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## Selective notifications based on location and calendar information

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## **Selective notifications based on location and calendar information**

### **ABSTRACT**

This disclosure describes techniques to notify individuals that are likely to have been present at a particular location, e.g., a meeting room, based on calendar information, obtained with user permission. For example, a corporate campus can include several meeting rooms with associated calendars that are used for meetings. A person that finds a forgotten item in a meeting room can access a portal to report the item, along with the location and time that the item was found, e.g., via a portal. The portal can then access, with user permission, calendar information of the meeting room and/or other individuals to identify those that may have forgotten the item. A notification that the item was found is provided to such individuals via the portal. The portal thus acts an intermediary between the item owner and the person who found the item. Other types of location and time-based notifications can also be provided.

### **KEYWORDS**

- Geolocation
- Calendar
- Lost and found
- Meeting room

### **BACKGROUND**

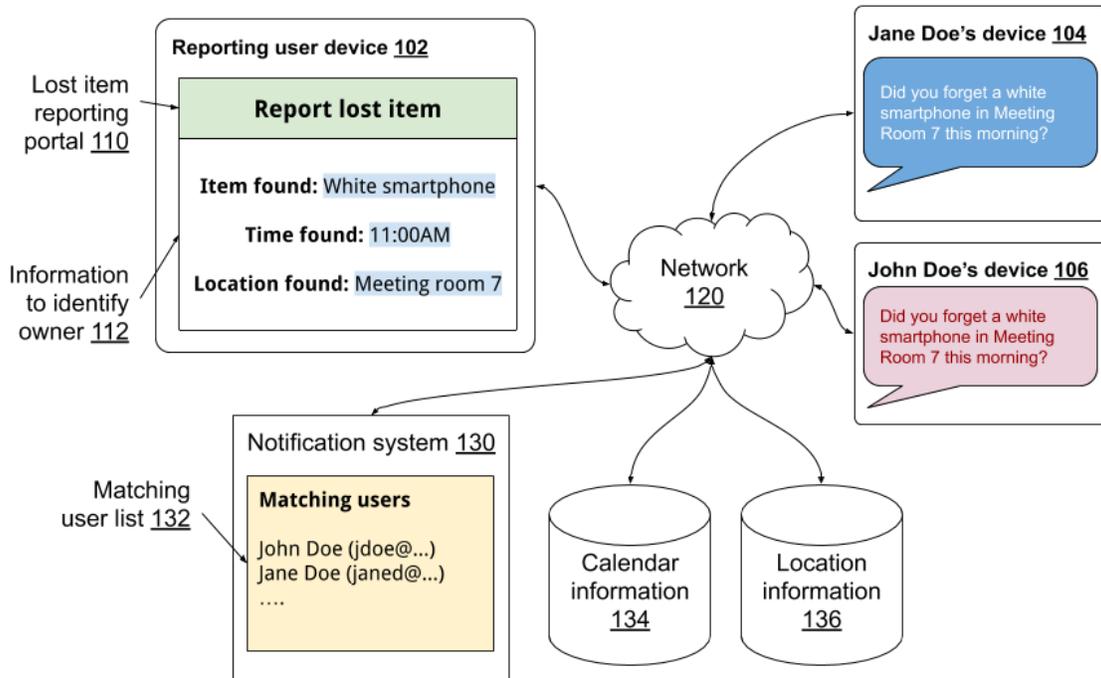
When an individual, e.g., a corporate employee, finds an item that was left behind, e.g., in a meeting room, the number of people that are likely owners is limited, e.g., to attendees of prior meetings in the meeting room. However, there are no practical techniques available for identifying such attendees. Thus, the individual can either notify a larger group of people, e.g.,

the people that work in the building, all employees of the company, etc. that an item was left behind, or submit the item to a lost-and-found desk.

## DESCRIPTION

This disclosure describes techniques to notify individuals that are likely to have been present at a particular location, e.g., a meeting room, based on calendar information, obtained with user permission. For example, a corporate campus can include several meeting rooms with associated calendars that are used for meetings. A person that finds a forgotten item in a meeting room can access a portal to report the item, along with the location and time that the item was found, e.g., via a portal. The portal can then access, with user permission, calendar information of the meeting room and/or other individuals to identify those that may have forgotten the item. A notification that the item was found is provided to such individuals via the portal. The portal thus acts an intermediary between the item owner and the person who found the item. The notifications can be provided without identifying the person that found the item. Other types of location and time-based notifications can also be provided.

A notification system per the techniques described herein provides a portal for users to report lost and found items or other types of location and time-based notifications. The portal enables users, e.g., a reporting user of a device =to provide identifying information such as a description of the item found, time, location, etc. The notification system uses such information and matches it with other data, e.g., meetings scheduled at or near the location, attendees of such meetings, etc., obtained with user permission, to identify a set of target users as recipients of the notification. The notification system sends the notification to the target group.



**Fig. 1: Location and time-based notifications**

Fig.1 illustrates an example user interface environment that includes a reporting user device (102), other user devices (104, 106), and a notification system (130) all coupled via network 120. Data stores that include calendar information (134) and location information (136) are also coupled to the network, or can be part of the notification system. The notification system provides a portal (110) that enables a reporting user to report an item they found along with information, e.g., where and when the item was found, that can be used to identify the owner of the item (112). The notification system accesses the calendar information, location information, and other information, as permitted by users to identify a list of matching users (132) based on the information about the item. Once the users are identified, the notification system sends notifications to such users, e.g., to users Jane Doe and John Doe, as shown in Fig. 1. The provided information can indicate that an item was found, with or without identifying the reporting user, based on user settings.

The notifications can be provided via messaging/social media applications, including chat, email, etc. User permission is obtained to access information that is used to identify matching users. If the user denies or restricts permission for use of their data, such users are excluded from the analysis to determine matching users.

Further to the descriptions above, a user may be provided with controls allowing the user to make an election as to both if and when systems, programs or features described herein may enable collection of user information (e.g., information about a user's social network, social actions or activities, profession, a user's preferences, or a user's current location), and if the user is sent content or communications from a server. In addition, certain data may be treated in one or more ways before it is stored or used, so that personally identifiable information is removed. For example, a user's identity may be treated so that no personally identifiable information can be determined for the user, or a user's geographic location may be generalized where location information is obtained (such as to a city, ZIP code, or state level), so that a particular location of a user cannot be determined. Thus, the user may have control over what information is collected about the user, how that information is used, and what information is provided to the user.

## CONCLUSION

This disclosure describes techniques to notify individuals that are likely to have been present at a particular location, e.g., a meeting room, based on calendar information, obtained with user permission. For example, a corporate campus can include several meeting rooms with associated calendars that are used for meetings. A person that finds a forgotten item in a meeting room can access a portal to report the item, along with the location and time that the item was found, e.g., via a portal. The portal can then access, with user permission, calendar information of the meeting room and/or other individuals to identify those that may have forgotten the item.

A notification that the item was found is provided to such individuals via the portal. The portal thus acts an intermediary between the item owner and the person who found the item. Other types of location and time-based notifications can also be provided.