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## Article

### Google "Street View": CNIL imposes a fine of 100,000 euros

March 21, 2011



Google the company conducts several years to the massive collection of technical data on Wi-Fi networks, for the purpose of providing location-based services (including services Google Maps, Street View and Latitude). The CNIL has conducted a series of spot checks to verify the compliance of these treatments with the law "Informatique et Libertés". These

inspections revealed various violations such as the collection of Wi-Fi data without the knowledge of the persons concerned and the capture of data called "content" (IDs, passwords, login details, email exchanges). The CNIL has warned the company GOOGLE, in May 2010, to regularize the situation. Believing he had not been responded to its requests in a timely manner, the formation of the contentious CNIL issued against the company, March 17, 2011, a fine of € 100,000

Since 2007, GOOGLE deployed worldwide vehicle called Google cars. These vehicles record panoramic views of places traveled, in order to offer users its Street View service.

Checks carried out in late 2009 and early 2010 led to the CNIL found that the vehicles deployed on French soil in capturing and recorded not only photographs but also of data transmitted by wireless networks Wi-Fi in particular, and to without the knowledge of those involved. It turns out that it is precisely this collection of tens of thousands of access points Wi-Fi through the "Google cars" that allowed the company to develop a database of location-based high performance, and thus to acquire a dominant position in the field of LBS.

In April 2010, GOOGLE said in the international press not collect any data content of communications in connection with the movement of its vehicles. Returning to his initial statements, the Company recognized two weeks later in the press that she had actually recorded such data.

Given the seriousness of the facts and the risk of breaching the privacy of users of Wi-Fi networks involved, the CNIL has warned the company, May 26, 2010, to terminate the data collection to blind people and provide a copy of the full content

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data captured in the national territory. GOOGLE has reported the data content, the CNIL has been the first authority in the world to analyze.

The analysis of these data by the CNIL found that GOOGLE had recorded, in addition to technical data (SIID IDs and MAC addresses of access points Wi-Fi), lots of data about individuals, identified or identifiable (connection data to websites, email passwords, email addresses, including e-mail exchanges revealing sensitive information on sexual orientation or human health).

In its decision of 17 March 2011, the contentious formation of the CNIL noted that GOOGLE has pledged to stop the collection of Wi-Fi data through its "Google cars" and delete the content data recorded on it by mistake. However, she finds that she has not refrained from using the data identifying access points Wi-Fi individuals without their knowledge. Indeed, this collection is now carried by more 'Google cars', but operates directly through mobile terminals of users connecting to geolocation service Latitude (smartphones, etc.), And to without their knowledge. The CNIL considers that this lack of information is an unfair collection under the law, which was already at work with "Google cars".

Training contentious further believes that the answers provided by the company GOOGLE after the notice is insufficient, it does not always provided him with the elements of the computer program that led to the collection of Wi-Fi data, contrary to its request to that effect.

Finally, it complains that GOOGLE to challenge the application of French law in the Latitude service, and thereby have refused to report to the CNIL despite two requests to do so.

Under these conditions, given the deficiencies found and their severity, and economic benefits accruing to society GOOGLE such non-contentious formation of the CNIL decided to pronounce against him a fine of € 100 000.

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