

Geotags are metadata embedded in digital photos that allow the people to know where they were taken. They are commonly but silently added to photos taken by most GPS enabled camera phones. Geotagging photos can be great for knowing exactly where you took a photo. If you are uploading frequently to social media sites however this information could be used to track you.

Knowing what information your mobile devices are distributing and how to disable them is important. Below are instructions for disabling geotagging of photos should you choose to do so.

Disabling Geotagging on your iPhone



On the home screen open **Settings**



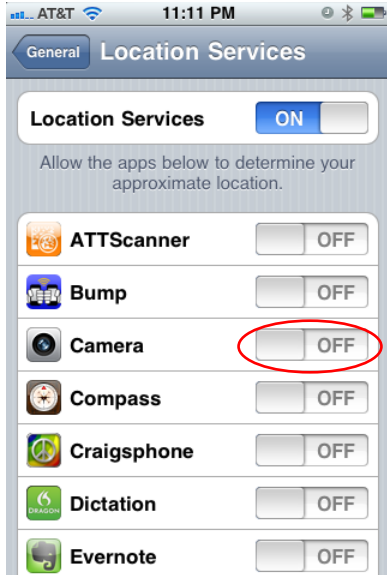
Proceed to **General**



Go to **Location Services**. Here you can enable/disable all Apps access to your phones current location or enable/disable on an app-by-app basis.

To disable all Apps access to your phone's current location set **Location Services** to **OFF**. **WARNING** this can disable access for popular Apps you might be ok with having access to your current location, such as Facebook or Foursquare.

To disable just geotagging of photos turn the **Camera** App setting to **OFF**.



New photos taken should no longer include geographic location data in the geotag fields.

New technology can push the boundaries of our personal privacy. Knowing the capabilities and configurations of it are important for even the seemingly harmless devices and uses. Instructions for other popular smartphones can be found here <http://www.tech-recipes.com/rx/11712/how-to-disable-geotagging-on-your-smartphones-camera-android-iphone-blackberry/>.

Appropriate privacy is important to the University of Alaska. Recently a new position has been created in the Office of Information Technology to deal with issues of privacy and information security that are of concern to the system as a whole, identify priorities, address issues accordingly with constituent groups and act as a point of contact and resource to insure we the university is maintaining compliance with laws & regulation as well as its commitment to information protection.