volunteers can also **publicize IoT resource templates** (e.g. ring door bell, WiFi location tracking, etc.)

# Publicizing IoT Data Collection

- **IoT resource owner:** Publicize your IoT resources & data practices
- **IoT volunteer contributor:** Report IoT resources & assumed data practices
- **IoT registry owner:** Aggregate and curate IoT resource publication (e.g. building, neighborhood, mall, etc.)
- **IoT device manufacturer/service provider:** Publicize IoT resource templates



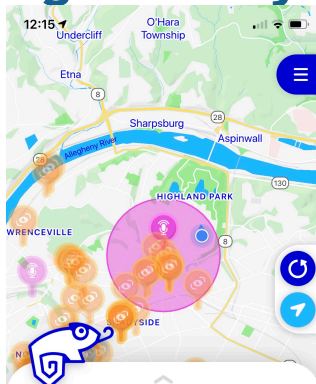
# Discovering Nearby IoT Data Collection



## Filter by Data Category



Security Cameras: Cit. Bank NA  
Direct Bank Deposit Support Po Box 535857, ...



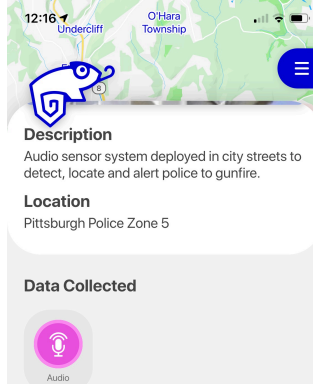
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## ShotSpotter Acoustic Monitor



### Description

Audio sensor system deployed in city streets to detect, locate and alert police to gunfire.



### Description

Audio sensor system deployed in city streets to detect, locate and alert police to gunfire.

### Location

Pittsburgh Police Zone 5

### Data Collected



### Is Data Identifiable?

↳ No



### Purpose for Collection

↳ Security

↳ Provide/Improve Operation/  
Product/Service



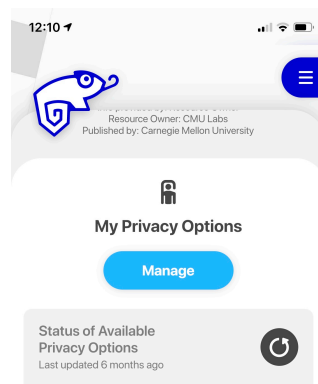
### Retention Time

↳ Unspecified



### Who Can Access Data?

↳ Resource Owner



Resource Owner: CMU Labs  
Published by: Carnegie Mellon University



## My Privacy Options

Manage

### Status of Available Privacy Options

Last updated 6 months ago



Request  
Data Deletion

Please  
Refresh



Request  
Copy of Data

Please  
Refresh



Data  
Collection

Please  
Refresh



Data  
Sharing

Please  
Refresh

Privacy Policy

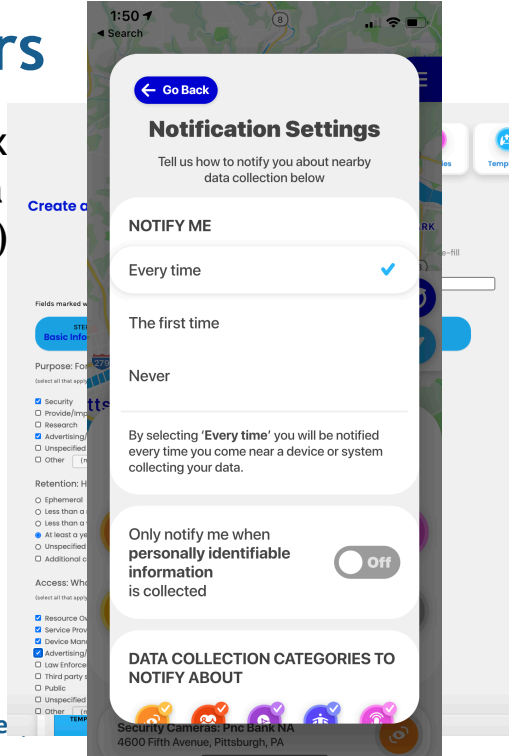
More Info

# Design Challenges (Short Selection)

- Should be usable by **lay users** - occasionally some privacy professionals
- Should be **jurisdiction-agnostic**
  - Capable of supporting GDPR or CCPA without requiring it
- Supporting **data subject rights** without actually managing those rights
- Discourage **abuse**

# Usable by Lay Users

- **Device templates** (e.g. ring door bell, Alex smart speaker, but also video analytics in a mall or WiFi location tracking on a campus)
- Encourage both **resource owners & volunteer contributors** to publish
- **Wizard with drop-down menus** to assist users when describing one-off resources
- Intuitive mobile app supporting both **location-based discovery and QR codes**
  - Customizable notifications



# Jurisdiction-Agnostic (I)

- Rich set of options to capture diverse disclosure requirements
- Required fields kept to a minimum

Fields marked with an asterisk \* are required

STEP 1 Basic Information   STEP 2 Location   STEP 3 Data   **STEP 4 Data Practices**   STEP 5 Privacy Options

Purpose: For what purposes will the data collected by this resource be used?  
(select all that apply)

☐ Security  
☐ Provide/Improve Operation/Product/Service  
☐ Research  
☐ Advertising/Marketing  
☐ Unspecified  
☐ Other

Retention: How long will the data collected by this resource be kept?

☐ Ephemeral  
☐ Less than a month  
☐ Less than a year  
☐ At least a year  
☐ Unspecified  
☐ Additional comments

Access: Who will have access to the data collected by this resource?  
(select all that apply)

☐ Resource Owner

# Jurisdiction-Agnostic (II)

- ...but make people accountable

## Requesting Publication

By requesting the publication of this resource in this registry, you agree to take responsibility for the content of this resource description. In particular, you represent that the description you have provided is accurate to the best of your knowledge and conforms to all applicable laws. You also understand that the decision to publish or not publish the description of your resource is up to the owners/administrators of each individual registry and that each registry might have different criteria.

☐ I have read, understood and agreed to the above.

[Request to publish.](#) [Cancel](#)

# Support Data Subject Rights without Managing Those Rights

- **Support open collection of privacy options** (e.g., opt-in/out for different practices, deletion, portability, etc.)
- **Open APIs to connect to different consent management platforms**
- **Support 3<sup>rd</sup> party authentication** to capture user selection of privacy options
  - And relevant identifying data, if needed.

# Discouraging Abuse

- All users are **authenticated**
  - Allow for **volunteer contributors**...but require contributors to **take responsibility** for what they publish
- **Decentralized publication mechanism** managed via **registries** (e.g., mall operator, campus, home owner, neighborhood association)
- Each **registry owner reviews** publication requests and has the option to reject requests or take down publications
- Platform can take down any registry or resource - whether temporarily or permanently

# Current Status

- **Initial release:** 17,000 mobile app downloads within a week
  - approaching 200,000 IoT resources today
- **Improved portal and IoT Assistant app to be released in October 2020...**
- **Stay tuned!**
  - <https://iotprivacy.io>
  - Consider also subscribing to our mailing list at:  
<https://www.privacyassistant.org/contact/>





# THANK YOU!

- IoT Portal: <https://iotprivacy.io>
- IoT Assistant app available in Google Play Store and iOS iTunes store.



- Work funded by the **National Science Foundation** under the Secure and Trustworthy Computing initiative and under the **DARPA/AFRL Brandeis privacy research initiative**. Additional funding provided by **CyLab** and **Google** - <https://www.privacyassistant.org/>

A. Das, M. Degeling, D. Smullen, and N. Sadeh, "Personalized Privacy Assistants for the Internet of Things", 2018 IEEE Pervasive Computing: Special Issue - Securing the IoT, Apr 2018