IT TEAM NEWS LETTER

09-10 VOL.1

SFCC

INTRODUCTION OF APPLE'S PRODUCTS

facebook

SIMPLFIYING PRIVACY SETTING!?

# Google: Got caught on the street!

The theme of IT Team this year is "Data Privacy", we have been organizing activities to rise students' concern on the issue. Throughout the year, more newly launched technologies are allegedly invading our privacy, Google is one of the cases.

Google Street View is a feature in Google Maps which allows users to view and navigate within 360-degree and 3D street level imagery for places around the world.

While the Street View feature lets people discover and plan activities around a location, Google also launched the blurring technology and operational controls like image removal amongst the ways which Google believes that an individual's privacy is respected in this way.

Even so, protests about Google invading pedestrians' privacy spread like wildfire since images of people on streets or even in their homes are in fact not blurred or blacked out. Not everyone captured accidentally will be pleased (maybe including the two passers-bys in front of our school?).
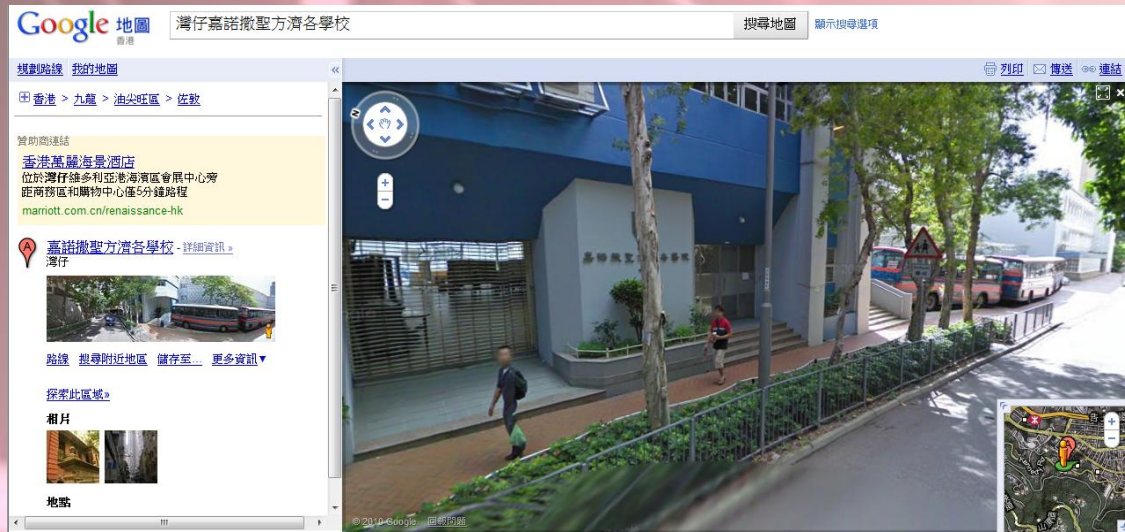
Putting personal indiscretion aside, the recent concern is that the Google Street View cars, which gather information for Google Earth and Google Maps, inadvertently collected data from Wi-Fi hotspots in more than 30 countries about what users were accessing on Internet, including email and banking accounts.

Regardless of who's right in all of this, it does raise a valuable question: Is it possible to have the convenience of widely accessible information and still ask for privacy?

FACEBOOK: SIMPLY SIMPLIFIED?

Still remember the morning assembly we did to show you the importance of protecting personal information when using Facebook as well as other social networking sites? After months of unrelenting protests from the netizens and users demanding Facebook to enhance its privacy settings, Facebook's privacy changes were radically simplified: from 50 settings required to make all information private down to less than 15, and 10 settings on 3 pages were consolidated to 7 settings on 1 page as below.
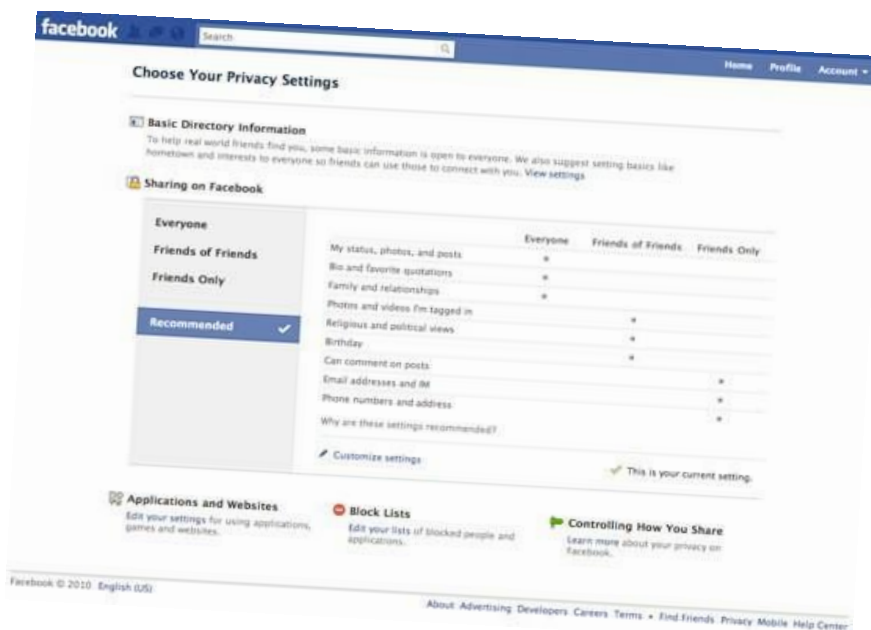
However, the new Facebook privacy configurations are not enough to satisfy the privacy activists that have become some of its sharpest critics. They insist that Facebook is still missing a major concept: not all friends should be equal in terms of sharing. Friends are not equal in the real world -- there are many things that you tell some friends and not others.

In fact, Facebook is able to differentiate between different levels of friends by putting your friends into different groups and segregating the information that they are able to view based on the group they are in. It would definitely take less effort if you started differentiate your friends by the time you have added them, but it is totally worthy to do it now because your personal information is then protected in this way.

Revolution of iPhone

In 2007, there was a revolution in telecommunication. Apple, the world leading company in IT industry, first introduced iPhone to the world, which then became the target of the other companies to imitate. In 2010, iPhone has come to the 4th generation, and this might be a dream phone of our students. However, do you know the changes of iPhone from the 1st generation till the 4th generation? Let's take a look.

There is no big difference between iPhone 1st generation and the traditional mobile. The most innovative design of iPhone is the Multi-touch function, which is more user-friendly than the traditional one. Some may think that iPhone can support many new functions, but it is surprised to find that there is neither video recording nor MMS, not even instant messaging, GPS or games. Though there is a camera, it only supports 200 megapixels, but is not for video recording at all. The Bluetooth provided is only a good for connecting a headset but not for transmitting applications or files. It seems that iPhone 1st generation is even worse than a traditional mobile phone.

iPhone was supposed to be state of the art smart phone, but the reality was quite disappointing. Therefore, Apple improved the functions of iPhone and detruded iPhone 3G in the following half year.

The appearance of the second generation, iPhone 3G has no big difference with the previous one. The new functions added in are the GPS, which allow users to use Geo-tagging to record the information. Also, the memory size has increased from maximum 8GB to 16GB.

iPhone 3Gs is the upgraded version of iPhone 3G, there are more improves compared with iPhone 3G. For example the resolution of the camera has increased from 200 megapixels to 300 megapixels, and video recording is allowed. Apart from these, the maximum memory size has increased to 32GB and the operating system has upgraded to iPhone 3.0. New function like electric compass has been added.

This year, one of the most popular phones which people in the whole world are gazing at must be iPhone 4. The selling point of iPhone 4 maybe is the new function, Facetime, which is the video calling function and allow users to see their friends or family with just a tap. iPhone 4 has two cameras, one on the front, and one on the back which facilitate the use of Facetime. The camera has upgraded to 500 megapixels with 720P video recording and LED flash is provided. Apart from black case, iPhone 4 also has a white case which can give the users a new choice. Functions which are lacked in generation 1 have all been added in, like games and MMS function. Besides that, Apple uses 1G A4 as the CPU of iPhone. It is a CPU designed by Apple itself and can be regarded as the most advanced chips in the world. A4 is not only fast, but it can also help to save electricity.

Till now, I think most of you have already known more about the revolution of iPhone. It is excited to see what effect iPhone is going to bring to the telecommunication industry.

Comes and goes of tech

SONY TO DISCONTINUE 3.5 INCH FLOPPY DISK IN JAPAN

Sony announced on April 23rd that they will be discontinuing sales of the classic 3.5 inch floppy disk in Japan in 2011. The news marks a major end to a nearly three decade history of the disk type that the company helped to pioneer.

A floppy disk is a data storage medium that is composed of a disk of thin, flexible ("floppy") magnetic storage medium encased in a square or rectangular plastic shell. Floppy disks are read and written by a floppy disk drive. Invented by the American information technology company IBM, floppy disks in 8 inch, 5¼ inch and 3½ inch forms enjoyed nearly three decades as a popular and ubiquitous form of data storage and exchange, from the mid-1970s to the late 1990s. While floppy disk drives still have some limited uses, especially with legacy industrial computer equipment, they have now been superseded by USB flash drives, external hard disk drives, CDs, DVDs, and memory cards as the size of files and programs grew.

Sony introduced the 3.5 inch floppy disk size to the world in 1981, and began sales within Japan in 1983. Sony had shipped approximately 47 million disks within the country at its peak around the year 2000, but that number had fallen to around 8.5 million by 2009. In 2008 Sony accounted for around 40% of the world's market share in 3.5 inch floppy disks, within Japan, Sony has held about 70% of the market share in recent years. Sony will stop sales within Japan in March of 2011, and with the exception of a few niche markets such as in India, the company's worldwide sales finished in March of this year. Sony ceased its outsourced production of the 3.5 inch floppy in 2009. It is also noted that most other major manufacturers of the disk type have already withdrawn from the market entirely.

Lack of demand was stated as the major reason for the decision, with many pointing to the rapid expansion of other media saving methods, such as CDs, DVDs, and USB drives, as well as a significant decrease in floppy disk-supporting hardware.

IPAD

It is a new product from Apple. It has a large, high-resolution LED-backlit IPS display, an incredibly responsive Multi-Touch screen. And an amazingly powerful Apple-designed chip. All in a design that is thin and light enough to take anywhere. Though IPad looks like an enlarged iPod touch, it's a whole new kind of device.

iPad has a high-resolution, 9.7-inch LED-backlit IPS displays. It makes perfect for web browsing, watching movies, or viewing photos. It's designed to show off your content in portrait or landscape orientation with every turn. It uses a display technology called IPS (in-plane switching), it has a wide, 178° viewing angle.

The Multi-Touch screen on iPad is based on the same revolutionary technology on iPhone. But the technology has been completely reengineered for the larger iPad surface, making it extremely precise and responsive.

One of the first things about iPad is how thin and light it is. The screen is 9.7 inches measured diagonally; it's slightly smaller than a magazine. At just 1.5 pounds and 0.5 inch thin, you can use it anywhere.

With built-in 802.11n, iPad takes advantage of the fastest Wi-Fi networks. It automatically locates available Wi-Fi networks. iPad will also be available in a 3G model. It allows you to get a fast connection for surfing the web, downloading email, or getting directions through Wifi

The A4 chip inside iPad was custom-designed by Apple engineers to be extremely powerful yet extremely power efficient. This makes iPad fantastic for everything from productivity apps to games.

The powerful built-in speaker produces rich, full sound perfect for watching a movie or listening to music. iPad also comes with a headphone jack and a built-in microphone.

Though there is some technology needs to withdraw from the industry, there is always new technology ready to enter. It is important for us to remember not to pursue all the new products, we should choose the suitable IT products based on our needs and purchasing power.

Visit to Healthy Information Resources Centre

On the 26th April, 2010 (Monday), about 20 of our IT prefects and Ms J. Ho had visited the Healthy Information Centre which is located in the Wanchai Revenue Tower.

On that day, we listened to a talk given by the representative officer from the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority. This centre provides people a proper guidance and counsels to youngsters in order to enhance their ability to deal with objectionable information and minimize the adverse effects of such materials on them.

The topics mainly focus on the introduction and content about Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance and how can solve the problems when we face the Internet crisis. The talk is also included media education, sex education and a wide range of child and teen issues. The officer showed us a few videos on appropriate action to reject unhealthy materials in the internet.

After the talk, we had a Q & A section and all of us received a pack of souvenirs. It was really an informative visit.

Communications Tour

On 8th May, 2010, our school joined the Communications Tour provided by World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2010 in Hong Kong. 13 of the IT prefects and Ms J. Ho visited China Mobile Hong Kong Co., Ltd. and Hutchison Telecommunications (Hong Kong) Limited. The theme 2010 was 'better city, better life with ICTs'.

In 2010, in order to cope with the theme Better city, better life with ICTs and based on the advancement of the technology and the need to develop different software for the mobile industry, the program carried forward with a new initiative which aims to provide necessary training and arouse creating ideas for mobile applications.

We spent a half-day to know more about the communications companies which provide a golden opportunity for us to meet with top management of leading ICT companies to have career sharing sessions on their future career development in the ICT fields.

At the end of each visit, we received souvenirs from the companies. We all had a remarkable and unforgettable visit.

Two of our school IT Prefects **(4C Rebecca Lu and 4D Cayla Wong)** had been nominated and selected to join the **Healthy Information Student Ambassadors Scheme** 健康資訊學生大使計劃 held by the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority(TELA). The aim of the scheme is to promote the use of the Internet and encourage teenager to participate actively in community services. It nurtures independent thinking among teenagers, enhance their ability in judging objectionable materials, as well as help them foster as set of positive values and attitude towards life.

The two IT Prefects have attended 10-hours of enhancement of leadership skills and information technology training. Upon completion of the training programme, the Student Ambassadors participate in different publicity and public education activities which aim to promote healthy use of the Internet, including teaching the parents basic computer skills and introducing the relevant provisions to students. Through joining voluntary work of the Scheme, the Student Ambassadors can serve the community by helping to promote the message of safe and healthy use of the Internet

Upon completion of the entire Scheme, the Student Ambassadors were awarded a certificate as a token of appreciation.

HEALTHY INFORMATION STUDENT AMBASSADORS SCHEME
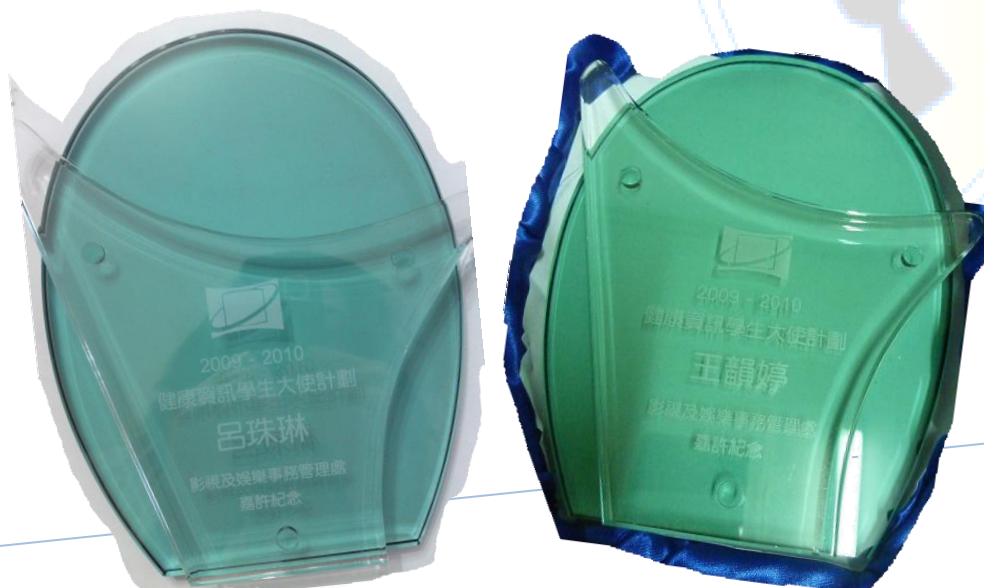
Here are some of the photos of the event:

IT TEAM 2009-2010

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Vivian Wong 6S	Windy Lee 4C
Swing Yuen 6S	Joanne Li 4C
Angelica Tong 4A	Vienna Tam 4C
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