
















# Location-Based Services Privacy Check-In



	Places					
<b>OBTAINING LOCATION INFORMATION</b>						
<b>Is the location-based feature required?</b>	<b>No.</b> You can use Facebook without using Places.	<b>No.</b> Users may use all other Yelp services without using the location-based feature.	<b>Yes.</b> The entire service is built around checking in at various locations.	<b>Yes.</b> The entire service is built around checking in at various locations.	<b>Yes.</b> The entire service is built around location information.	<b>No.</b> Users may opt in to geotagging their tweets.
<b>Does the service use GPS or the like when you check in or tweet?</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Facebook Places uses your actual location to determine where you can check in.	<b>Yes (optional).</b> You can use Yelp, including checking in at sites, without sharing your actual location. However, if you allow Yelp to access your actual location, it will use that to suggest nearby places to check in.	<b>Yes (optional).</b> You can check in on foursquare without disclosing your actual location. However, you may not be eligible for awards such as mayorships without sharing your actual location. In addition, foursquare will use your actual location to suggest nearby locations.	<b>Yes.</b> Gowalla uses your actual location to determine where you can check in.	<b>Yes.</b> Loopt uses your actual location to determine where you can check in.	<b>Yes.</b> If you geotag your tweets, your location options are determined by your actual location.
<b>Can a friend update your location?</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Initially, when a friend tries to check you in, you will be “tagged” rather than fully checked in; the tag will appear on your profile but will not be attached to the Place. You are notified of the tag and given the option to accept check-ins by friends (which allows all future friend check-ins, although you will still be notified each time) or to choose “not now,” which prevents only the current check in. (To disable friend check-ins permanently, you must visit your privacy settings page.)	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b> However, friends who have checked in with you at a location can include that information in their status updates to Twitter and Facebook if they have linked those accounts to foursquare.	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yes (via Facebook Places).</b> Your friends cannot check you in directly through Loopt. However, if you have connected your Loopt account with your Facebook account and you permit your Facebook friends to check you in on Facebook, they can also use Facebook to check you in on Loopt.	<b>No.</b> Although friends could tag you in their own geotagged tweets.

						
<b>DEFAULT VISIBILITY SETTINGS</b>						
<b>Does your personal profile or home page show your most recent location?</b>	<b>Yes (to friends).</b> By default, your friends are able to see your check in history, including your most recent check in, in your news feed.	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yes (to friends).</b> Your profile page includes a list of your 5 most recent check-ins.	<b>Yes (to everyone).</b> Everyone is able to see your most recent check in by default.	<b>Yes (to friends).</b> Your profile displays your current location to your friends on Loopt.	<b>Yes (to everyone).</b> Your geotagged tweets are accessible to everyone and are time stamped, meaning that your current location could be determined.
<b>Does your personal profile show your location history?</b>	<b>Yes (to friends).</b> Your news feed includes a history of where you have checked-in. This information is visible only to friends by default.	<b>Only frequently-visited locations (to everyone).</b> Your profile displays the places you regularly visit, but does not display a complete history of your check-ins.	<b>Only 5 most recent check-ins (to friends) and mayorships (to everyone).</b> Your profile includes your 5 most recent check-ins, which are visible to your friends. If you are the “mayor” of a location, that fact will be listed on your profile. However, your specific visits to that place are still not visible.	<b>Yes (to everyone).</b> Your profile displays the history of where you have checked in, which is available to everyone by default.	<b>Only tagged locations (to friends).</b> Your profile includes a list of previous locations that you have manually tagged. This list is visible only to Loopt friends (unless you connect your Loopt account to other services).	<b>Yes (to everyone).</b> Your geotagged tweets are visible to everyone by default.
<b>Do locations show current or recent visitors?</b>	<b>Yes (to other users at the same Place).</b> Places include a “Here Now” section, which includes every person who has checked in to the Place recently and not checked into another Place since then. This section is visible to any other Facebook user who has recently checked in at the same Place. Users can opt out of the “Here Now” section, and minors cannot be seen by anyone but their friends.	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Locations display a “who’s here” list of recent check-ins. This list is available to everyone. You can opt out of appearing on the “who’s here” list.	<b>Yes.</b> Locations display a list of recent check-ins. This list is publicly available, and you cannot opt out of being visible on this list.	<b>Yes (to nearby friends).</b> Location pages on Loopt do not display the people who are currently there (unless they are your friends). Loopt specifically highlights “nearby” friends along with their locations. You can select which friends can view this information.	<b>N/A.</b> Twitter does not have location pages on its own service, and does not allow users to search for or view all tweets tagged with a given location. However, various third party tools can determine which Twitter users have tweeted from a given location recently.
<b>Do locations show a history of visitors?</b>	<b>Yes (to friends).</b> Places includes a history section showing previous check-ins and comments about the Place. By default, only friends can see your previous check-ins at a Place.	<b>Only regulars.</b> Each location page has a list of “regulars” who have checked into that location often. In addition, every review includes the number of times the reviewer has checked in at the location.	<b>Only current mayor.</b> If you are the mayor of a location, that fact will be displayed on the location’s page. No other information about previous visitors is available.	<b>Yes.</b> Locations display a complete history of previous check-ins. This history is available to everyone. If you turn on Passport Privacy, you will no longer appear in this list.	<b>Yes (to friends).</b> Location pages may show a list of your Loopt friends who have checked in to a place.	<b>N/A.</b> Again, Twitter does not provide this functionality itself, but third party tools allow this.
<b>Does the service show your real name to others?</b>	<b>Yes.</b> It also provides a direct link to your profile.	<b>Yes (first name + last initial).</b>	<b>Yes (first name + last initial).</b> A user search can return a full name, however.	<b>Yes.</b>	<b>Yes.</b> The service will also display your phone number if you are in another user’s address book.	<b>No.</b> Twitter only displays your username, which does not need to be related to your real name.

	 Places					
<b>NOTICE &amp; CONTROL</b>						
<b>Are you notified that you will be disclosing your location information to others?</b>	<p><b>Some notice (the first time you use the service).</b></p> <p>When you check in somewhere for the first time, a message explains that friends and people nearby can see where you are. Also, if your friend checks in for you before you use the service yourself, you will be notified of the attempt and given a choice between allowing friends to check you in and selecting "not now" to prevent the current attempt.</p>	<p><b>Some notice (each time you check in).</b></p> <p>When you check in, you are provided with notice, in the form of checkboxes next to check in button, that you can share your check in data with friends, Facebook or Twitter.</p>	<p><b>Some notice (when you check in).</b></p> <p>You are not provided any specific privacy notice upon joining foursquare or signing in. When you check in at a location, you are given the option to "Tell my friends" (which is checked by default). You are not told exactly what this setting does.</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>You are given no notification of location disclosure or privacy settings upon signing in.</p>	<p><b>Some notice (when you sign up).</b></p> <p>When signing up, the message reads: "Loopt shows your phone's current geolocation to your Loopt friends (even when the Loopt app is not open)."</p>	<p><b>Yes (when you turn on geotagging and each time you tweet).</b></p> <p>When you first click "add your location" to your tweet, a dialogue box warns you that you will be disclosing your location information. Each time you tweet with geotagging turned on, your location is displayed alongside with the tweet and you are given the opportunity to remove that location.</p>
<b>Are there privacy controls that limit the visibility of your most recent location?</b>	<p><b>Yes (opt out for "Here Now," granular settings for check-in visibility).</b></p> <p>Users can select whether they will appear on the "Here Now" list for a place. The default setting depends on the user's other privacy settings. Users can also limit the visibility of check-ins on their wall. The default setting is "friends only."</p>	<p><b>N/A.</b></p> <p>Your most recent location is not available.</p>	<p><b>Yes (opt out).</b></p> <p>You can opt out of the "who's here" function. You can also check in "off the grid" (by unchecking the "Tell my friends" box) to prevent anyone from seeing a record of the current check-in.</p>	<p><b>Partial.</b></p> <p>Users can turn on "passport privacy" to limit who can see their profile, including their current location. However, users cannot opt out of having their most recent check-in appear publicly on location pages.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>You can control which friends see your location when you check in.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>You can "protect" your tweets, including the associated location information, and give only specific users the ability to view them.</p>
<b>Are there retroactive privacy controls that limit the visibility of your location history?</b>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>The visibility setting for a given check-in is permanent, and cannot be changed after the fact. (The check-in can be deleted, however.)</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>All check-ins are public.</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>Once a check-in is complete, its visibility cannot be changed. (The check-in can be deleted, however.)</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>If your account is "private," your check-in history is only visible to friends. (Photos, spots created, and items dropped or swapped are still publicly visible.)</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>If you tag locations, that information is available to your friends.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>If you "protect" your tweets, previous tweets will also be removed from public view.</p>

 <b>Places</b>					
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<b>THIRD PARTY ACCESS</b>						
<b>Is personal and location information shared with business partners?</b>	<b>No.</b> According to Facebook, check-in and GPS location information is not shared with business partners.	<b>Yes (if you opt in).</b> If you use certain features on Yelp, Yelp may share your information in order to provide those features. The business partners are prohibited from using your information for other purposes.	<b>Yes (but you can opt out).</b> By default, foursquare shares check-in data with verified locations to tell them you're a "loyal customer."	<b>Yes.</b> According to Gowalla, any personal information or content that you voluntarily post (including your location information) becomes available to the public.	<b>Yes (if you opt in).</b> Loopt does not disclose your information to other companies for their commercial use without your express consent or unless you have opted in to a specific program or feature that shares information with third parties.	<b>Yes.</b> Twitter can share or disclose any of your public Tweets or other information that you have not set to private.
<b>Can third party apps access your location information?</b>	<b>Yes (including friends' apps).</b> Facebook apps can require access to your entire check-in history. In addition, apps that your friends run can ask your friend for permission to access your check-in history. You can opt out of allowing your friends' apps to access your check-in history.	<b>No.</b> Yelp does not allow third-party apps. However, if you link your Yelp account to Facebook or Twitter and share your check-ins with those services, your location can be accessed by third party apps on those services.	<b>Yes (including friends' apps).</b> Third party apps on foursquare can access your location history and other profile information. In addition, apps that your friends run can access <b>your</b> recent check-ins. If you link your foursquare account to Facebook or Twitter and share your check-ins with those services, your location may also be accessible by third party apps on those services.	<b>Yes (including friends' apps).</b> Third party apps on Gowalla can access your location history and other profile information. In addition, apps that your friends run can access <b>your</b> most recent check-in. If you link your Gowalla account to Facebook or Twitter and share your check-ins with those services, your location may also be accessible by third party apps on those services.	<b>No.</b> Loopt does not allow third party apps. However, if you link your Loopt account to Facebook or Twitter and share your check-ins with those services, your location can be accessed by third party apps on those services.	<b>Yes.</b> Public tweets with geotags can be accessed by any app. Third party apps that you authorize can also access the geotagging information on your protected tweets.
<b>Does the service demand a warrant before turning over records to the government?</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Although Facebook's privacy policy requires only a "good faith belief" that disclosure is necessary, Facebook has stated elsewhere that "we consider our Places product to generate content of communications, and would require a search warrant for prior generated content or a wiretap to capture forward generated content."	<b>We don't know.</b> Yelp's privacy policy requires a "good faith belief" that disclosure is necessary or required by law, but does not define exactly what kind of legal process the company will respond to or how it determines "good faith belief."	<b>We don't know.</b> Foursquare's privacy policy requires a "good faith belief" that disclosure is necessary or required by law, but does not define exactly what kind of legal process the company will respond to or how it determines "good faith belief."	<b>We don't know.</b> Gowalla's privacy policy requires a "good faith belief" that disclosure is necessary or required by law, but does not define exactly what kind of legal process the company will respond to or how it determines "good faith belief."	<b>We don't know.</b> Loopt's privacy policy requires a "good faith belief" that disclosure is necessary or required by law, but does not define exactly what kind of legal process the company will respond to or how it determines "good faith belief."	<b>We don't know.</b> Twitter's privacy policy requires a "good faith belief" that disclosure is necessary or required by law, but does not define exactly what kind of legal process the company will respond to or how it determines "good faith belief."

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**DELETING DATA**

<b>Can you delete check-ins?</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Check-ins can be deleted individually.	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Check-ins can be deleted individually.	<b>No.</b>	<b>Yes.</b> Check-ins can be deleted individually.	<b>Yes.</b> Users can either delete all geotagging information from all tweets or delete any individual tweet entirely. However, users cannot delete just the geotag associated with a specific tweet.
<b>Does your location information automatically expire?</b>	<b>No.</b> As with other forms of content, check-ins are retained unless and until you delete them.	<b>We don't know.</b> Yelp has no public policy about how long it retains user check-in information, and did not provide further clarification.	<b>No.</b> Check-ins are retained until you delete them.	<b>We don't know.</b> Gowalla has no public policy about how long it retains user check-in information, and did not provide further clarification	<b>No.</b> If you tag a location, that record may be retained "for so long as the applicable content remains on Loopt's systems." Otherwise, Loopt retains only your last known location, although this location does not expire at any specific time.	<b>No.</b> However, the Twitter web interface currently allows visitors to view only the last 3,200 tweets.
<b>How long is your location or other information retained in backup storage after you attempt to delete it?</b>	<b>Up to 90 days.</b> If you permanently delete your account from the help page, residual copies of your data may remain for 90 days. If you merely deactivate your account, all data will be retained indefinitely.	<b>We don't know.</b> Yelp has no public policy about how long it retains backup copies of your information after you delete your account, and did not provide further clarification.	<b>Up to 90 days.</b> After deleting your account, residual copies of your data may remain for 90 days.	<b>We don't know.</b> Gowalla removes information from public view immediately, but it is not clear how long records are retained in backup storage.	<b>We don't know.</b> Loopt has no public policy about how long it retains backup copies of your information after you delete your account, and did not provide further clarification.	<b>We don't know.</b> Twitter has no public policy about how long it retains backup copies of your information after you delete your account, and did not provide further clarification.

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRIVACY**

<b>Privacy Policy</b>	<a href="http://facebook.com/policy.php">http://facebook.com/policy.php</a>	<a href="http://yelp.com/static?p=privacy">http://yelp.com/static?p=privacy</a>	<a href="http://foursquare.com/legal/privacy">http://foursquare.com/legal/privacy</a>	<a href="http://gowalla.com/privacy">http://gowalla.com/privacy</a>	<a href="https://app.loopt.com/loopt/privacyNotice.aspx">https://app.loopt.com/loopt/privacyNotice.aspx</a>	<a href="http://twitter.com/privacy">http://twitter.com/privacy</a>
<b>Additional privacy documents</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/privacy/explanation.php">http://www.facebook.com/privacy/explanation.php</a>		<a href="http://foursquare.com/privacy">http://foursquare.com/privacy</a>		<a href="http://about.loopt.com/company/privacy-and-security/">http://about.loopt.com/company/privacy-and-security/</a>	