

TfL mobile data and privacy

Debrief

February 2016



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Background

WiFi ™



- The proliferation of mobile networks and free WiFi access across the city (above and below ground) provides businesses with unique mobile user data. Every time a phone is 'within range', its unique MAC code is detected and can be logged
- Shopping centres and airports have been first to use this data to learn more about their customers and their behaviour. This data can be used to track user locations, real-time movements and provide additional information such as gender and age
- TfL has partnered with mobile phone providers to bring WiFi services to over 150 London Underground stations. With mobile data now available to TfL, they have been considering ways in which it can be used to benefit customers. For example, understanding customer journey patterns so TfL can push travel alerts to avoid busy hot spots, or recommendations for how customers can have quicker or more comfortable journeys
- TfL is keen to understand how customer feel about the potential benefits and whether it raises any concerns around data privacy

Wi-Fi at Camden

Camden Market has rolled out Wi-Fi to improve customer experience. At the same time, it has used Wi-Fi to learn from the data captured. Users can access the free Wi-Fi service 24 hours a day, which in return provides the business with user data from the network. CamdenMarket.com can see users' locations, with real-time movements and additional information such as gender and age.

The data analytics allows the business to understand the popular areas in London's famous 25,000m² market, and encourage shoppers to visit areas they might not otherwise have found.

"We want to talk to people who come and visit the market, and we're using technology to do that. And we want to see how many visitors we've got on any particular day, and we want more local visitors, not just international visitors. It's about finding out how to talk to them and we can see what we're doing right, events, what brings more people to the market," Jac Timms, IT manager, Camden Market told Computer Weekly.

"There's a lot of tech going in everywhere," he says. "But the main challenge is the connectivity."

"We're taking the market online to help traders in the market to sell online. So having the internet is important, as is providing enterprise resource planning (ERP) for them."

Research objectives



Business question

• To what extent does the possibility of using WiFi / mobile network connection data (captured on LU/ London Rail networks and the TLRN) raise data privacy concerns for customers? In what ways could using this data directly benefit customers and what are the implications for personalisation?

Research questions

- To explore customers attitudes and perceptions around the use of WiFi / mobile connection data in general - making a distinction between the types of connection data where necessary (Bluetooth, cellular, Wi-Fi, GPS etc)
- To understand how customers feel about this data being used for improving journeys for them personally and the system as a whole, and to guide how this could be communicated to TfL's customers
- To understand customer's current assumptions around how TfL use their data (and what data)
- To provide a clear understanding of the terms in which WiFi /mobile data could be used by TfL, with a specific focus on the acceptability of different scenarios (eg TDM, personalised travel information, transport planning, system running more efficiently)
- To explore the likely impact on TfL reputation and customer satisfaction

Methodology



A group methodology was used to explore customer perceptions and attitudes



6 x 1.5hr group discussions

To understand customer response to mobile data collection and TfL concepts

4 x scenarios were shown via storyboards

Sample overview



Group	Age	Location
1	<30 (pre family)	Inner
2	<30 (pre family)	Outer
3	30 – 45	Inner
4	30 – 45	Outer
5	45 +	Inner
6	45 +	Outer



Internet access at home/or on mobile Smartphone (iPhone, Android etc) and/or tablet Internet access and use the internet on their mobile

All were BC1C2, this SEG band is also reflective of mobile internet usage and smartphone ownership



Equal mix of gender in each group

A mix of transport users in all groups with:

Mix of main mode: 2 x car users, 2 x Tube, 2 x rail users

Range of other transport used: Car, bus, cycling/cycle hire, trams, taxi, minicab, walking Mix of journey types; leisure, commute

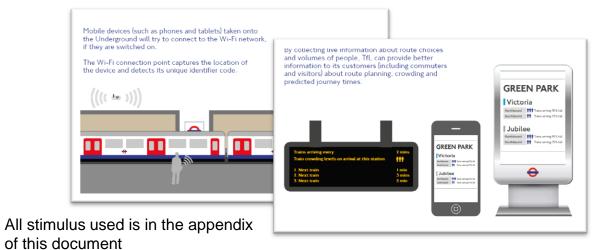
Scenarios tested



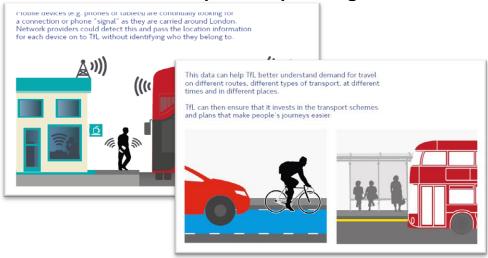
Scenario 1: Road beacons - Bluetooth



Scenario 3: Wi-Fi connection on Tube - TDM



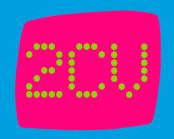
Scenario 2: Mobile phone - planning



Scenario 4: Registering a mobile device – analytics







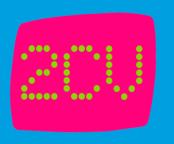


Research headlines



- The sharing of personal information has become normalised with consumers doing so in exchange for tangible benefits (ease of access to services; recommendations etc) delivered by organisations they deal with
 - Some concerns relating to privacy (sale of data) and security (fraud) remain but generally customers feel they can manage any risk by making informed choices regarding the organisations they choose to share information with
- Sharing of location is viewed differently as this communicates where you are in real time which can feel more personal than who you are
- The idea of mobile data tracking is a new concept and the application of this technology is widely unknown. Many are initially apprehensive of how it will be used and organisations' motivations for using it
 - It is clear that communicating the technology and raising awareness of its use will be critical in driving acceptance of TfL using it
- Customers quickly realise the potential benefits of utilising tracking data. TfL delivering solutions regarded as improving travel experiences can have positive impacts on reputation
- It will be critical that TfL is: transparent and overt in its use of data; communicates the tangible benefits they will deliver; reassures customers regarding the security of their data





Attitudes toward data sharing & collection



Landscape regarding the sharing of data has changed



- Customers feel the sharing of data has become normalised and necessary if they want to enjoy / utilise services
 - The 'trade off' for sharing data are personal benefits (convenience; ease of access; recommendations etc)
- Indeed, some feel they no longer have a choice in this and this is the way services / organisations now function
- Customers (across life-stages) readily share a wide range of personal information with a variety of organisations and are conscious of how this behaviour has increased over time and how attitudes toward doing so have changed

It's a trade off, you provide certain information and they give you something back. You give them your details for the convenience.

If we'd discussed this even 5 years ago, I'm sure our answers would be very different. I don't think it feels weird to do this. We have to. If you want to do anything (particularly online) shop, supermarket, book a holiday, bank online this is what you have to do. And we're all happy to do it. I feel I'd be left behind if I didn't do it.



Some concerns about sharing but behaviour is seen as 'normal'



- The normalisation of this behaviour means many tend not to question the behaviour or have entrenched reservations about doing so
 - Consumer openness to sharing of data is driven by the recognised benefit delivered – personalised, targeted and relevant information
- This said, reservations regarding the sharing of data do still exist, primarily relating to:
 - Fraud (financial & identity theft,)
 - Privacy (3rd party sale of their data)
- For some (typically younger) concerns can feel post-rationalised rather than front of mind
- Reservations / concerns abate depending on...
 - Perceived reputability of the organisation
 - Knowingly volunteering information to use the service
 - Companies being overt about what they are collecting and why



I just don't think about it. I'm not sure anyone does that much.

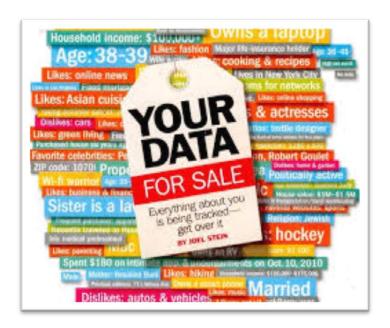
If they are an Amazon or some big company, you worry less about doing it. Especially from a fraud perspective. You feel safer

Commercialisation of personal data viewed as inescapable



- The sale of data to 3rd parties is broadly considered a by-product of sharing data and some feel resigned to this
 - An expectation that companies will continue to monetise data in this way sense that this will grow
- This sale and use of personal data is resented particularly if there is a lack of clarity/transparency* from organisations regarding their intention to do so and a lack relevance regarding the products/services marketed
 - Some (typically younger) employ strategies to counter this (use one email specifically for signing up to services)
- Consumers are appreciative of organisations being transparent regarding why they collect data and if they're passing it on, but this openness felt to be the exception rather than rule

I do worry about who's getting hold of my details. You get so much rubbish in your in-box that I didn't ask for.



Companies hide a lot if details and make it hard to opt out. They're vague about whether they pass data on. We all know its hidden in the Ts & Cs when you sign up.

Customers want to control personal information given as well as level of interaction



When it comes down to sharing of information to access / use a service, customers feel it is important they are....

In charge of **how much detail** they give to organisations

Able (where feasible) to manage the level of interaction with the organisations they've shared information with

I draw a line when I can't see why they're asking for certain information. If I don't think it necessary, I wont continue. It feels really invasive.

I'd feel a lot better if they told me what they needed some of this stuff for. Do Netflix really need to know how old I am?

I like to limit the amount of stuff I get back from them. I don't mind recommendations but I want them to be relevant or be able to turn them off.

Sharing location data is perceived differently



- Location data is viewed differently than other personal information because it is used for very specific purposes that benefits (navigation vs social media) vs general identity to access service
- Some customers (across both age ranges) choose to regulate and control access to this type of information more than other
 data because it communicates where you are in real time which can feel more personal
- In addition, some clearly do not view what they are doing when using location data as 'sharing' it with a service, and privacy / security risks not a consideration



I deliberately turn it (location) off for anything other than travel apps. I don't want people to know where I am. If feels sinister. I don't feel that I'm sharing my information with Google or CityMapper when I turn my location data on. It's where I am but not who I am.



Abstract idea of mobile data 'tracking' does prompt concerns



- Customers are unaware that mobile devices are always looking to connect (even if WiFi not on) and that individual unique identifier can be picked up doing so
 - They are also unaware that this technology is currently being used to identify and track devices
- There is some unease regarding this technology and how it might be used, Concerns focus around
 - Privacy (being followed, tracked)
 - Motivations of organisation utilising data ('Big Brother')
- For many, unease with mobile data usage in this context stems from the fact this is relatively new and unknown technology with uncertain applications
- But this concern sits alongside a resignation about how this tech will be adopted as well as some acceptance that this may offer them some benefits as consumers/service users.



That's way more stalkerish. They don't' tell you they're doing it.

If you can target stuff - information or offers I want to me, then that's fine.

This is just the way of the world I guess. It's sort of inevitable.

Acceptability of mobile data 'tracking' affected by key factors



Less wary

- When overt end benefit for consumer
- Clear and transparent purpose for data collection at point of using service
- Data collected is anonymised/aggregated (more 'arms length' and tech feels 'safer')
- A measure of control related to how much information you pass on

If I can opt out by turning my phone to airplane mode and they give me that choice then that's fine.

I need to know upfront that they're doing it and what for.

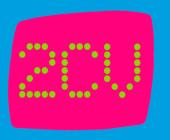
More concerned

- Benefit is purely for organisation (commercial / monetised)
- Purpose of data collection appears opaque / open to interpretation
- Data collected feels more individual / identifiable (demographic detail)
- Cannot control opt in or out to collection

I think airports will do more with this. Not just manage queues. Follow terrorist suspects.

Gender and age? That means they know way more than they're saying. I don't like that.





Responses to TfL mobile data scenarios



Customers are broadly positive of TfL using mobile data to improve their travel experience



- Customers understand that TfL will use the mobile data to provide them with a better travel experience and are broadly accepting of the trade off
 - And the core benefits to them are seen as the ability to make better and more informed travel decisions based on information provided by TfL
- There is some understanding (or expectation) amongst customers that TfL already use customer data (Oyster) to inform service delivery and planning so this is a logical extension of that
- While there is acceptance of TfL's use of this technology, customers would be more positive and accepting if TfL were upfront and transparent about this...
 - Obtaining permission (e.g. allowing customers to opt) in is ideal, but informing customers is likely to be enough (smile you're on CCTV)
 - Explaining rationale behind why the data is collected and the benefits it can deliver
 - Explaining the data is collated by and owned by mobile providers
- Overall customers tended to gravitate towards scenarios they understand and believe deliver a clear, tangible benefit

We need to give TfL something in order for TfL to do something to us.

It's already happening with Oyster, if it's going to make our travel better then I don't see any problems.

I'm fine with it, but they need to tell us about this.

Overall response to TfL's use of mobile data collection: four scenarios

Well received

 Has potential but would benefit from repositioning/clarification

Purpose less obvious



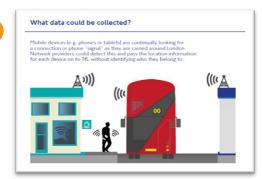


Scenario 4: Registration on a mobile device

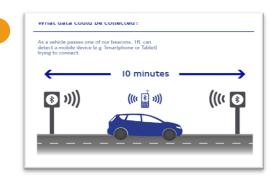
With a better understanding of a customer's travel patterns and favourite journey choices/routes, Tfl. can help them get the best out of our network with up-to-date information and alerts

Scenario 3: Wi-Fi connection on Tube – TDM

Transparent purpose



Scenario 2: Mobile phone – planning



Scenario 1: Road beacons – Bluetooth

Less clear customer benefit

Scenario 3: Wi-Fi connection on Tube – TDM



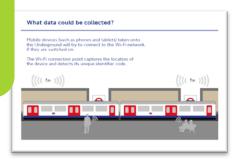
Clear and transparent purpose and benefit for data collection

What's working:



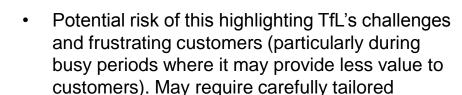
- Positively received and anticipated use, customers suggested this as an application of technology before they saw the example
- Provides a concrete benefit for customers: contextual information will help ease pain point of overcrowding, and allow them to make decisions
- Provides a clear and transparent purpose for data collection, and is anonymised, allaying privacy concerns some customers have

City Mapper tells you which is the least busy part of the train – it's handy.

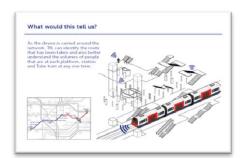


Watch outs:

comms



I like that one. I would just wait for the next train, I hate the crowded trains.



What's that going to tell me at 9:00 at Bank station, all trains are crowded?



Scenario 4: Registering with a mobile device



Well received and customers felt there was a clear benefit

What's working:



- This scenario clearly communicates a strong benefit for customers, offering them personalised real-time information that would allow them to make crucial journey decisions
- Customers appreciated the level of control they have in this scenario, with the ability to opt-in for registration



Watch outs:

- For a small but vocal minority, the data collected feels too personal (individual / identifiable) and plays on their privacy concerns; this group are unlikely to opt in
- Customers would like to be in control of when information is received



You're in control there, I like that.
They're letting us decide and I
would register because you're
getting something good back.



Sorry, that's just too much for me.
They're already watching me on
my Oyster card, why do they
need exactly where I live and
where I work.

That would be really useful! I could just drive to a different station in the morning if I knew my central line was down.

Scenario 1: Road beacons - Bluetooth



Clearer explanation needed to demonstrate value and relevance

What's working:



- Customers appreciated that data collection is anonymised
- Customers liked that the data collection has a clear and tangible purpose



It's like the airport one, it's just registering your device, not who you are so I don't mind it.

Watch outs:



- There was a perception amongst customers that this scenario was not delivering anything above what already exists - with many accessing live trafficking information from a range of sources (GPS, *Twitter*, apps, etc.)
- Combined with the perception that this would include infrastructural cost (installing beacons), left some feeling it was a poor use of resource
- Currently benefit is seen as very focused on drivers, linking use of technology to buses as a mode will also increase appeal - there is appetite for live travel information on this mode

My satnav already does that and I have a few driving apps that give me live traffic information.

Don't they already do that? With road cameras. It seems a bit unnecessary to me.

Scenario 2: Mobile phone – planning

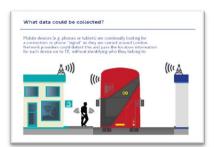


Lacks an immediate tangible benefit and clear purpose

What's working:



The idea of long-term planning resonated with many customers







That's TfL gathering stats, I know they need to do that to improve things so I don't see a problem.

That's important. They have to keep thinking about the future.

Watch outs:



- Lacks an immediate, tangible benefit and therefore failed to engage with many customers
- Clearer explanation needed on to how data is collected what TfL can do with it – customers were unsure of how this general information could benefit TfL (eg distinguishing between modes)
- Without a clear purpose and tangible benefit, customers were less comfortable

I don't understand how that's going to be useful for TfL, how can they even tell if someone is using public transport.

I'm not sure about that one. They're just tracking us all across London, but they're not clear about what they plan to do with the information.

Acceptance of TfL data use for commercial purposes depends on customers being in control



- While some customers are hesitant about TfL being involved with commercial enterprise, the majority think this is inevitable and were open to it
- However customers want TfL to be open and transparent about use of mobile data collection for commercial purposes
- Response to use of mobile data collection for commercial purposes depends on use
 - Registering mobile to receive customer notifications (Personalisation): customers comfortable with this as long as they are in control of what notifications they receive or have ability to opt out (notification centre vs push messages)
 - Use of aggregated and anonymised location data to make advertising more effective: customers felt this was less invasive as they were not using personal data

I don't want a pop-up message every hour, maybe if there's an offer section on the app I can look there. Mind you if it's a good offer I wouldn't mind it popping up!

That's just good, tactical advertising!

Mobile data connection could benefit TfL's reputation





- Mobile data collection can demonstrate caring for and supporting customers on their journeys
- Demonstrates a joined-up transport system run by a single organisation
- · Makes people feel warmer towards TfL



EXPERIENCE

- Use of mobile data collection to deliver travel solutions helps ensure customers experience a consistently easy journey
- Customers feel empowered and in control
- Providing passengers with better customer support and service designed to improve journey experience



VALUE

 If customers feel well served by information and see improvements can feel they receive fairer value



PROGRESS AND INNOVATION

- The solutions represent true innovation. And demonstrate progress and continuous strives for improvement
- Solutions that deliver real time information shows TfL is focused on keeping customers informed and connected



TRUST

- Opportunity to increase easy, empowered experiences and for supported customers to trust TfL even more
- · Customers feel more confident and certain in their journeys
- · Customers feel that the organisation cares about them and their journeys

Principles to help drive engagement and acceptance of use of mobile data



1. TfL needs to demonstrate transparency

- TfL to be overt about the mobile tracking data tech and strategy and how it is used
- Explain the technology simply and that operators collate and pass on data to TfL
- Transparency help reinforce an open, honest relationship with customers

2. TfL needs to reassure customers regarding use of their data

- Assure customers regarding the anonymity of data where relevant
- Explain they can opt or manage the access to this data
- Communicate mobile operators & TfL work under strict data protection rules
- Avoid use of any language that provokes privacy concerns
- Avoid over complicated and technical detail of how the tech works

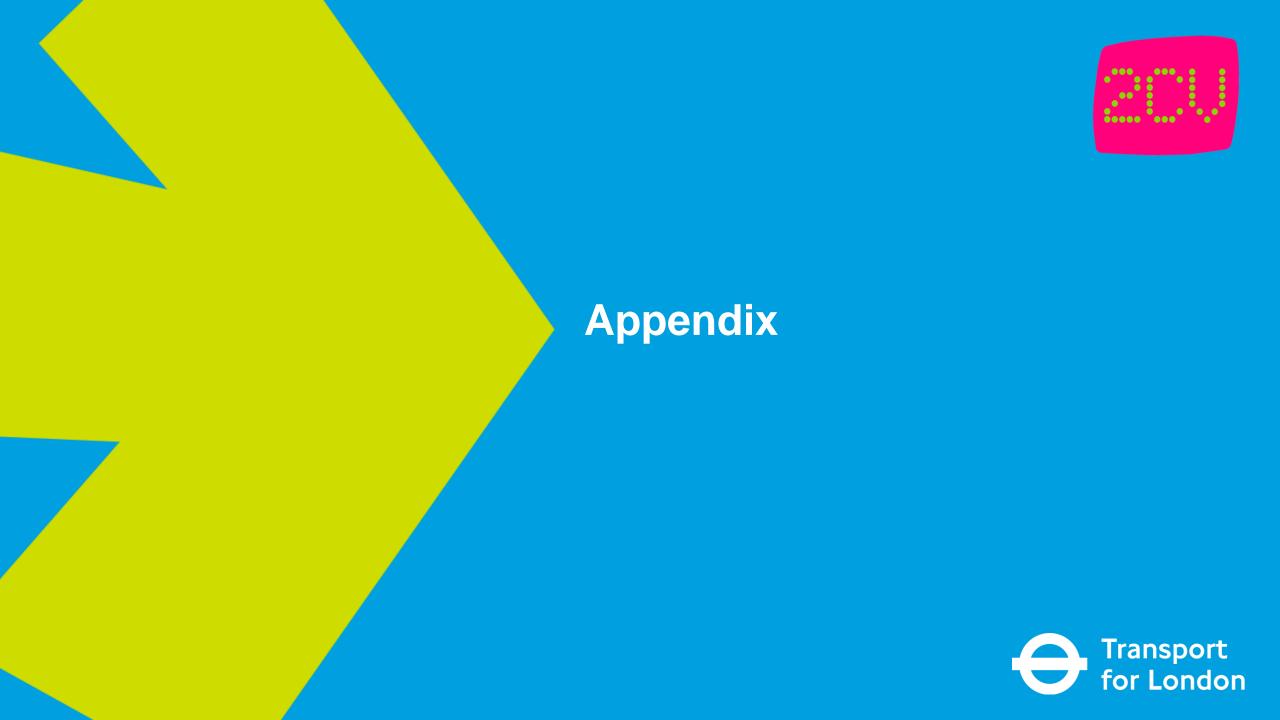
3. TfL needs to communicate that data usage will benefit customer

- Essential customers feel their improved experiences is driving the application on this technology
- Critical to position the benefits to feel tangible and relevant so they don't feel abstract and 'distant'

Moving forward



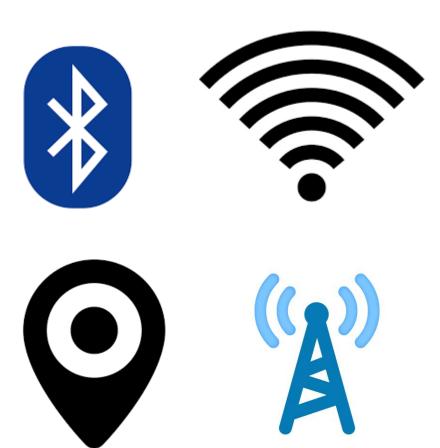
- As seen in previous research there is an expectation that TfL will provide more and better customer solutions and using mobile location data provides the organisation one clear opportunity on how to deliver these
- This said, this technology feels new and unfamiliar and so customer awareness and understanding of this technology and its application is low.
- TfL can play a role in informing and driving awareness and educating customers of the benefits (and informing customers will help ensure engagement, acceptance and take up)
- The principles for engagement outlined above can help counter customer concerns regarding: privacy; the sale of data to 3rd parties; any unsolicited communications from TfL or it's partners



Customers rarely interrogate different technologies used to connect



- Customers have a broad understanding of the technologies used to connect mobile devices but not too much thought given regarding the specific technical differences
- Customers understanding of each technology is based around the specific need it delivers against
 - GPS for navigation (Google Maps; Travel Apps)
 - (free) WiFi to save using their own mobile data
 - Bluetooth to pair devices (phone and speakers)
 - Cellular for connectivity via a specific network provider (calls, SMS, online)
- People tend to utilise each tech as needed and rarely (if ever) think about how they work or how they are differ



Scenario 1: Road beacons – Bluetooth



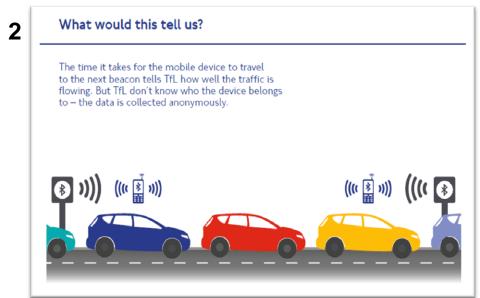
As a vehicle passes one of our beacons, TfL can detect a mobile device (e.g. Smartphone or Tablet) trying to connect.

10 minutes

((((***)**)*)*)

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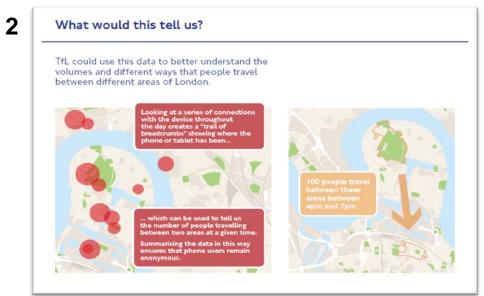




Scenario 2: Mobile phone – Planning



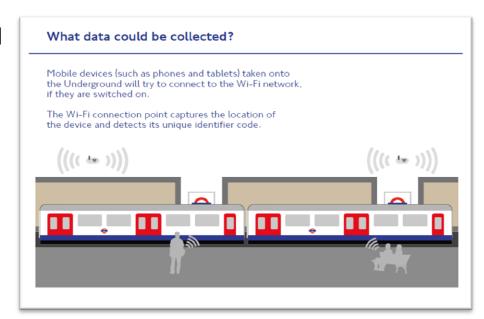


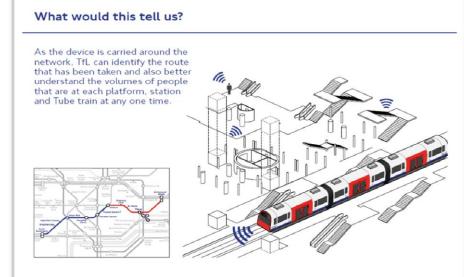




Scenario 3: Wi-Fi connection on Tube – TDM





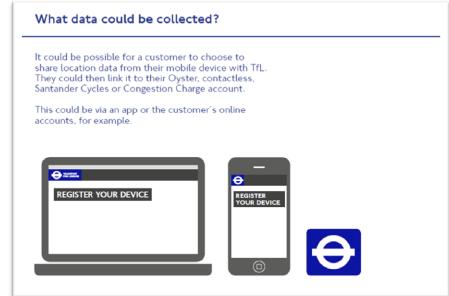




Scenario 4: Scenario 4: Registration on a mobile device - Analytics



1



If a customer has chosen to share location data from their device. TfL will be able to collect data about their travel patterns across all of our services and better understand people's journey choices across London.

What are the benefits of collecting this? With a better understanding of a customer's travel patterns and favourite journey choices/routes, TfL can help them get the best out of our network with up-to-date information and alerts. 0 Dear Mr Brown, Dear Mrs Johnston between Green Park and Earl's Court. Tfl. travel alert Your regular docking We noticed that you station on Pall Mall is didn't tap out at currently empty but Morden yesterday morning, so we have a bike deliver is due at I I am. Sorry for an journey to avoid you being charged the Yours sincerely. maximum fare. Push notification Push notification Text message

Introduction



Mobile devices such as Smartphones and Tablets continually give off different signals that can be detected

- These include:
 - 2G, 3G and 4G phone signals (if connected to a network such as O2)
 - Wireless internet signals (in order to connect to WiFi)
 - Bluetooth signals (in order to connect to a Bluetooth device)
 - GPS ('Global Positioning System' to help you navigate on maps etc.)





Airports

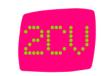


 Dublin & JFK international airports both use an "automated technology" system to ensure passengers spend no longer than half an hour in the queue for security checks.

 This technology tracks the length of time that passengers carrying Bluetooth or WiFi-enabled devices spend in the queue

- Sensors are placed in the roof of the security area that record the time the device and the passenger enters and leaves the queue
- By triangulating the data on smartphone locations, the system gets a bird'seye view of travel times, dwell times, and movement patterns through the airport. The new, improved wait times are displayed on screens throughout the terminal
- The data is fully anonymised and no personal information is recorded or stored.

Hyde Park



 Visitors to Hyde Park were tracked via their mobile phone signals in a trial undertaken by the Royal Parks to analyse footfall last year (2015)

If a zone of the park contained more than 50 people at once, it was
possible to "drill down" to the aggregated demographic data (gender, age)
of visitors to that area too, creating a detailed picture of how different
people used the park in previous months

 The visitor data Park officials saw as part of this project was several months old and was simply dots on a screen which showed the flow of visitors

 Knowing how visitors use the park can help with the provision of activities and amenities, and to protect park wildlife

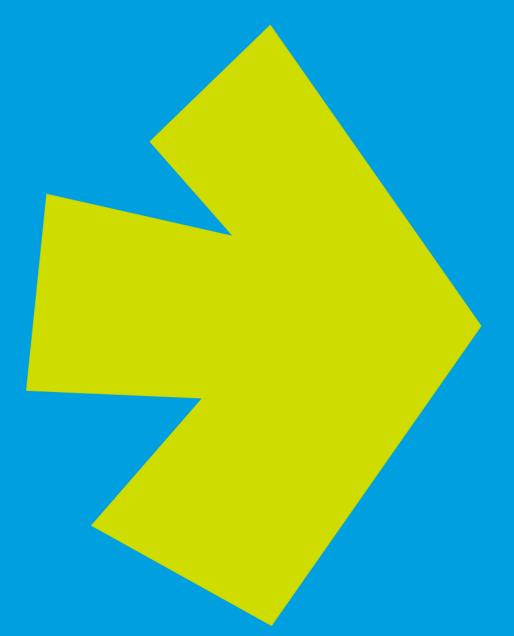


Shopping centres



- At least a dozen UK shopping centres have installed Wi-Fi systems which collects mobile signals
- Visitors to centres who have their phone's Wi-Fi turned on are picked by the system which logs the unique ID of the phone
- The system enables centres to see whether a shopper's phone has visited before, how long it stays, and how far into the centre it goes
- If visitors register to use the centres' free Wi-Fi and voluntarily pass over contact information this information can then be used to target bespoke emails relating to specific genders or age groups and communicate real-time offers at specific retail outlets that will appeal to specific audiences







Thank you

Africa.Munyama@2cv.com

Jamal.Khadar@2cv.com

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