



Nokia trials N95 as traffic monitor



Damian Koh | Feb 11, 2008

What impact does it have on you? None, for now. But the potential of a recent field test in Union City, California, could be far-reaching. The experiment involved 100 UC Berkeley students who drove a 10-mile stretch of freeway using cars issued with a GPS-enabled N95, Bluetooth headset and special traffic-monitoring software. "As the students drove the freeway, the phone sent data about each car's speed and position back to the company's research facility," wrote Erica Ogg from News.com who was on the ground.



Of what use is this to the average commuter? Lots. Traffic patterns can be monitored and also relayed to them via their cell phones even before they set off on their journey. So instead of relying on a fixed sensor infrastructure, the traffic data system makes use of a collective effort similar to how Wiki operates: Everyone contributes.

That said, this concept isn't the first of its kind. For example, Vodafone and TomTom in October 2006 collaborated to create a commercial traffic data system using the signals between cell phones and base stations to monitor real-time traffic conditions. The difference is Nokia's experiment makes use of a ubiquitous device, the cell phone.

There are pressing issues such as privacy, but if these concerns are addressed and eliminated, the collective system could be a much cheaper way to monitor traffic. For now, the Finnish phone-maker is looking to increase the number of participants for the trials and include more realistic test environments.

Although I don't think such a system will take flight in the immediate future because there aren't that many GPS-enabled handsets in the market (external Bluetooth GPS units aside), if the project gains traction, it could be something really useful for commuters. Another alternative that can be explored is using cell phone location data (something which is already collected by base stations) to provide a locality-based information, so commuters know which areas to avoid. But, for now, it's all great ideas waiting to go someplace.

Filed under: [Mobile Phones](#)

[2 Comments](#) | [Bookmark](#) | [Share](#)

Tags: [traffic monitor](#), [trial](#), [gps](#), [nokia](#), [n95](#)

[Add tag](#)

Talkback



wils Wong



[View profile](#)

[Send mail](#)

wils Wong says...

Works for open spaces...N95 just take too long to triangulate in Singapore.

Feb 11, 2008 20:58

[Flag as offensive](#)



damiankoh



[View profile](#)

[Send mail](#)

damiankoh says...

Have you installed the software upgrade to bring A-GPS to the N95? Based on my experiences, it cuts down the time needed for a lock-on significantly.. You should be able to get a GPS fix between 15 to 30 seconds..

Feb 11, 2008 22:05

[Flag as offensive](#)

advertisement

Crave is...

The name says it all. Crave is our new blog about cool gadgets and other crushworthy stuff.

Drop us an email if you have tips or suggestions.

Search Crave

Find it!

Crave for...

- » [Mobile Phones \(468\)](#)
- » [Digital Cameras \(293\)](#)
- » [Notebooks \(300\)](#)
- » [PC & Peripherals \(308\)](#)
- » [Handhelds \(180\)](#)
- » [Printers \(31\)](#)
- » [Home AV \(310\)](#)
- » [Music & Play \(314\)](#)
- » [Gadgets \(737\)](#)
- » [Future Tech \(102\)](#)

Previously...

2008

- » [March](#)
- » [February](#)
- » [January](#)

2007

2006

2005

2004



Subscribe to Crave

▼ sponsored

(about)

[Official BlackBerry® Site](#)

Simplify Life With A BlackBerry® Smartphone With Built In Features.

www.blackberry.com

[HTC SmartPhone Unlocked](#)

PDA Unlocked Gsm Mobile Phones On Sale In stock Call 773-274-3764

www.welectronics.com

[Digital Camera Asia](#)

Find Digital Camera Asia now - Compare Digital Cameras & save!

digital-camera-asia.best-price.com

[Free PDA Phone offers](#)

No contract Smartphones available. See the latest PDAs & Smartphones!

www.manolith.com

[Mobile Phone Tv](#)

Get More Info & Resources for Mobile Phone Tv

classiccloseouts.com