

Computers, Technology, and the REAL WORLD

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The total integration of computers, the internet, the telephone, and other computer powered devices is changing every day life in ways totally unrelated to the earliest applications of computers, like counting the census, aiming naval guns, computing corporation balance sheets, and sending simple test messages.



Some examples:

- **Murder solved by video-phone from 12,000 miles away**
- **Telephone user's every step tracked and plotted for a whole year**
- **Major Earthquake and tsunami broadcast across the globe real time**
- **Videos by impacted citizens transmitted instantly to friends, and viewers across the globe**
- **National coordination of peaceful and violent political and military revolution by masses**

The past three or four years has seen an explosion of devices (iPhone, Tablets, GPS) and software innovations (Facebook, Tweeter, Google Map API) integrated and used in ways that have resulted in some of the most dramatic and life changing impacts you could ever imagine, or not imagine!



Toronto 'webcam death' suspect appears in court

A man charged over the killing of a Toronto university student whose last moments were witnessed via webcam by her boyfriend in China remains in custody after a brief court hearing.

Brian Dickson, 29, was charged earlier this month with first-degree murder in the death of Qian Liu, a 23-year-old student from China.

Ms Liu was found dead hours after an intruder interrupted her web chat.

Ms Liu and her boyfriend were chatting at about 0100 local time (0500 GMT) on 15 April when a man unknown to the boyfriend knocked on the door asking to use Ms Liu's cell phone.

She let him into her basement flat and a struggle ensued for several minutes while the friend watched in horror, police said. The web chat was shut down, and Ms Liu's IBM laptop and webcam were apparently taken from the flat.

The online witness told police someone had knocked on his friend's door on Friday, asked to use her phone, then struggled with her and shut the laptop. The friend in China described the man to investigators.

Ms Liu was found dead the next morning.

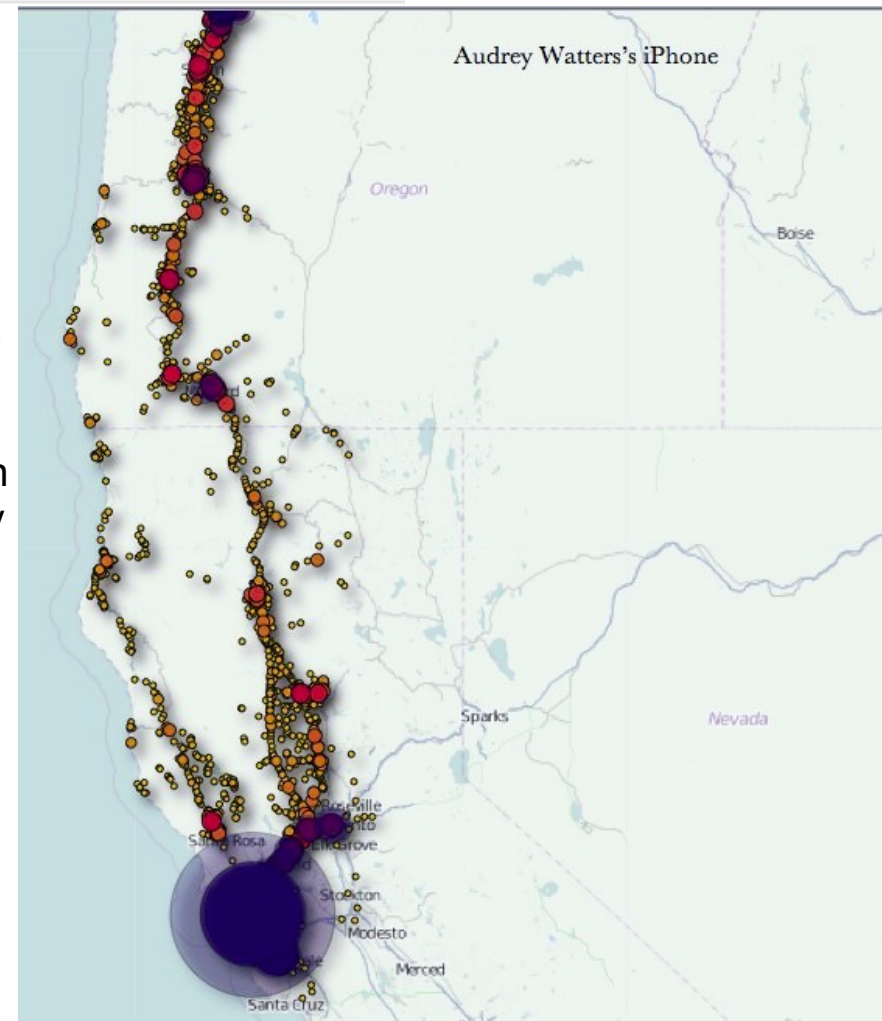
The friend then sought frantically to alert authorities in Canada. Ms Liu was found dead on Friday morning after a Chinese consulate official contacted police.

Yes, your iPhone is tracking you -- the question's why

By Ryan Faas

April 23, 2011 06:02 AM ET

Computerworld - Overshadowing Apple's earnings news this past week was the publicity surrounding the discovery that [iPhones and 3G iPads track users' locations](#) and store the data in an unencrypted file. The discovery was made by O'Reilly researchers Alasdair Allan and Pete Warden, and [it caused quite an uproar](#).



TWEETER, Its NOT all about gossip anymore....

How technology is impacting our lives, and it is not about the computer as a computer, but the secondary effects it is having, worldwide”

(compiled from selections on Google Reader)

[In aftermath of earthquake, eyewitness tweets from Haiti · Global ...](#)

As a result of the catastrophic 7.0 earthquake that hit the island country this evening (January 12), “Haiti” is currently a trending topic on Twitter.

[Voices form Egypt: Tweets from a Revolution](#)

Feb 1, 2011 ... *Tweets* from Speak2Me coming from the people inside of *Egypt* in the midst of the *Egyptian* protest of President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo ...

[Libyan Revolution Tweets, Day 5, Part 5 \(MASSACRE ALL over Libya now!\)](#)

Democratic Underground

To make sure the Army doesn't swing the revolution to the people, Qaddafi has brought in thousands of mercenaries

Quake Produces Flood of Tweets

ASIA NEWS MARCH 11, 2011, 6:34 A.M. ET

As communications networks in Japan went down after the earthquake struck on Friday afternoon, many people looking to contact loved ones and get updates turned to microblogging services. Five years after its founding and nearly three years after it became a surprise source of on-the-scene information following the earthquake in Sichuan, Twitter is a go-to place in times of disaster.

Egypt's "Facebook Revolution"

[Whimsley](#)- Fox News says that Facebook has "Turned Our Entire World Upside Down: Right before our eyes we see Facebook's effects". Most compellingly, here is high profile Egyptian activist Wael Ghonim:

I want to meet Mark Zuckerberg one day and thank him... I'm talking on behalf of Egypt. This revolution started online. This revolution started on Facebook. This revolution started in June 2010 when hundreds of thousands of Egyptians started collaborating content. We would post a video on Facebook that would be shared by 60,000 people on their walls within a few hours. I always said that if you want to liberate a society just give them the Internet. If you want to have a free society just give them the Internet."

More recent headlines

(Thanks Greg Skulka for compiling these)

Cell phone base stations even reach Mt. Everest

<http://tech.fortune.cnn.com/2011/04/29/wiring-mount-everest/>

Intel Anonymous Video Analytics - signs that identify and target you

<http://www.avnetondemand.com/?vid=1208&cid=51>

Intel Transportation Update

<http://www.avnetondemand.com/?vid=1209&cid=51>

Intel Home Energy Management

<http://www.avnetondemand.com/?vid=1210&cid=51>

Intel Digital Hotel

<http://www.avnetondemand.com/?vid=1205&cid=51>

Social Security Ends Paper Checks

<http://money.usnews.com/money/blogs/planning-to-retire/2011/04/27/social-security-ends-paper-checks>

Tiger Woods Goes Mobile With Instruction

<http://www.ecnmag.com/News/2011/03/Woods-goes-mobile-with-his-instruction/>

Apple & Google Store Location Information

<http://www.ecnmag.com/News/2011/04/Illinois-AG-seeks-meeting-with-Apple,-Google>

App that Simulates Dogfighting

<http://www.ecnmag.com/News/2011/04/Vick,-Humane-Society-say-app-glorifies-dogfighting>

Wi-Fi Privacy Dangers

<http://www.ecnmag.com/News/2011/04/Industry-News/Wi-Fi-privacy-dangers/>

Smartphone Tracking Q&A

<http://www.ecnmag.com/News/2011/04/Industry-News/smartphone-location-tracking>

End of the Line for Landlines?

http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/2033714/the_end_of_the_line_for_landlines/