THE INVESTIGATOR

About Us

Since 2000, BCSI Investigations Inc. has performed thousands of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted in a timely fashion with leading edge techniques.

BCSI Investigations Inc. is considered the platinum standard of the industry based on the quality and the wide spectrum of its services as well as the expertise of the investigators.

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Contact Tracing - What You Need to Know

After two months of isolation, Canadians are ready to go back out and attempt some normalcy. However, the threat of COVID-19 still hangs over our heads like the sword of Damocles. How do we protect ourselves from catching and spreading the infection while balancing our various responsibilities and recreations?

One of the many options posed to Canadians is contact tracing. This is a method of identifying, informing, and monitoring people who have been diagnosed with an infectious disease, in this case COVID-19. Statistics Canada has provided 1,700 interviewers who make 20,000 calls per day to assist with contact tracing efforts, but the Canadian Government is looking to find a more effective and efficient method: an app.

Several countries – and Alberta – have already implemented apps to track the spread of the virus with mixed results. To be effective, 60% of the population must have downloaded the app which has not been the case. In the Isle of Wight, only half the residents have downloaded the app and security flaws have already been flagged.

Samuel Woodhams, a digital rights activist at Top10VPN, has been tracking the rollout of the apps globally since mid-March and reports that of the 53 contact tracing apps available, 25% have no privacy policies and 57% use GPS technology over Bluetooth, which poses a greater risk of the user to be physically tracked.

Apple and Google have announced their joint contact tracing app that uses Bluetooth to detect other smartphones in close proximity and alert the user if they come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Both companies plan to push the new software automatically in the coming weeks and leave it up to government health agencies to decide how to send COVID-19 notifications. They will be given the underlying to app code to experiment with Bluetooth detection before releasing it to the public.

One of the main concerns raised by the public is the privacy risk the technology poses. In theory, the "decentralized" approach locates contact-matching on the devices themselves rather than a centrally controlled computer server.

Ann Cavoukian, Ontario's former privacy commissioner and the Executive Director of the Global Privacy & Security by Design Centre, has stated

the following:

"The individuals would like to know if they've been exposed to someone who has self-reported as being COVID-19 positive, but without any of their personal information being released, no geolocation data tracking -- nothing. It has to be completely privacy protected."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated during a press briefing earlier this month:

"We have a number of proposals and companies working on different models that might be applicable to Canada. But as we move forward on taking decisions, we're going to keep in mind that Canadians, put a very high value on their privacy, on their data security."

"We need to make sure we respect that, even in a time of emergency measures and significant difficulty and crisis. We're going to get that balance right."

Whichever app the federal government chooses to recommend, it will be under careful scrutiny of privacy experts, concerned citizens and BCSI Investigations Inc.

Contact Us

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