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21 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
22 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

23 BRET HEGER,
24 Plaintiff,
25 v.
26 FACEBOOK, INC.,
27 Defendant.

28 Case No. 3:18-cv-6399

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiff BRETT HEEGER (“Plaintiff”), through his undersigned attorneys, on behalf of
2 himself and all persons similarly situated, brings this complaint against Defendant Facebook, Inc.
3 (“Facebook” or “Defendant”).

4 **INTRODUCTION**

5 1. Facebook misleads its users by offering them the option to restrict Facebook from
6 tracking, logging, and storing their private location information, but then continuing to track, log, and
7 store that location information regardless of users’ choices. Facebook’s “Location History” feature
8 allows Facebook to build a history of precise locations received through users’ smartphones or other
9 devices. Facebook gives its users the option to turn “off” Location History, but selecting that option
10 does not stop Facebook from tracking the location of its users. In fact, Facebook secretly tracks, logs,
11 and stores location data for all of its users—including those who have sought to limit the information
12 about their locations that Facebook may store in its servers by choosing to turn Location History off.
13 Because Facebook misleads users and engages in this deceptive practice, collecting and storing private
14 location data against users’ expressed choice, Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of himself and
15 similarly situated Facebook users.

16 2. Facebook is a data aggregation and marketing company cloaked as a social networking
17 platform. Facebook’s surface-level social networking platform facilitates the sharing of information,
18 photographs, website links, and videos among friends, family, and coworkers. As Facebook explains,
19 “[p]eople use Facebook to stay connected with friends and family, to discover what’s going on in the
20 world, and to share and express what matters to them.”¹ By the end of 2017, Facebook had more than
21 2.2 billion active users.

22 3. To encourage use of its social networking platform, which it uses to aggregate and
23 market personal data, Facebook provides multiple mechanisms through which users may access its
24 social media product. These include, but are not limited to, a website accessed through a computer or
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28 ¹ Company Info, Facebook, Inc., available at <https://newsroom.fb.com/company-info/> (last visited October 15, 2018).

1 mobile device’s web browser and auxiliary applications such as Facebook and Facebook Messenger
2 created for mobile devices.

3 4. Facebook has numerous privacy settings that purportedly give users the ability to share
4 and restrict their private information based on their own specific preferences. These purported privacy
5 protections, and the fact that Facebook does not disclose that turning “off” Location History will have
6 no impact on Facebook’s tracking, collection, and storage of users’ private location data, lead
7 reasonable consumers to believe that their private location information is not tracked once they turn
8 “off” that feature.

9 5. Despite users’ attempts to protect their location privacy, Facebook exploitatively tracks,
10 collects, and stores information about where users have logged in and used Facebook, without those
11 users’ consent. Facebook stores this location data in its servers, sometimes for years, without informing
12 users that it is collecting their location data or keeping records of where users have been, thereby
13 invading users’ reasonable expectations of privacy.

14 6. Location data is highly sensitive—it reveals not only where an individual is at a
15 particular time, but also other personal information, such as an individual’s job, medical treatment,
16 personal relationships, and private interests. Without vindication of individual privacy rights,
17 corporations like Facebook will enjoy unfettered ability to surveil, track, store, and ultimately profit
18 from the most intimate and private details of users’ lives.

19 7. Facebook’s deceptive acts in this regard are contrary to Facebook’s own representations
20 about how users can control the personal information that they share with Facebook. Facebook’s
21 misleading and untrue statements give average consumers the impression that they can limit the
22 location data that Facebook is allowed to track, log, and store. For example, Facebook assures users
23 that “When Location History is turned off, Facebook will stop adding new information to your
24 Location History which you can view in your Location Settings,” and promises users that they can
25 “delete your previously recorded location from your Location History.”² Facebook also promises users

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28 ² About Location History, Facebook, Inc., available at
https://www.facebook.com/location_history/info/ (last visited October 10, 2018).

1 that “You’re in control of who sees your location on Facebook Company Products.”³ However, the
2 option to turn Location History off is meaningless, since in reality there is no way for users to prevent
3 Facebook from tracking and storing their location information.

4 8. By giving users the option to turn Location History off, Facebook offers its users a false
5 sense of security, leading them to believe that they have control over the personal data it collects and
6 stores. Facebook’s false assurances are intended to make users feel comfortable continuing to use
7 Facebook and share their personal information so that Facebook can continue to be profitable, at the
8 expense of user privacy. Facebook employs users’ location information to specifically target its
9 advertisements to users and expose them to content and news tagged with nearby locations. Advertisers
10 pay Facebook to place advertisements because Facebook is so effective at using location information to
11 target advertisements to consumers. Facebook’s growth strategy depends on Facebook’s ability to
12 collect, store, and ultimately sell personal consumer data, including location information.

13 9. Because Facebook systematically and covertly tracks, collects, and stores users’ private
14 location information even after users have affirmatively opted not to share their location history,
15 Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of himself and others similarly situated to vindicate his rights
16 under the Stored Communications Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2701 *et seq.*, the California Invasion of Privacy Act,
17 Cal. Pen. Code § 630 *et seq.*, the California Constitution, and state law. Plaintiff seeks compensatory and
18 statutory damages, and seeks an injunction requiring Facebook to stop tracking and collecting users’
19 location data without affirmatively obtaining the consent of those users.

20 **PARTIES**

21 10. Plaintiff Brett Heeger is a citizen of California, residing in North Hollywood. Plaintiff
22 joined Facebook in 2004. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff accessed his Facebook through a
23 web browser on his smart phone and through web browsers on both laptop and desktop computers.
24 Plaintiff has not used the Facebook app since 2016. Plaintiff expressly attempted to limit Facebook’s
25 tracking of his location by turning the Location History tracking and storage option to “off.” In doing

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28 ³ Privacy Basics, Location, Facebook, Inc., available at
<https://www.facebook.com/about/basics/manage-your-privacy/location#7> (last visited October 10,
2018).

1 so, Plaintiff relied on Facebook’s promise that, if he turned Location History “off,” Facebook would no
2 longer build a Location History logging his private location information. Plaintiff understood Facebook
3 to be representing that it would no longer track and collect his private location information once he had
4 exercised the option to turn Location History off. Nevertheless, Facebook continued to track and store
5 his private location information without his knowledge or consent even when Plaintiff did not use the
6 Facebook app or tag his location in posts. Plaintiff suffered damages when he was deprived of control
7 over access to his private location information.

8 11. Defendant Facebook, Inc. is incorporated in Delaware and its headquarters are located
9 at 1601 Willow Rd., Menlo Park, California 94025. With over 2.2 billion monthly users, Facebook is the
10 world’s leading online social media and networking platform.⁴

11 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

12 12. This Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2). The matter in
13 controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, and members of
14 the Class are citizens of different states from Defendant.

15 13. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because significant events giving
16 rise to this case took place in this District, and because Facebook is authorized to conduct business in
17 this District, has intentionally availed itself of the laws and markets within this District, does substantial
18 business in this District, and is subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

19 14. Venue is further proper in this Court under Facebook’s Terms of Service, which
20 provide: [A]ny claim, cause of action, or dispute . . . that arises out of or relates to these Terms or the
21 Facebook Products (“claim”) . . . will be resolved exclusively in the U.S. District Court for the Northern
22 District of California . . . and that the laws of the State of California will govern these terms and any
23 claim, without regard to conflict of law provisions.⁵

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28 ⁵ Terms of Service, Facebook, Inc., (Date of Revision: April 19, 2018), *available at*
<https://www.facebook.com/terms.php> (last visited October 5, 2018).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Facebook’s Social Media Platform

15. Facebook is the world’s leading online social media and networking platform. Its users can access Facebook from desktop and laptop computers as well as mobile devices, including smart phones and tablets. Facebook’s self-proclaimed mission is to “give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together.”⁶

16. As of June 30, 2018, Facebook has more than 2.23 billion monthly users and 1.47 billion daily active users. Facebook claims that it has “only begun to fulfill” its mission to “bring the world closer together.”⁷

17. As a company, Facebook prides itself on its “hacker culture,” which it describes as “an environment that rewards creative problem solving and active decision making.”⁸

B. Facebook Provides Privacy Settings that Lead Reasonable Consumers to Believe that They Have Control over Their Private Location Data and History

18. Facebook’s “Location History” is a record of locations received through the Location Services setting on users’ smartphones or other devices. Users can view Location History by logging into Facebook and accessing the “Settings” tab. Because Location History is “on” by default, Facebook adds current precise location information to users’ Location History and builds a detailed chronology of users’ location information. According to Facebook, Location History helps users “explore what’s around,” “get more relevant ads,” and “improve Facebook.”

19. However, many Facebook users do not want Facebook to build and keep a precise history of their location. For those users, Facebook offers users the option to turn Location History “off.”

20. Users can turn Location History off by logging into their Facebook account, accessing the “Settings” tab, and choosing “Location.” On the Location page, users can toggle the Location

⁶ Facebook, Inc., available at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/facebook/about/> (last visited October 11, 2018).

⁷ Our Culture, Facebook, Inc., available at <https://newsroom.fb.com/company-info/> (last visited October 11, 2018).


⁸ *Id.*

1 History setting to off. Users can also view the Location History that Facebook has compiled, and delete
2 it if they choose.

3 21. Facebook affirmatively represents to its users that when Location History is off,
4 Facebook will no longer collect and store information about the places that they go. Facebook states
5 that “[w]hen Location History is turned off, Facebook will stop adding new information to your
6 Location History which you can view in your Location Settings.”⁹ Since Facebook does not disclose
7 that it tracks and stores location information in other places, this representation would lead a reasonable
8 consumer to believe that Facebook does not track and store private location data once Location
9 History has been turned off.

10 22. When users who have turned Location History off view their “Location Settings,”
11 Facebook assures those users that “Your Location History is off” and that “[i]f you don’t have the
12 [Facebook] app installed, locations cannot be received from the device”¹⁰:


13 **Location Settings**

14  You can change your Location Settings in the app on your device. If you don't have the app installed, locations
15 cannot be received from the device.

16 **Location History**

17 **Your Location History is off**

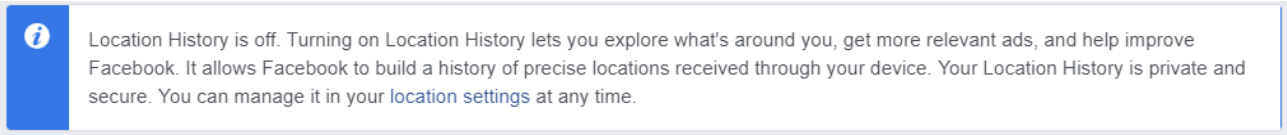
18 Facebook builds a history of precise locations received through Location Services on your device.
19 Only you can see this information and you can delete it by viewing your location history. [Learn
More.](#)

20  [View your location history](#)

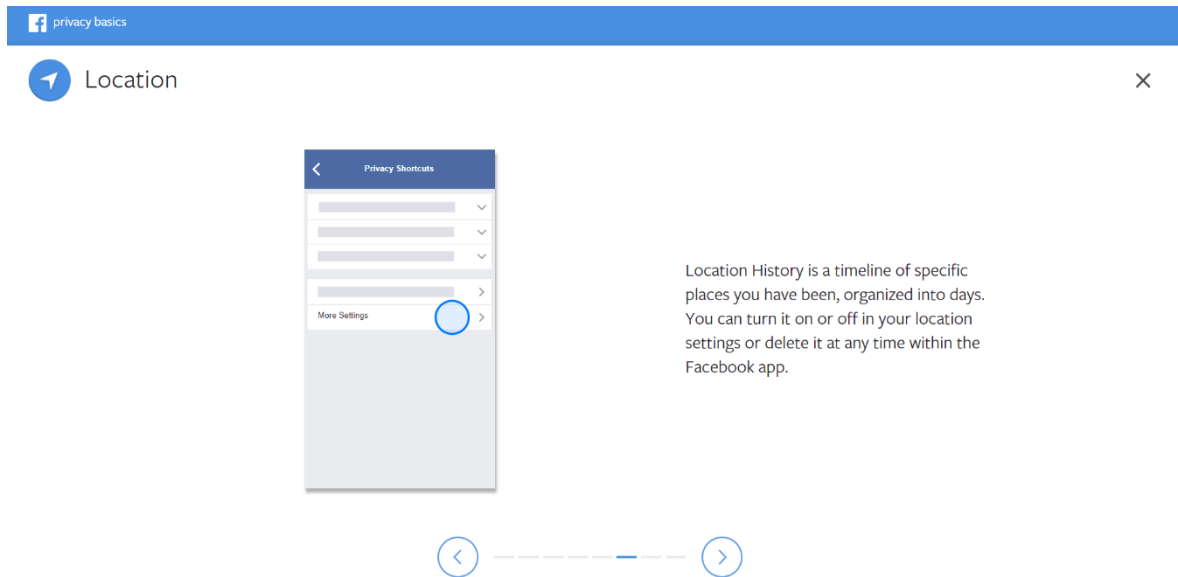
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26 ⁹ About Location History, Facebook, Inc., available at
https://www.facebook.com/location_history/info/ (last visited October 10, 2018).

27 ¹⁰ For a Facebook account holder who has turned Location History off, this image can be seen at
28 Location Settings, Facebook, Inc., available at <https://www.facebook.com/settings?tab=location> (last
visited October 10, 2018).

1 23. If a user who has turned Location History off tries to view their Location History,
2 Facebook again informs the user that “Location History is off.” Facebook promises users that their
3 Location History is “private and secure” and that they can “manage” it at any time.¹¹



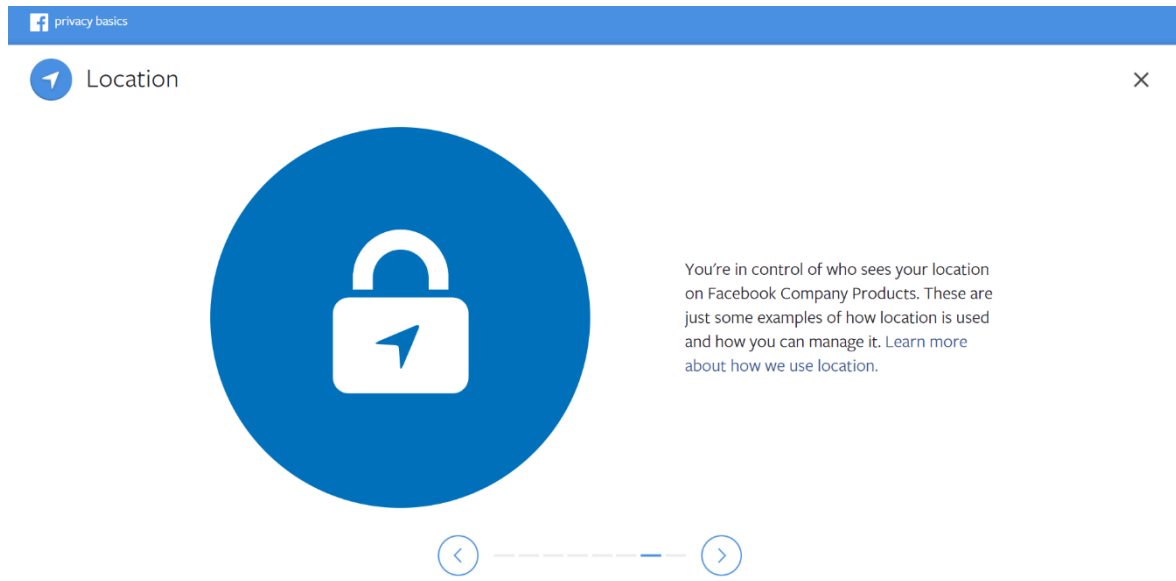
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7 24. Then, in a section of the Facebook website called “Privacy Basics,” Facebook again
8 promises users that they can “turn [Location History] on or off in your location settings or delete it at
9 any time within the Facebook app.”¹²



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26 ¹¹ For a Facebook account holder who has turned Location History off, this image can be seen at
27 Location History, available at https://www.facebook.com/location_history/view/ (last visited October
28 10, 2018)

¹² Privacy Basics, Location, Facebook, Inc., available at
<https://www.facebook.com/about/basics/manage-your-privacy/location#6> (last visited October 10,
2018).

1 25. Facebook goes out of its way to assure users that they are “in control of who sees your
2 location on Facebook Company Products,” and that users “can manage” their location information.¹³



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14 26. In its terms of service, Facebook even promises users that it only collects device
15 location “if you’ve allowed us to collect it.”¹⁴

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- 17 • **Location-related information:** We use location-related
18 information-such as your current location, where you live, the
19 places you like to go, and the businesses and people you’re near-
20 to provide, personalize and improve our Products, including ads,
21 for you and others. Location-related information can be based on
22 things like precise device location (if you’ve allowed us to collect
23 it), IP addresses, and information from your and others’ use of
24 Facebook Products (such as check-ins or events you attend).

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26 ¹³ Privacy Basics, Location, Facebook, Inc., *available at*
27 <https://www.facebook.com/about/basics/manage-your-privacy/location#7> (last visited October 10,
2018).

28 ¹⁴ Terms of Service, Facebook, Inc., (Date of Revision: April 19, 2018), *available at*
<https://www.facebook.com/terms.php> (last visited October 5, 2018).

1 27. In this way, Facebook affirmatively—and misleadingly—represents to its users that
2 turning off “Location History” would result in Facebook ceasing to track, record, store, and use users’
3 location information. These representations also omit the material facts that Facebook continues to
4 track, record, store, and use users’ location information when Location History is off.

5 **C. Facebook Tracks Location Regardless of Privacy Settings**

6 28. Notwithstanding these representations and assurances, Facebook tracks and stores
7 users’ location information regardless of their privacy settings.

8 29. Even when Location History is turned off, users’ location is stored every time they use
9 Facebook. Facebook stores “Login Protection Data” that shows users’ “Estimated location inferred
10 from IP,” right down to users’ latitude and longitude on the date and time of login. Facebook also
11 stores “Where You’re Logged In,” a list of locations where users logged into Facebook according to the
12 date and time of use. Because users frequently log in with their mobile device, this tracking inferred
13 from IP effectively means that Facebook is actively tracking users everywhere they go. As far as
14 Plaintiff can tell, there is currently no way to prevent Facebook from tracking and storing this location
15 information.

16 30. In other words, turning off Location History only stops Facebook from displaying a
17 Location History that is visible on the Location History page. Turning off Location History does not
18 stop Facebook from tracking, logging, and storing users’ personal and intimate location information.

19 31. Facebook does not disclose that, even when Location History is turned off, it continues
20 to track users’ approximate location using IP addresses and other information gleaned from Wi-Fi
21 connections. Specifically Facebook states: “You can control whether your device shares precise location
22 information with Facebook Company Products via Location Services, a setting on your mobile device.
23 We may still understand your location using things like check-ins, events, and information about your
24 internet connection.” However, Facebook never discloses to consumers that—even after a consumer
25 has turned Location History off—it is continuing to log, store, and create a history of the private
26 location information that it “understands” from the consumer’s use of Facebook. And Facebook never
27 discloses to consumers that it is logging, storing, and creating a history of private location information
28 even if users do not “tag” their posts with a specific location or “check in” at locations.

1 32. The only way for users to discover this secret tracking and collecting is by downloading
2 all of their data from Facebook and searching through multiple levels of obscure folders (*not* the
3 Location History folder, but rather the “security_and_login_information” folder and the
4 “login_protection_data” and “where_you’re_logged_in” subfolders). Downloading and searching one’s
5 Facebook data in this manner is only possible on a desktop computer, not on a mobile device, even
6 though many Facebook users primarily or exclusively rely upon their mobile devices for their Facebook
7 interactions. Indeed, users can only turn off Location History on their mobile device, but then are
8 unable to see the tracked location information anywhere but on a desktop computer.

9 33. Facebook’s conduct is contrary to users’ reasonable expectations of privacy. The
10 average consumer understands that turning Location History off has a purpose and an effect: to limit
11 Facebook from tracking, logging, and storing location information. Reasonable users of Facebook
12 would not expect Facebook to continue tracking, logging, and storing private location information once
13 they have turned Location History off. As Princeton computer scientist and former chief technologist
14 for the Federal Communications Commission’s enforcement bureau Jonathan Mayer stated in regard to
15 similar conduct by Google, Inc., “If you’re going to allow users to turn off something called ‘Location
16 History,’ then all the places where you maintain location history should be turned off. That seems like a
17 pretty straightforward position to have.”¹⁵

18 34. Facebook profits from users’ location information that it surreptitiously collects and
19 stores. Indeed, Facebook admits that it uses location-related information to “personalize”
20 advertisements. Facebook’s business model is built upon using personal information, like location
21 information, to provide third party companies with targeted advertising. Allowing users to actually
22 disable Facebook’s ability to continuously track their location would thwart Facebook’s ability to use
23 their information and profit from such targeted advertising.

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28 ¹⁵ Nakashima, Ryan. “AP Exclusive: Google tracks your movements, like it or not.” The AP (Aug. 13, 2018), <https://www.apnews.com/828aefab64d4411bac257a07c1af0ecb/AP-Exclusive:-Google-tracks-your-movements,-like-it-or-not>.

D. Facebook’s Conduct Violates Its Consent Decree with the Federal Trade Commission

35. In 2009, the FTC filed a complaint against Facebook for its failure to keep promises it made regarding user privacy.¹⁶ The FTC complaint described a number of failed promises made by Facebook, including:

1) In December 2009, Facebook changed its website, without providing notice to users, so that certain information that users designated as private, such as their Friends List, was made public;

2) Facebook represented to users that they could restrict the sharing of data to limited audiences—for example, restricting data-sharing with “Friends Only”—but their information was still shared with third-party applications installed by users’ friends; and

3) Facebook represented that third-party applications that users installed would only have access to users’ data that the applications needed to operate but, in fact, the applications had access to all of the users’ data, including data not needed to operate.¹⁷

36. In 2011, Facebook entered into a twenty-year Consent Decree with the FTC requiring Facebook “not [to] misrepresent in any manner . . . the extent to which it maintains the privacy or security of covered information,” including but not limited to “the extent to which a consumer can control the privacy of any covered information maintained by [Facebook] and the steps a consumer must take to implement such controls.”¹⁸ “Covered information” includes “Internet Protocol (“IP”) address[es]” and “physical location.”

37. In violation of the FTC Consent Decree, Facebook has continued to track, log, and store information about users’ IP addresses and physical location despite representing to consumers that they have the ability to prevent Facebook from doing so.

¹⁶ Federal Trade Commission, Facebook Settles FTC Charges That It Deceived Consumers by Failing to Keep Privacy Promises, *available at* <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2011/11/facebook-settles-ftc-charges-it-deceived-consumers-failing-keep> (last visited October 15, 2018).

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ In the Matter of Facebook, Inc., a corporation, Agreement Containing Consent Order, at Section I, *available at* <https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cases/2011/11/111129facebookagree.pdf> (last visited October 15, 2018) (“FTC Consent Order”); *see also* Federal Trade Commission, FTC Approves Final Settlement With Facebook, Aug. 10, 2012, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2012/08/ftc-approves-final-settlement-facebook> (last visited October 15, 2018).

1 **E. The FTC Has Held that Tracking Individuals' Geolocations without**
2 **Permission (and In Contravention of Their Wishes) Is a Deceptive Trade**
3 **Practice**

4 38. The FTC has expressly found behavior like Facebook's to be a deceptive trade practice
5 in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act.

6 39. In June 2016, the FTC announced that it had entered into a settlement agreement with a
7 mobile advertising company, InMobi PTE, after the agency charged InMobi with deceptively tracking
8 the locations of hundreds of millions of individuals without their knowledge or consent in order to
9 serve them geo-targeted advertising (*i.e.*, advertisements tailored to an individual based on where they
10 live or places they frequent).

11 40. In this analogous case, the FTC alleged that InMobi misrepresented that its advertising
12 software would only track consumers' locations when they opted into being tracked, in a manner
13 consistent with their device's privacy settings. According to the FTC Complaint,¹⁹ InMobi was actually
14 tracking consumers' locations regardless of whether the apps using InMobi's software asked for
15 consumers' permission to do so and even when consumers denied permission to access their locations.

16 41. As a result of the FTC enforcement action, InMobi agreed to pay \$950,000 in civil
17 penalties and implement a comprehensive privacy program, including a prohibition from collecting
18 individuals' location information without their affirmative express consent and a requirement that
19 InMobi honor consumers' location privacy settings. The company was required to delete all user
20 location information that it had collected without user consent and was prohibited from further
21 misrepresenting its privacy practices. The settlement also required InMobi to institute a comprehensive
22 privacy program that will be independently audited ever two years for twenty years from the date of
23 settlement.

24 42. Facebook's conduct, as alleged in this Complaint, mirrors the location tracking activities
25 condemned and sanctioned by the FTC.

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27 ¹⁹ "Mobile Advertising Network InMobi Settles FTC Charges It Tracked Hundreds of Millions of
28 Consumers' Locations Without Permission," Federal Trade Commission (June 22, 2016)
(available at <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2016/06/mobile-advertising-network-inmobi-settles-ftc-charges-it-tracked>) (last visited October 15, 2018).

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

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2 43. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of
3 all others similarly situated, brings this lawsuit on behalf of himself and as a class action on behalf of the
4 following Class:

5 All Facebook users in the United States who turned off “Location History” during the
6 applicable limitations period. Excluded from the Class are any entities, including
7 Facebook, and Facebook’s officers, agents, and employees. Also excluded from the
8 Class are counsel for Plaintiff, the judge assigned to this action, and any member of
9 the judge’s immediate family.

10 44. Members of the Class are so numerous that joinder is impracticable. While the exact
11 number of class members is unknown to Plaintiff, it is believed that the Class is comprised of millions
12 of members geographically dispersed throughout the United States. The Class is readily identifiable
13 from information and records in the possession of Facebook and third parties.

14 45. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class. These
15 questions predominate over questions that may affect only individual class members because Facebook
16 has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class. Such common and legal factual questions
17 include:

- 18 a. Whether Facebook’s acts and practices complained of amount to the use of an
19 electronic tracking device to determine the location or movement of a person in violation of
20 Cal. Pen. Code § 637.7;
- 21 b. Whether Facebook’s acts and practices complained of herein amount to
22 egregious breaches of social norms;
- 23 c. Whether Facebook acted intentionally in violating Plaintiff’s and Class members’
24 privacy rights;
- 25 d. Whether Plaintiff and Class members have a legally protected interest in their
26 location data;
- 27 e. Whether Plaintiff and Class members have a reasonable expectation of privacy
28 in their location data;
- 29 f. Whether Facebook intentionally intruded on Plaintiff’s and Class members’
30 solitude, seclusion or private affairs by tracking, logging, and storing their location data without
31 their knowledge or consent;
- 32 g. Whether Facebook created a condition that was an obstruction to the free use of
33 Plaintiff’s and Class members’ location data so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment
34 of that data;

1 h. Whether Facebook's act of tracking, logging, and storing Plaintiff's and the
2 Class's location information would reasonably annoy or disturb the ordinary person;

3 i. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to equitable relief, including,
4 but not limited to, injunctive relief, restitution, and disgorgement; and

5 j. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to actual, statutory, punitive or
6 other forms of damages, and other monetary relief.

7 46. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the members of the Class, as all members of the Class are
8 similarly affected by Facebook's actionable conduct. Facebook's conduct, which gave rise to the claims
9 of Plaintiff and members of the Class, is the same for all members of the Class.

10 47. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class because he has no
11 interests antagonistic to, or in conflict with, the Class that Plaintiff seeks to represent. Furthermore,
12 Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced and competent in the prosecution of complex class action
13 litigation, including data privacy litigation.

14 48. Class action treatment is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this
15 controversy, in that, among other things, such treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated
16 persons or entities to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and
17 without the unnecessary duplication of evidence, effort, expense, or the possibility of inconsistent or
18 contradictory judgments that numerous individual actions would engender. The benefits of the class
19 mechanism, including providing injured persons or entities with a method for obtaining redress on
20 claims that might not be practicable to pursue individually, substantially outweigh any difficulties that
21 may arise in the management of this class action.

22 49. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty to be encountered in the maintenance of this action that
23 would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

24 50. Facebook has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class,
25 thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the
26 Class as a whole.

27 51. Plaintiff suffers a substantial risk of repeated injury in the future. Although Plaintiff, like
28 all Class members, wishes to control the circumstances under which his location information can be
collected and used by Facebook, Facebook has not only shown deliberate indifference to those wishes,

1 but has in fact taken pains to deceive Plaintiff (and all Class members) and thwart those wishes. Plaintiff
2 and the Class members are entitled to injunctive and declaratory relief as a result of the conduct
3 complained of herein. Money damages alone could not afford adequate and complete relief, and
4 injunctive relief is necessary to restrain Facebook from continuing to commit its unfair and illegal
5 violations of privacy.

6 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

7 **COUNT I**

8 **Violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act**

9 **(Cal. Pen. Code §§ 630, *et seq.*)**

10 52. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates each and every allegation set forth above as if fully
11 written herein.

12 53. Cal. Pen. Code § 630, part of the California Invasion of Privacy Act (the “CIPA”),
13 provides: “The Legislature hereby declares that advances in science and technology have led to the
14 development of new devices and techniques for the purpose of eavesdropping upon private
15 communications and that the invasion of privacy resulting from the continual and increasing use of
16 such devices and techniques has created a serious threat to the free exercise of personal liberties and
17 cannot be tolerated in a free and civilized society.”

18 54. Cal. Pen. Code § 637.7 prohibits the use of “an electronic tracking device to determine
19 the location or movement of a person.” Under section 637.7(d), an “electronic tracking device” means
20 “any device attached . . . to a movable thing that reveals its location or movement by the transmission
21 of electronic signals.”

22 55. Without the consent of Plaintiff or Class members, Facebook continued to record,
23 store, and use the location information of Plaintiff and Class members after they disabled the Location
24 History feature on their mobile phones.

25 56. Facebook used “electronic tracking devices” including applications, software, device
26 components, and other technology on Plaintiff’s and each Class members’ mobile phone (a “movable
27 thing” under section 637.7(d)), and this technology “reveals its location or movement by the
28 transmission of electronic signals.”

1 57. Facebook's actions as described herein, engaged in for purposes of acquiring and using
2 the location of mobile phone users and their mobile phones without their consent, violated and
3 continues to violate Cal. Pen. Code § 637.7.

4 58. As a result of Facebook's violations of Cal. Pen. Code § 637.7, and pursuant to Cal. Pen.
5 Code § 637.2, Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to the following relief:

6 a. A declaration that Facebook's conduct violates the California Invasion of Privacy Act;

7 b. Statutory damages and/or trebled actual damages;

8 c. Injunctive relief including but not limited to an order enjoining Facebook from tracking,
9 recording, and storing the location Plaintiff and Class members in violation of the CIPA; requiring
10 Facebook to destroy all data created or otherwise obtained from its collection and storage of the
11 location of Plaintiff and Class members and their phones in violation of the CIPA; and requiring
12 Facebook to provide Plaintiff and Class members with prompt notice of what improper location
13 data collection has taken place;

14 d. An award of attorney's fees and costs of litigation under all applicable law, including but
15 not limited to California's private attorney general jurisprudence, Cal. Civ. Code § 1021.5, and the
16 CIPA.

17 COUNT II

18 **Violation of California's Constitutional Right of Privacy**

19 59. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates each and every allegation set forth above as if fully
20 written herein.

21 60. Article 1, Section 1 of the California Constitution expressly provides a right to privacy.
22 This right is enforced through the intrusion tort of invasion of privacy.

23 61. Plaintiff and Class members have reasonable expectations of privacy in their mobile
24 devices and their physical locations. Plaintiff's and Class members' private affairs include their behavior
25 on their mobile phones and any other behavior that may be monitored by surreptitious location
26 tracking. This expectation of privacy is particularly strong where, as here, Facebook provided the option
27 to turn Location History off, and Plaintiff and Class members took affirmative action to protect
28 information regarding their location by disabling Location History on their mobile phones. Facebook
did not disclose that it was continuing to keep and store detailed location information.

1 as here, Facebook provided users the option to turn Location History off, and Plaintiff and Class
2 members took affirmative action to protect information regarding their location by disabling Location
3 History on their mobile phones. Facebook did not disclose that it was continuing to keep and store
4 detailed location information.

5 70. Plaintiff's and Class members' privacy interest as described herein is legally protected by
6 the law of the State of California because they have an interest in precluding the dissemination or
7 misuse of sensitive information and an interest in making intimate personal decisions and conducting
8 personal activities without observation, intrusion, or interference, including tracking, recording, and
9 storing the locations to which they carry their mobile phones.

10 71. Facebook intentionally intruded on Plaintiff's and Class Members' solitude, seclusion,
11 and private affairs by continuing to track, build and store detailed location histories without their
12 knowledge or consent.

13 72. This intrusion is highly offensive to a reasonable person. Various courts, legislatures,
14 regulators, and published articles recognize the importance and sensitivity of location information and
15 the social and privacy harms caused by unauthorized surveillance and location tracking. Facebook's
16 actions alleged herein are particularly egregious because they surreptitiously, and in an unfair and
17 deceptive manner, continue to track Plaintiff and Class Members after they affirmatively disabled
18 Location History on their mobile phones. This behavior by Facebook was malicious, oppressive, and
19 willful, and calculated to injure Plaintiff and Class members in conscious disregard of their rights.

20 73. Plaintiff and Class members were harmed by the intrusion into their private affairs as
21 detailed herein.

22 74. Facebook's actions described herein were a substantial factor in causing the harm
23 suffered by Plaintiff and Class members.

24 75. As a result of Facebook's actions, Plaintiff and Class members seek damages, including
25 compensatory, nominal, and punitive damages, in an amount to be determined at trial.

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COUNT IV

Violation of the Stored Communications Act

18 U.S.C. §§ 2701, *et seq.*

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4 76. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates each and every allegation set forth above as if fully
5 written herein.

6 77. The federal Stored Communications Act (“SCA”) allows a private right of action against
7 “a person or entity providing an electronic communication service to the public” who “knowingly
8 divulge(s) to any person or entity the contents of a communication while in electronic storage by that
9 service.” 18 U.S.C. § 2702(a)(1); *see also* 18 U.S.C. § 2707(a).

10 78. Facebook users, unknowingly and in contravention of their privacy settings, transmit
11 their private location information, in the form of data, via the Internet from various devices, including
12 laptop computers and mobile cell phones, to Facebook’s servers. This data constitutes “electronic
13 communication” under the SCA. The SCA incorporates the definition of “electronic communication”
14 set forth in the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510, *et seq.* (“ECPA”). The
15 ECPA defines an “electronic communication” as “any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds,
16 data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic,
17 photoelectronic or photooptical system that affects interstate or foreign commerce” 18 U.S.C. §
18 2510(12).

19 79. Facebook is an electronic communication service provider covered by the SCA. An
20 “electronic communication service” is “any service which provides to users thereof the ability to send
21 or receive wire or electronic communications.” 18 U.S.C. § 2510(15). *See Ebling v. Monmouth-Ocean Hosp.*
22 *Serv. Corp.*, 961 F. Supp. 2d 659, 667 (D.N.J. 2013).

23 80. Facebook saves and archives location data obtained from users on its servers
24 indefinitely, and thus this data is in “electronic storage” for purposes of the SCA, which defines
25 electronic storage as “any storage of such communication by an electronic communication for purposes
26 of backup protection of such communication.” 18 U.S.C. § 2510(17)(B).

1 81. Facebook allows users to select privacy settings for their Facebook account. Facebook
2 gives users the option to turn “off” location tracking. When users exercise that option, their location
3 data is considered private for purposes of the SCA.

4 82. Facebook knowingly tracks and collects that private location data without users’
5 knowledge or consent. Facebook indirectly shares that location data with advertisers by providing
6 advertisers targeted advertising based on user location.

7 83. Facebook has violated 18 U.S.C. § 2702(a) because it knowingly and without users’
8 consent collected and disclosed to advertisers users’ private location data while in Facebook’s electronic
9 storage.

10 84. Facebook had actual knowledge of, and benefitted from, this practice, including by
11 sustaining monetary profits.

12 85. Because of Facebook’s conduct described herein and its violations of 18 U.S.C. § 2702,
13 Plaintiff and the Class have suffered actual injury in the form of disclosure of their private location data,
14 costs of mitigation for the disclosure, loss of sales value of that private location data, and emotional
15 distress.

16 86. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Class, seeks an order enjoining Facebook’s
17 conduct and is entitled to the greater of actual damages or statutory damages of \$1,000 per violation, as
18 well as disgorgement, punitive damages, attorneys’ fees, and costs. 18 U.S.C. § 2707(c).

19 **COUNT V**

20 **Violation of California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act**

21 **Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750, *et seq.***

22 87. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates each and every allegation set forth above as if fully
23 written herein.

24 88. The Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750, *et seq.* (“CLRA”) is a
25 comprehensive statutory scheme that is to be liberally construed to protect consumers against unfair
26 and deceptive business practices in connection with the conduct of businesses providing goods,
27 property or services to consumers primarily for personal, family, or household use.
28

1 89. Facebook is a “person” as defined by Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1761(c) and 1770, and has
2 provided “services” as defined by Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1761(b) and 1770.

3 90. Plaintiff and Class members are “consumers,” as defined by Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1761(d)
4 and 1770, and have engaged in a “transaction” with Facebook, as defined by Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1761(e)
5 and 1770.

6 91. Facebook’s acts and practices as alleged herein were intended to and did result in the
7 sales of products and services to Plaintiff and Class members in violation of Cal. Civil Code § 1770,
8 including:

- 9 a. Representing that goods or services have characteristics that they do not have in violation of
10 subsection 1770(a)(5);
11 b. Representing that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, or grade when they
12 were not in violation of subsection 1770(a)(7);
13 c. Advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised in violation of
14 subsection 1770(a)(9);
15 d. Representing that a transaction conferred or involved rights which it did not involve in
16 violation of subsection 1770(a)(14); and
17 e. Representing that the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous
18 representation when it has not in violation of subsection 1770(a)(16).

19 92. Facebook’s unfair or deceptive acts and practices were capable of deceiving a substantial
20 portion of the purchasing public.

21 93. Facebook’s misrepresentations and omissions as alleged herein were material because
22 they were likely to deceive reasonable consumers about Facebook’s practice of surreptitiously tracking
23 and compiling the location of consumers’ mobile phones, even when those consumers affirmatively
24 disabled Location History, an option provided (in fact, touted and emphasized) by Facebook.

25 94. Facebook was under a duty to disclose that it would continue to track Plaintiff’s and
26 Class members’ locations regardless of whether they disabled Location History because: Facebook was
27 in a superior position to know and understand its deployment of its own location-tracking technology
28 and practices; Plaintiff and Class members could reasonably not have been expected to learn or
discover that Facebook continued to track their location; and Facebook knew that Plaintiff and Class

1 members could not reasonably be expected to learn of or discover Facebook’s concealed tracking
2 practices.

3 95. By failing to disclose its surreptitious and unauthorized tracking of Plaintiff’s and Class
4 members’ locations through their mobile phones, Facebook knowingly and intentionally concealed
5 material facts and breached its duty to Plaintiff and Class members.

6 96. Plaintiff and Class members also acted reasonably in relying on Facebook’s
7 misrepresentations regarding its location tracking practices. A reasonable consumer would expect that
8 their location would not be tracked after turning “off” Location Tracking, particularly after Facebook’s
9 many representations to that effect as identified herein.

10 97. If Plaintiff and Class members had known the truth about Facebook’s location tracking
11 practices, they would not have used Facebook or would have used it on materially different terms.

12 98. As a direct and proximate result of Facebook’s violations of Cal. Civ. Code § 1770,
13 Plaintiff and Class members have suffered and will continue to suffer injury and ascertainable loss of
14 money or property.

15 99. Plaintiff and Class members seek injunctive relief under the CLRA, including but not
16 limited to, an order enjoining Facebook from tracking, recording, and storing the location of Plaintiff
17 and Class members without their consent; requiring Facebook to destroy all data created or otherwise
18 obtained from its collection and storage of the location of Plaintiff and Class members and their mobile
19 phones; and requiring Facebook to provide Plaintiff and Class members with prompt notice of what
20 improper location data collection has taken place.

21 100. Plaintiff and Class members seek attorney’s fees and costs of litigation under all
22 applicable law, including but not limited to California’s private attorney general jurisprudence, Cal. Civ.
23 Code § 1021.5, and the CLRA.

24 101. Plaintiff and Class members reserve the right to give statutory written notice of this
25 claim via certified mail, and to thereafter seek damages via an amended complaint.

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1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the other Class members, respectfully
3 requests that this Court enter a Judgment:

- 4 (a) Certifying the Class and appointing Plaintiff as Class Representative;
5 (b) Finding that Facebook’s conduct was unlawful as alleged herein;
6 (c) Enjoining Facebook from engaging in further unlawful conduct as alleged herein;
7 (d) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class members nominal, actual, compensatory, consequential,
8 and punitive damages;
9 (e) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class members statutory damages and penalties, as allowed by
10 law;
11 (f) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class members pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
12 (g) Awarding Plaintiff and the Class members reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and expenses;
13 and
14 (h) Granting such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

15 **JURY DEMAND**

16 Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all counts for which a jury trial is permitted.

17 Dated: October 19, 2018

18 Respectfully submitted,

19 /s/ Sabita Soneji
20 Sabita J. Soneji (SBN 224262)
21 Katherine M. Aizpuru (*to be admitted pro hac vice*)
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Counsel for Plaintiff

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Facebook Covertly Tracks Users' Locations Even with 'Location History' Turned Off, Class Action Alleges](#)
