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How Librem 5 Solves NSA?s Warning About Cellphone Location Data

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The NSA has published new warnings for military and intelligence personnel about the threats from location data that is captured constantly on modern cellphones (originally reported by the Wall Street Journal). While privacy advocates (including us at Purism) have long warned about these risks, having the NSA publish an official document on the subject helps demonstrate that cellphone tracking is a real privacy and security problem for everyone.

We have been thinking about the danger of location data on cellphones for a long time at Purism and have designed the Librem 5 from scratch specifically to address this risk. The NSA document describes and confirms a number of the threats I wrote about almost a year and a half ago when I introduced our 'lockdown mode' feature on the Librem 5, a feature that disables all sensors on the Librem 5. In this post I'll describe the threats the NSA presents in their document and how we address them with the Librem 5.

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