

## Personal Traces

### Details

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### Topic

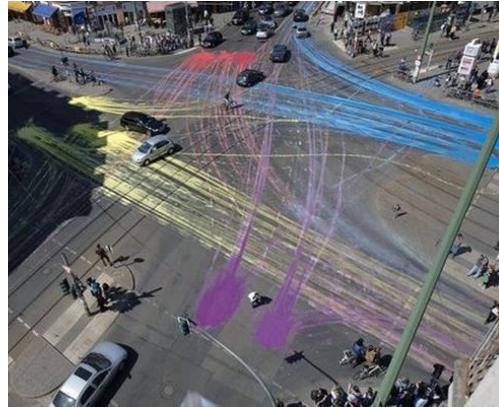


[Robert Grant, 2019](#)

We constantly leave traces in the world around us. Sometimes these traces give us insights into the activities of other people (e.g, wear traces on doors or on the ground), and sometimes our own traces are useful to ourselves, as tools for self-reflection and memorization.

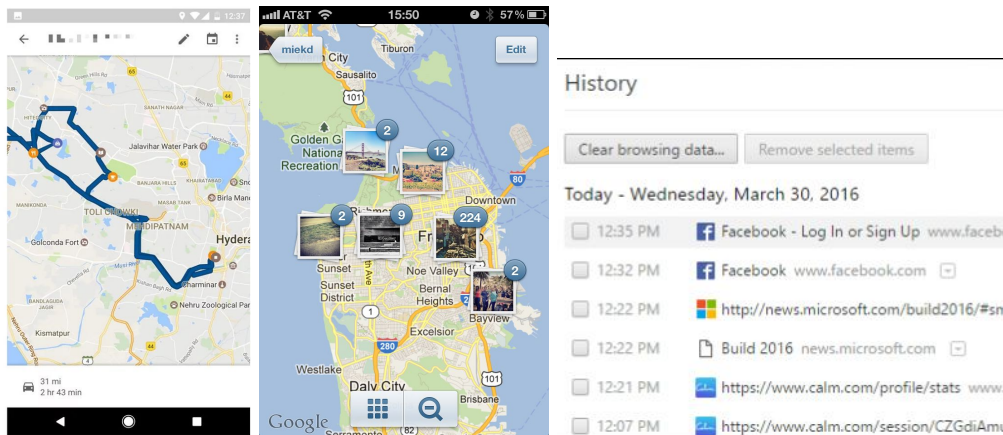


[Rentokil](#)



Akiz (2011) [Painting reality](#)

Although many traces appear spontaneously, a lot of information would remain invisible if not for technology. For example, fluorescent paint is used to track animals for doing research or for pest control purposes. Scientists and artists have been playing with various techniques to surface invisible traces in the physical world.



The focus of this internship topic is on digital traces. We now leave digital traces behind us, for example when we walk around with our phone, when we generate geolocated events (e.g., taking a photo), or simply when we browse the Internet. Energy and resource suppliers also increasingly offer technology for tracking our own consumption. Digital traces almost never appear spontaneously. Some of them are made partly visible through phone apps and other applications, but many of digital traces remain invisible to the user who generated them. Furthermore, inspecting digital traces is often a cumbersome activity, which requires explicitly launching applications and navigating in

