



# BROWSER NO 226

## NOVEMBER 2025

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The Busselton Constitution is available on the Busnet website at [busnet.org.au](http://busnet.org.au). This is a very useful and interesting site with lots of up to date information about our Club.

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**The next general meeting and the last one for the year is on a Tuesday this time, then 18th of November at 1.30pm. The reason being that with Christmas holidays coming up and social gatherings booked, we were unable to make it a Thursday as in the past.**

**The meeting will be in the Lesser Hall. Please come and meet so many new members and chat to those you already know at afternoon tea after the meeting.**

### Telstra testing reveals some Samsung mobile phones unable to make triple-0 calls

By national consumer affairs reporter **Michael Atkin** and the Specialist Reporting Team's **Lucy Kent**  
**Wed 22 Oct** **Wednesday 22 October**, [https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-10-22/samsung-mobile-devices-triple-0-telstra-network/105920816?](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-10-22/samsung-mobile-devices-triple-0-telstra-network/105920816?utm_source=abc_news_web&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=mail)

[-0-telstra-network/105920816?utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_content=mail](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-10-22/samsung-mobile-devices-triple-0-telstra-network/105920816?utm_source=abc_news_web&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=mail)  
Telstra says it has identified a number of older Samsung phones that are not correctly connecting to the Vodafone mobile network to make triple-0 calls. *(Supplied: Samsung)*  
*Link copied*



Telstra testing has revealed some Samsung mobile phone users may be unable to call triple-0 in an emergency with more than 70 models found not to be connecting correctly.

Telstra said the issue affected 11 older model Samsung Galaxy phones which users would need to replace with newer devices, and about 60 models that required system updates. It said affected customers would be notified via email



or SMS.

The Optus outage prompted serious discussions about the reliability of Australia's emergency services network. Here's how it should be operating.

The telco said legal obligations meant customers who owned models that needed to be replaced would be blocked from its network if their phones were not replaced within 28 days of being notified.

"Under the government's Emergency Service Call Determination, all mobile network operators are required to block devices from their networks that are not configured to access emergency call services," Telstra posted online.

About 60 other Samsung models required an immediate software update to ensure they could reach triple-0 in an emergency.

Telstra performed the testing over the last nine days.

In a statement to the ABC it said, "Our engineers proactively completed testing in our lab after a report of an issue on another operators' network."

"Once we discovered the issue through our testing, we notified Samsung and the other mobile network operators."

In a website post, Telstra said the testing showed that the phones were not connecting to the Vodafone network when trying to make triple-0 calls, but only when the Telstra or Optus networks were unavailable.

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"For Telstra customers, the primary mobile network is Telstra and another available mobile network would be Optus or Vodafone in Australia," it posted online.



Optus customers have come forward to report more cases of triple-0 calls failing outside the embattled telcos previously admitted outages.

"After completing some recent testing, we've identified a number of older Samsung mobile devices that are not correctly connecting to the Vodafone mobile network when other mobile networks are unavailable."

Optus has also published a post on its website which said it had begun contacting affected customers and it would begin blocking phones that were not replaced as soon as 28 days after the customer was notified.

During a network outage a mobile phone is meant to use [what is known as a "camp on" system](#) to find the next available network but Telstra said this was not working.

Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) CEO, Carol Bennett, said the issue could potentially affect thousands of customers.

"We believe it's in the tens of thousands [with Optus and Telstra]. We're not sure how many TPG customers are directly affected by this issue," she said.

Telstra says some Samsung devices need to be replaced while others will need to be updated. *(Reuters: Brendan McDermid)*

Telstra said almost 20,000 devices that used its network would need to be replaced and the most recent phone was launched in 2017.

Some customers with vulnerable circumstances would be given a free replacement, however others would need to buy one.

The development adds to a crisis of confidence in the triple-0 emergency system following two recent Optus outages.

The largest outage in September has been linked to three deaths and hundreds of customers were unable to make emergency calls, breaching the telco's legal obligations to ensure emergency calls were carried and prompting multiple ongoing investigations.

### ***TPG denies network was to blame***

Vodafone's owner TPG Telecom said it had recently received "new advice from Samsung" about concerns with some devices and Telstra had informed it about its testing results.

It denied the Vodafone network was to blame for the failed calls.

"It is not a fault of the Vodafone network, but a limitation in how certain devices were originally configured to search for emergency connectivity," it said.

"TPG Telecom continues to monitor the handsets used on its network and actively work with customers impacted by the emergency call service determination to ensure they can continue to access triple-0."

The company said it would offer free or subsidised handsets to some customers and customers who did not act would have their phones blocked.

Samsung did not answer questions about why its devices were unable to make emergency calls and who was at fault.

In a statement the company said, "Samsung and its carrier partners are working together to ensure all devices operate reliably in every emergency situation."

Optus said in a statement it started notifying customers today, "which was within the required regulatory period."

"This situation relates to rare occasions when both the Optus and Telstra networks are unavailable, and the phone needs to switch to Vodafone in order to contact emergency services," it said.

"Impacted customers began receiving notifications today that their Samsung devices will be blocked within the next 28-35 days as is required by law."

The ABC has contacted the regulator, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, for comment.

***Editor's note (22/10/2025):*** This article was updated after clarification from ACCAN about the estimated number of phone users potentially impacted.

**For a list of devices that need to be replaced please go to the website above.**

**But please don't panic people, please read the next article. Would be very interested to know what the legal implications are of telcos blocking phones. Being a very old cynic I can't help wondering if this is a marketing idea to sell new phones.**



### **Using other emergency numbers**

<https://www.triplezero.gov.au/triple-zero/other-emergency-numbers>

Australia's primary emergency call service number is Triple Zero (000), which can be dialled from any fixed or mobile phone, pay phones and certain Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services.

***There are also two secondary emergency call service numbers—[112](#) and [106](#).***

112 is available from most mobile phones. 106 connects to the text-based relay service for people who have a hearing or speech impairment. All calls to the emergency numbers, whether from fixed, mobile, pay phones or VoIP services are free-of-charge.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has produced a webpage of [Emergency Calls How and when to call the emergency services in Australia](#).

For more information on the 106 Text Emergency Relay Service, Triple Zero (000) by internet relay and Triple Zero (000) by Speak and Listen, go to the [National Relay Service](#) website.

### ***106—Text Emergency Relay Service***

If you have a hearing or speech impairment and your life or property is in danger, you can contact police, fire or ambulance on 106 directly through a TTY (also known as a teletypewriter or textphone). It is not possible to contact emergency services using the Short Message Service (SMS) on your mobile telephone.

The Australian 106 Text Emergency Relay Service is provided as part of the [National Relay Service \(NRS\)](#). The service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and calls made using the 106 service are given priority over other NRS calls.

### ***Using the 106 Text Emergency Relay Service***

- Dial 106, which is a toll-free number
- You will be asked if you want police (type PPP), fire (FFF) or ambulance (type AAA). Note Speak and Listen (or voice carry over) users just need to say 'police', 'fire' or 'ambulance' to the relay officer
- The relay officer will dial the correct service and stay on the line to relay your conversation
- As a TTY is connected to a fixed line, the emergency service can locate where you are calling from
- You will be asked to confirm your address
- The 106 service can only be dialled from a TTY, it cannot be used by:
  - o an ordinary phone
  - o text message (SMS) on a mobile phone, or internet relay.

If you have further questions you can contact the [National Relay Service Help Desk](#) (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm AEST).

### ***When calling from a mobile telephone***

Triple Zero (000) is Australia's primary telephone number to call for assistance in life threatening or time critical emergency situations.

112 is a secondary emergency number that can be dialled from mobile phones in Australia. Special capabilities, including roaming, once only existed when dialling 112, however mobile phones manufactured since January 2002 also provide these capabilities when dialling Triple Zero (000) to access the Emergency Call Service.

There is a misconception that 112 calls will be carried by satellite if there is no mobile coverage. Satellite phones use a different technology and your mobile phone cannot access a satellite network.

Important – if there is no mobile coverage on any network, you will not be able to reach the Emergency Call Service via a mobile phone, regardless of which number you dialled.

To find out more about calling Triple Zero (000) from a mobile telephone, visit the [Australian Communications and Media Authority](#) website.

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### **112—International standard emergency number**

Triple Zero (000) is Australia's primary telephone number to call for assistance in life threatening or time critical emergency situations. Dialling 112 directs you to the same Triple Zero (000) call service and does not give your call priority over Triple Zero (000).

112 is an international standard emergency number which can only be dialled on a digital mobile phone. It is accepted as a secondary international emergency number in some parts of the world, including Australia, and can be dialled in areas of GSM network coverage with the call automatically translated to that country's emergency number. It does not require a simcard or pin number to make the call, however phone coverage must be available (any carrier) for the call to proceed.

There is no advantage to dialling 112 over Triple Zero (000). Calls to 112 do not go to the head of the queue for emergency services, and it is not true that it is the only number that will work on a mobile phone.

Dialling 112 from a fixed line telephone in Australia (including payphones) will not connect you to the emergency call service as it is only available from digital mobile phones.

### **Voice over Internet Protocol**

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is a technology that allows telephone calls to be made over broadband Internet connections.

Some VoIP providers may not provide access to emergency calls, so check with your VoIP provider if you require the emergency call service.

For information about using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) visit the [Communications Alliance](#) website.

### **State and territory emergency service organisations**

Within Australia, the protection of life and property is the responsibility of state and territory governments. A number of Emergency Services Organisations (ESO) provide their own information on what to do in an emergency.

For more information, visit the [state and territory emergency services organisations](#) page.

<https://www.triplezero.gov.au/triple-zero/regional-services>

911 is the emergency telephone number used in other countries such as the United States and Canada. This number should not be used in an emergency in Australia. If dialled within Australia, this number will not re-route emergency calls to Triple Zero (000).

There is also the *ABC Emergency Find emergency services wherever you are*

<https://www.abc.net.au/emergency/emergency-services-organisations-by-state/12461230>



### **Waze vs. Google Maps Australia: What should you consider when deciding which navigation application is right for you?**

<https://www.carsguide.com.au/car-advice/waze-vs-google-maps-which-is-the-better-option-for-you-97234>

Gone are the days where you rely on physical map books to navigate your way to a destination, and while orienteering like this is a hard-won skill that I'm grateful to have, it is ridiculously easier to punch in some addresses into a [sat-nav system](#), like Google Maps or Waze.

Google Maps has been around since 2005, back when it was limited to a desktop app and you had to print out your map directions on actual paper. Android phone users got a phone app version from 2008, while Apple phone users had to wait until 2012.

**So, what is Waze? Essentially, it's a Google Maps alternative.**

It was initially developed in 2006 as a part of a community project initially called FreeMap Israel before it was re-named Waze in 2008. This might surprise the die-hard enthusiasts out there who are either Team Waze or Team Google, but since acquiring it in 2013, Waze is now a subsidiary company of Google.

While both are owned and operated underneath the Google company umbrella, they do differ in their end-user application. The best way to describe the difference between the two is that Waze is targeted as more of a social engagement app, whereas Google Maps is an information app.

If it's simply a question on how to get from point A to point B, both apps will more than suffice but is one better than the other?

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### Committee members for 25/26

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Treasurer	Peter Ralph	<a href="mailto:treasurer.busnet@gmail.com">treasurer.busnet@gmail.com</a>	0429 185 066
Technicians	Bill Whipp	<a href="mailto:uuruu46@gmail.com">uuruu46@gmail.com</a>	0435 651 488
	Peter Ralph	<a href="mailto:treasurer.busnet@gmail.com">treasurer.busnet@gmail.com</a>	0429 185 066
	Peter Quinby	<a href="mailto:pquinby@protonmail.com">pquinby@protonmail.com</a>	0419 047 714
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	Heather Maclean	<a href="mailto:heathermaclean@outlook.com">heathermaclean@outlook.com</a>	0427 893 952
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#### **How do you use Waze and Google Maps?**

While both are owned and operated underneath the Google company umbrella, they do differ in their end-user application. The best way to describe the difference between the two is that Waze is targeted as more of a social engagement app, whereas Google Maps is an information app.

If it's simply a question on how to get from point A to point B, both apps will more than suffice but is one better than the other?

#### **How do you use Waze and Google Maps?**

From a user's perspective, they're very similar in how you access and use the navigation services. Each app uses top-down map views, turn-by-turn navigation and satellite imagery, but Google Maps makes excellent use of its route planning and Google Street View option and that's particularly handy if you're on foot.

While you don't technically need an account for either, creating a Waze profile or linking your Google Email to your Google Maps app gives you a more involved experience because for both, you can 'level' up.

On Waze, you can earn 'Achievements', which are earned by keeping the Waze traffic updates current by confirming or creating notifications about traffic congestion, alerts etc.

Every new 'Wazer' starts at the bottom rung, which is adorably named Baby Wazer (the little dude even has a dummy) before you can unlock to the next level.

These little profile icons can be personalised with 'Moods' and are what other users see on the Waze map. This is where it differs from Google Maps because other users can't 'see' you as you're using the app anonymously. On Waze, seeing driver's icons popping across the map makes it feel like you a part of a social network while driving – some people like that and others find it a distraction, but the icons are pretty cute.

On Google Maps, you can link your Google email to your app, which makes it easy to leave a quick review for a business you've visited on your trip. Leaving reviews and participating in the app like this earns you 'Contributor' badges. However, like Waze, it's not necessary and you can be a 'guest' on each app. Bonus – both are free to use.

Some people have asked is Waze illegal in Australia? No, the app is fully legal but still requires handsfree use while on the road just like Google Maps.

#### **How does Google Maps make money?**

Google Maps generates income by selling advertising space to local businesses. This is linked with Google Ads and it means when you zoom in on a route, you'll see local business listings for things like hotels and restaurants.

How does Waze make money? Waze used to do something similar but ended the practice in 2023.

#### **How does Google Maps work and how accurate is Google Maps?**

To get going, both apps require the user to enter a 'starting point' address and a 'destination' address, however if you don't know the actual address, often a text prompt like 'Westfield Sydney' will find it for you. Both use your location as the automatic starting point but that can be changed manually, if need be.

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You can customise your route preferences in both as well – letting you avoid routes with things like toll roads or free-ways.

You can access both apps via voice command, which is great for keeping your attention on the road and keeping it all ‘handsfree’. In both Waze and Google Maps, the voice command is activated by saying, ‘Hey Google’, but if you’re using an iPhone, you can also use the in-built Siri voice assistant to access them as well.

Google Maps is considered fairly accurate when it comes to finding your current location outdoors as it uses GPS satellite data, which can pinpoint your position to within around 20 meters.

#### ***How much data does Waze use?***

Because of its user-heavy interaction and map design that relies on real-time data collection, Waze typically uses between 20 – 30MB per hour for its top-down view map and turn-by-turn navigation. So, how much data does Google Maps use? For the same type of map style, the app only uses between 3 – 5MB per hour, which is significantly less than Waze.

Using Google Street View chews a lot more data, averaging between 15 – 20MB per hour.

#### ***What Waze does better***

All routes are calculated using Global Positioning System [technology](#) (GPS) and historic traffic data to determine both the quickest route and the average time to get to your destination for their navigation map but Waze takes it a step further.

Traffic updates are ‘crowd sourced’ from the community of Waze users, which means that active users on the app contribute to live traffic updates and alerts. This has the benefit of data being more accurate as the user can update in ‘real time’.

Does Waze show speed cameras ... yes! And it’s one of it’s best features, but you can make updates on lots of different types of alerts. Users can note if they are any road or lane closures, bad weather (sudden fog), police, traffic congestion and crashes on your route. As a user, you will get a notification if one of these items has been logged on your route.

Does Google Maps show speed cameras? No, but you can enable a speed limit alert (similar to Traffic Sign Recognition in new cars).

Does Waze show mobile phone cameras? It’s a newer feature, but with the updated laws around mobile phone detection, it’s a welcomed one. Users can log mobile detection cameras so others can use it.

You can also confirm whether or not the alert is still in effect and causing traffic issues or if its cleared. Doing so helps other drivers and makes the data more accurate.

This data then translates to automatic route changes by Waze. Whereas you will get a suggested route alternative from Google Maps which needs user input to implement – this takes the drivers eyes off the road and if you miss the notification, you miss out on the time-saving new route.

Waze shows car parking around your destination, which can help in planning your travel immensely because parking in a city CBD or event can be a nightmare.

#### ***What Google Maps does better***

The best benefit of using Google Maps is that it works across various modes of transport. So, you can use Google Maps when you’re cycling, walking, driving or taking public transport like a bus or train, but Waze is limited to car routes. The public transport feature is particularly good as it will tell you exactly which bus or train you need to take, including adding the walking distance between stops and which train platform you need to be on. This app is super handy if you’re a tourist and don’t have access to a car but still need to navigate.

You can also pre-download a map area in Google Maps before you leave your home or hotel Wi-Fi, allowing you to access the navigation if your internet drops out. This makes it the best offline navigation app because Waze can’t function without both GPS and cellular data.

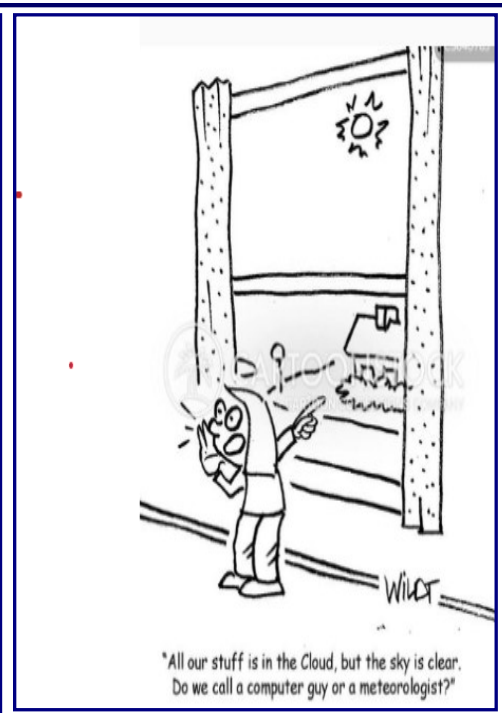
#### ***Google Maps vs Waze***

Is Waze better than Google Maps? If we’re playing a strict [numbers](#) game, then \*technically\* Google Maps has it beat with its two billion monthly users (as of October 2024) compared to the 151 million active Waze users.

The Waze review? Word on the street, at least for the younger generation, is that Waze is the way to go. My cousins and younger brother all swear by Waze (my father didn’t even know what it was). The community-minded spirit of ‘watching each other’s backs’ while out on the road seems to be the biggest scoring factor on favourability. They also like the cute Waze app icons and that you can personalise them.

***At the end of the day, both will get you to where you need to go.***

Category	1/10/2025-31/10/2025
<b>INFLOWS</b>	
Activity Fees	130.50
Donation	50.00
Home Visit	25.00
Membership	360.00
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>565.50</b>
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>	
BSSC Rent & Internet	339.80
Insurance	300.87
Square Terminal	0.64
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>641.31</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-75.81</b>



BUSNET COMPUTER CLUB INC								
ROSTER						JULY 2025		
DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician
30/6/25	Monday	Peter Ralph	2/7/25	Wednesday	Michelle Chaplin	4/7/25	Friday	Trevor Gray
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis						
7/7/25	Monday	Maureen King	9/7/25	Wednesday	Phyl Peach	11/7/25	Friday	Sheila Higham
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis						
14/7/25	Monday	Cyndy Glencross	16/7/25	Wednesday	?????????	18/7/25	Friday	Ursula Hillman
		Peter Quinby			Bill whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis						
21/7/25	Monday	Heather Maclean	23/7/25	Wednesday	Rosalie Roberts	25/7/25	Friday	Jane Buckley
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis						
28/7/25	Monday	Heather Maclean	30/7/25	Wednesday	Peter Ralph	1/8/25	Friday	Trevor Gray
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Jake Challis						



## How Your Smartphone Tracks You Using GPS and How To Fight Back

[https://www.google.com/search?q=How+Your+Smartphone+Tracks+Your+Every+Move%E2%80%9494And+How+to+Fight+Back&sca\\_esv=3a8be7ffcaaa7a05&sxsrf=AE3TifNY\\_DCc4uJ1JfK1MaEVvs0kYC3B7g%](https://www.google.com/search?q=How+Your+Smartphone+Tracks+Your+Every+Move%E2%80%9494And+How+to+Fight+Back&sca_esv=3a8be7ffcaaa7a05&sxsrf=AE3TifNY_DCc4uJ1JfK1MaEVvs0kYC3B7g%94)

Your smartphone tracks you using GPS, cellular triangulation, Wi-Fi positioning, and Bluetooth, which allows companies like Google and Apple to map your location, explains [How-To Geek](#), [Medium](#), and [Aura](#). To fight back, you can disable location services entirely in your phone's settings, manage location permissions for individual apps, or use privacy-focused tools and a VPN.

### *How your smartphone tracks your location*

**GPS:** The phone uses signals from a network of satellites to calculate its position, explains [Mapscaping.com](#).

**Cellular triangulation:** Your phone communicates with multiple cell towers, and the network estimates its location based on the signal strength from each tower, says Medium.

**Wi-Fi and Bluetooth positioning:** Even when you're not connected to a network, your phone can use signals from nearby Wi-Fi access points and Bluetooth devices to pinpoint your location, notes How-To Geek.

**App and account-based tracking:** Some services, like Google Maps, store your location history on your account, while individual apps can request permission to access your location.

### *How to fight back and reduce tracking*

#### **Turn off location services globally:**

On Android, go to Settings > Location and toggle the main "Use Location" switch off, or find it under "Security & privacy" and "Location access".

#### **Manage app permissions:**

- Go to Settings > Apps and select an individual app.
- Tap "Permissions" and change the location setting to "Don't allow".

You can also use the "Permission manager" under "Security & Privacy" to see all apps that have permission to access your location.

#### **Disable location accuracy:**

Some Android versions allow you to turn off "Google Location Accuracy," which uses Wi-Fi and Bluetooth to improve GPS accuracy.

#### **Use privacy-focused tools:**

- Switch to privacy-respecting browsers, search engines, and messaging apps.
- Install a VPN to encrypt your web activity.
- Use tracker-blocking extensions like uBlock Origin or Ghostery.

### *Important considerations*

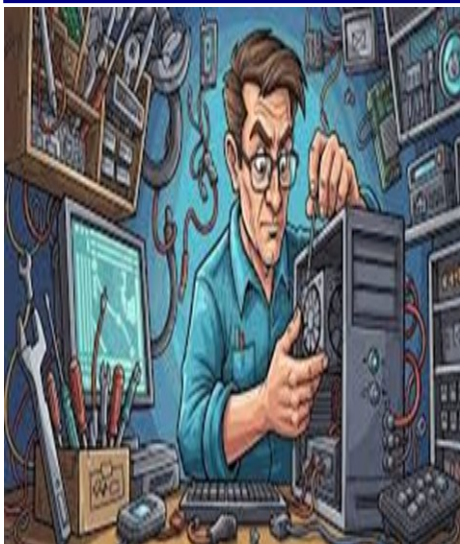
Disabling location services may affect the functionality of location-based apps, such as maps and ride-sharing services. Even with location off, your phone can still be tracked through other methods, such as your Google account or by using a phone's sensors.

Be cautious about apps that request broad location access and regularly audit your app permissions.

See also:

<https://www.howtogeek.com/how-your-smartphone-tracks-your-every-moveand-how-to-fight-back/>

<https://www.certosoftware.com/insights/how-to-make-your-phone-untraceable-12-easy-ways/>



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