

How to talk to patrons about: *Understanding Location Data*

- Location data is very useful for some apps, like using Maps or hailing an Uber, or even just checking the weather.
- Location data also reveals a lot about you -- where you live and work, your patterns of movement, when you're not at home, and more.
- A lot of apps ask for your location, but many don't need it. It's a good idea to review the location settings on your phone and turn them off for apps that don't need your location to operate effectively.

"If you're concerned about your apps collecting too much data about you, the first thing we can do is go to your phone's settings and look at your location settings."



Understanding Location Data

For some apps to work, we need to share our physical location with our mobile phone. But your location is **sensitive data** that can reveal a lot about you. Here are some tips to help you make sure you are managing who has access to your location.



Check your phone's settings. There may be a "location" option under Settings, or you may need to adjust this each app's Settings.



Some apps never need to know your location. Turn those off! While maps or ride-sharing apps need your location when they're in use, most apps do not.



Protect your location. Don't share details about exactly where you are on social media.



Think before posting. Don't post information about when you'll be out of town on social media, as this could make your home a target for burglary.

For more information, visit <https://safedata.umd.edu>