



Find My Kids v12 and FlashBeacon

Locator / Tracker Software for Android



FlashBeacon

New with v. 12 . . .
Material Design
Real Time Street View
Street View World Explorer

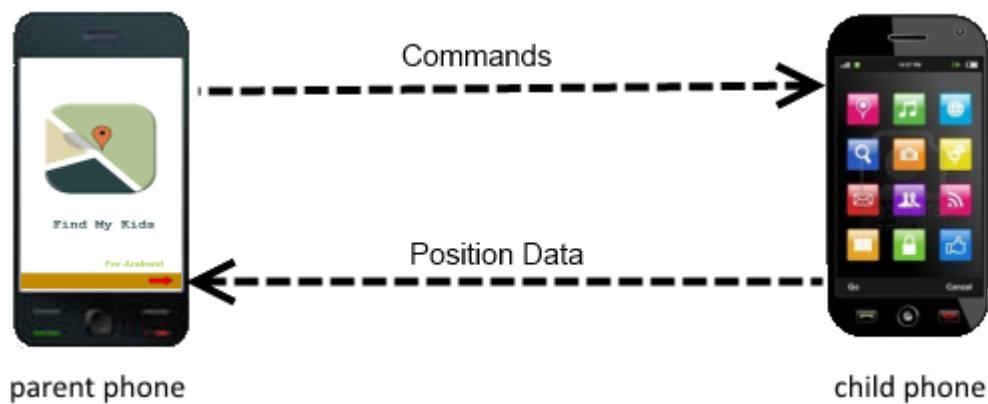
Because this app is targeted at Parents who want to keep track of where their children are, we will use the term "parent phone" and "child phone."

FMK must be installed on the parent phone and FlashBeacon must be installed on the child phone. FlashBeacon is free and available on Google Play. If you have more than one child you need to monitor then install the free FlashBeacon on each of your children's Android phones.

FlashBeacon just has to be installed on the child phone, you only have to run it one time to register its key. It doesn't have to ever run again to function as a locator.

What it does . . .

The parent is able to do a Locate request to find the position of the child phone.



The Parent is able to do a Tracking request and can then view movement of the child for a desired period of time. The movement can be viewed on the parent phone or on the internet using an I.E. version 11 browser.

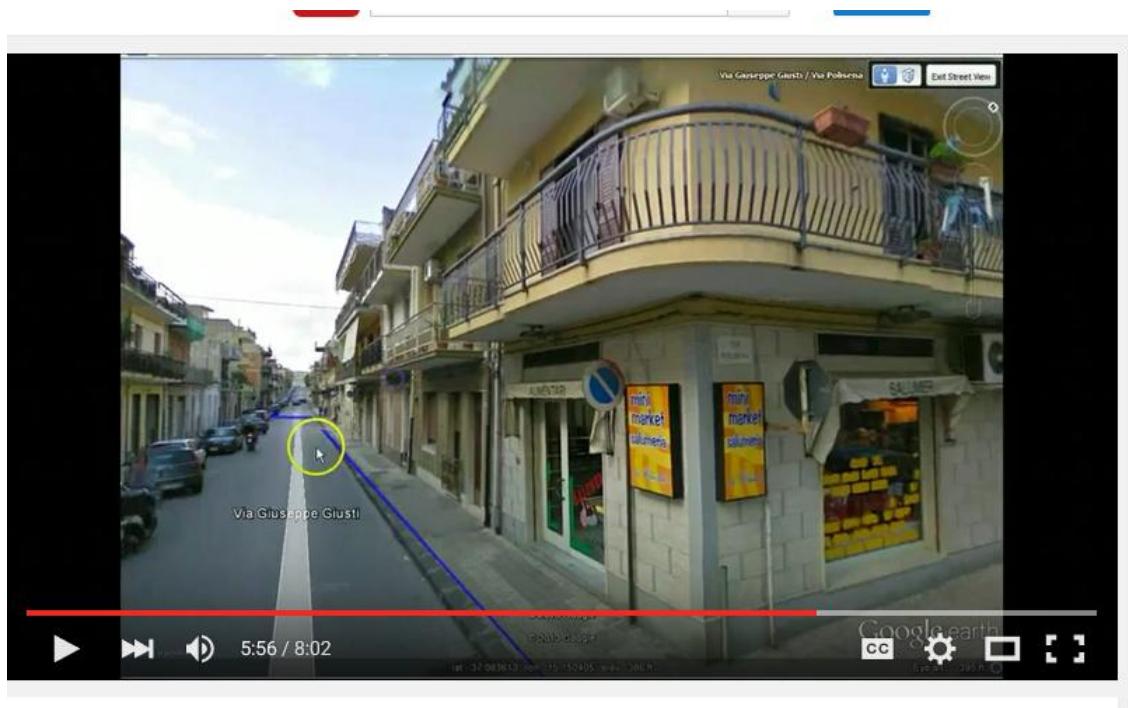
Are you in a hurry?

If you don't want to take time to read this 9 page document right now, you can skip straight to the [startup guide](#). But you really should read the whole thing as this is a very advanced app.

Watch the video !!!

FindMyKids is an evolution of an app that is named myTripTracker which is also available on Google Play (under the new name GPS Breadcrumb Tracker). myTripTracker is designed to record a trip you take while FindMyKids is designed to record a trip that someone else takes. Aside from that difference, the functionality and technology is quite the same.

Because of this similarity, it is recommended that you take some time to view [this Video](#). It will provide an understanding of the power of both of these apps and how they integrate with Google Earth and other viewing apps.



myTripTracker Video



DeanBlakely

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7,812

The FlashBeacon Program . . .

FlashBeacon behaves on the child phone as a flashlight app. If you run it on the child phone, you can use it as a flashlight to see around in the dark. Its icon, as you can see nearby, is a simple picture of a flashlight on a red background.

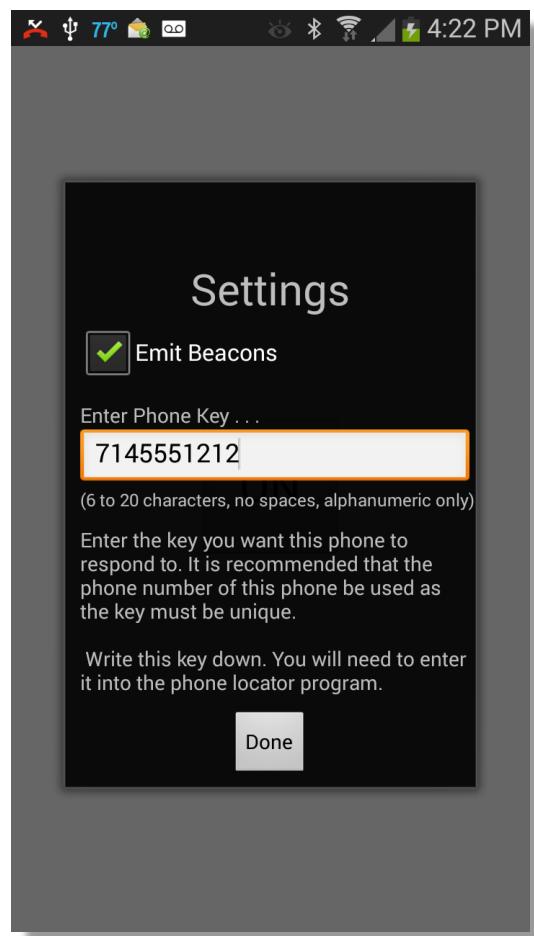
To make the app work, the two phones need to be given the same key. The key can be between 6 and 20 alphanumeric characters, case sensitive, and it must be unique. We recommend that the phone number of the child phone be used as the key.

FlashBeacon must be setup on the child phone **BEFORE** that same key is entered into FMK.

To set the key, run the FlashBeacon app. You will see a big ON button in the middle of the screen. If this ON button is tapped, the LED flash will come on. However if you hold the ON button for more than 6 seconds, the Settings screen will appear and, on most phones, you will see the phone's phone number displayed suggesting that you use it as the key (but you can use whatever you want). Write this key down as you will need to enter the same key into FMK. Hit the done button and you are done. You should never need to run FlashBeacon again (unless you need a flashlight).

The name FlashBeacon is not really descriptive of its true function. So who are we trying to fool? We are trying to fool the thief, kidnapper, or other criminal type who might get possession of the phone. A flashlight app is non-threatening and they might not think to uninstall such a program particularly when they see that it works. If we called it "The Mole," they would certainly uninstall it before you had a chance to find your child.

The Emit Beacons checkbox allows the user of the child phone to turn off beacon launching at any time and re-enable it whenever desired.



How to use FindMyKids . . .

FMK uses a metaphor called Panorama Interface and nothing could be simpler. You just slide horizontally to get to the various pages.

Settings Page . . .

The key that was entered in FlashBeacon setup must be entered in the Key field at the top of the Settings page. This field is actually a drop down combo box that can hold many keys for many phones. This way you can quickly change the child you are monitoring.

Once FlashBeacon is installed on the child phone and you have entered the key in both phones, you can hit the "Test For Connection" button to ensure that the communication between FMK and FlashBeacon is working. Response is usually a few seconds but can sometimes take a few minutes. . If this does not work, see the Startup Guide later in this document.

The Subscription button is used to purchase a Tracking subscription.

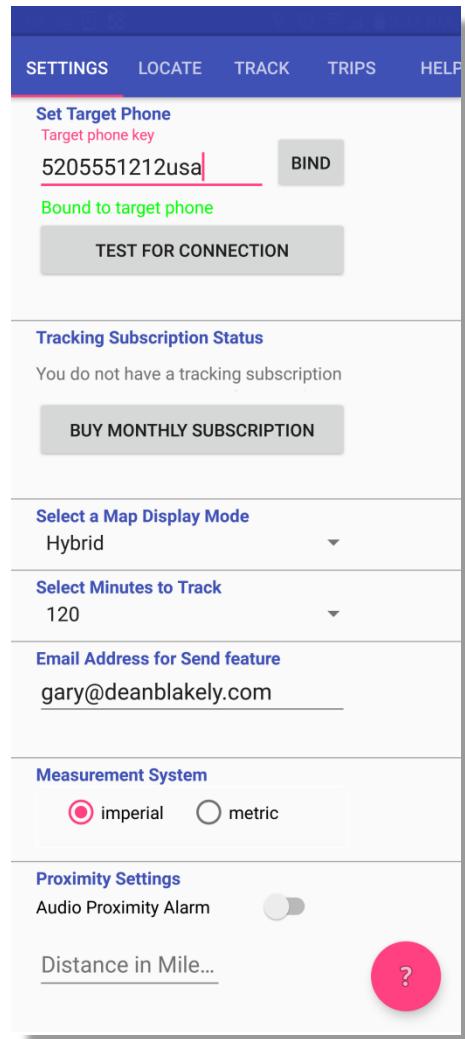
Next you can select the *Map Display Mode* you desire. FMK uses Google Maps V2 services that supports four types of map presentation. The best way to see how this works is to play with it.

Minutes to Track choices for FMK range from one to six hours. After that time has expired tracking ceases on the child phone. However, if you want to stop before the chosen duration you can hit the Stop button on the Tracking page.

You can save and recall trips on your phone and email past trips to your email address and then view them on Google Earth or Bing Maps on your PC or MAC. If you use this feature you must enter your email address here.

The *Measurement System* can be either imperial or metric when displaying your proximity to the child phone and when showing speeds and distances in the map pop-up boxes.

FMK has an optional Proximity Alarm that will sound when the distance between you and the child phone gets within a certain radius. Currently this is always set in miles or fractions of miles.



Locate Page . . .

To simply locate the child phone you swipe to the Locate page and hit the Start button. You get back a very accurate position along with speed and bearing of the phone if it is moving. FlashBeacon takes a full minute to get the most accurate position possible before returning the position.

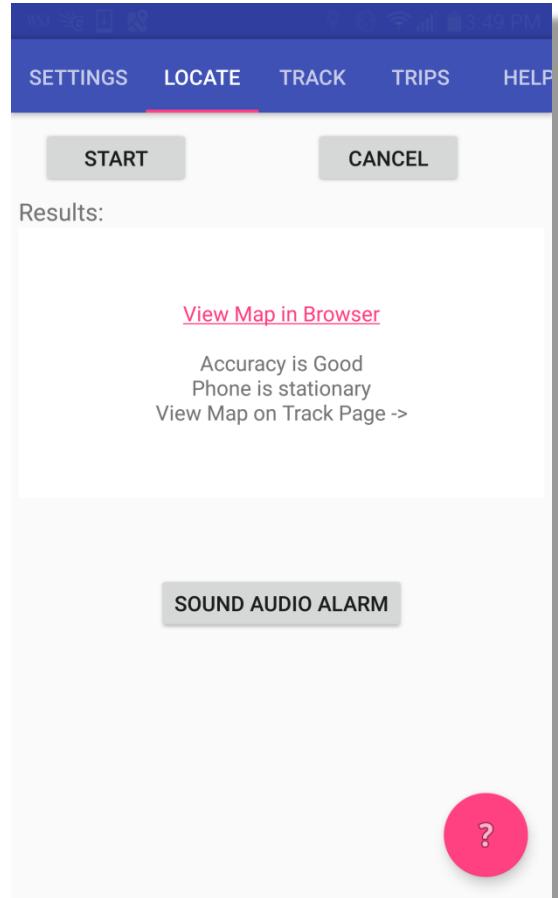
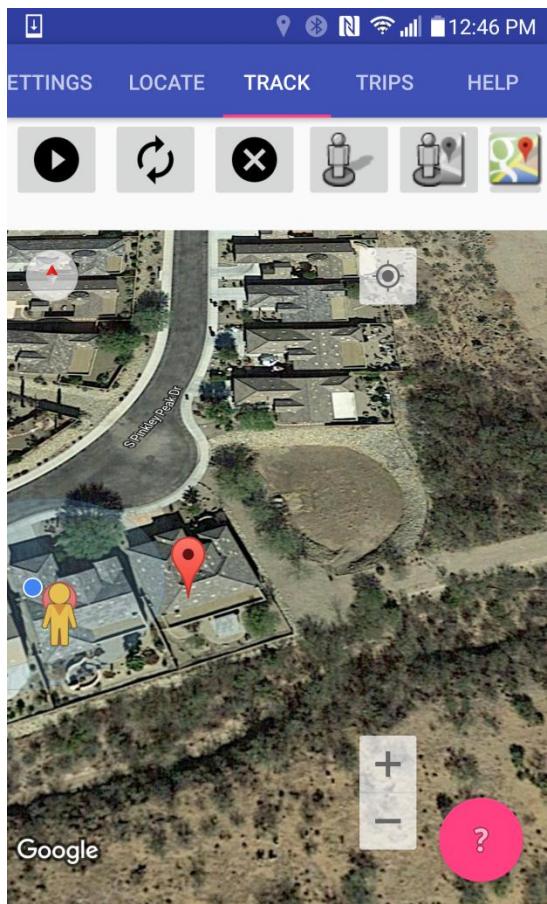
Bonus Feature

If the child phone is just lost around the house then you can sound the audio alarm from the parent phone and a loud siren will go off so that you can locate the phone. This works even if the sound is turned off or down on the child phone.

Locate provides two viewing options . . .

External Browser:

You can view the location results on an external browser that uses Google Maps in the browser. The advantage of this option is that you can hit the directions button on the browser to get step-by-step directions on how to get to that place.



Track Page Map:

You can view the location on the Google Map on the Track page that provides a more fluid and flexible presentation of the Map. See the Map Gestures section that recaps the capabilities.

Track Page . . .

FMK does both Locating and Tracking. The app is free and the Locate function is always free. However, the tracking function requires ongoing Cloud Server resources. Because of this, tracking is provided on a low cost subscription basis. The first subscription includes a ten day free trial. You can always cancel the subscription.

When the Start button is hit, a message is sent to the child phone to begin tracking movement for the amount of time indicated on the Settings page.

Each red pin represents a "trip leg" that is determined by an algorithm representing a "meaningful piece of a trip." This path can be thought of as a "breadcrumb trail." If you tap a pin, you will get a pop-up box showing information about that trip leg. Together these data will show the timing of the trip. For instance, if the phone stopped somewhere you can tell that it stopped and for how long.



The FMK icon represents the location of your phone and the distance to the child phone is displayed in the heading.

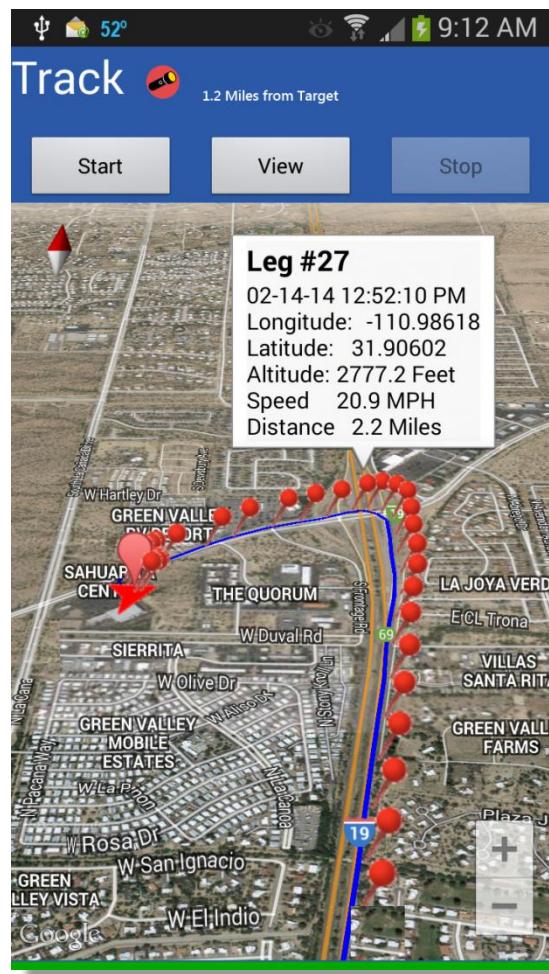
If you begin tracking a phone and you only get one pin, this means the phone is stationary. You won't get a second pin until the phone moves a minimum distance. Both your parent phone and the child phone may be stationary or moving. Proximity is continually computed as either phone moves about.

Before tracking is started the black round start button contains a white arrow meaning that no tracking is taking place. Once you start tracking and FMK receives an acknowledgement that Flashbeacon has began tracking, the arrow turns to red. This allows you to know if FlashBeacon is running when the phone is stationary.



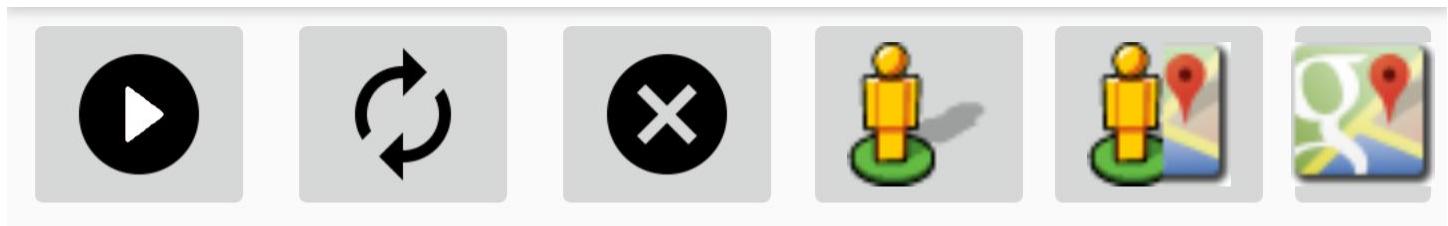
If the child phone begins tracking and then enters an area where no internet is available, it continues to track and saves the trip legs internally if it can't transmit them. When the phone again enters an area covered by the internet, it will then "burst" all the saved up trip legs to FMK.

If you want to stop the tracking process before the recording time elapses, you can hit the Stop button and the child phone will be told to stop tracking. This will save battery power on the child phone.



Tracking and Street View Controls . . .

FMK Version 12 can display Street View when tracking and has “Street View World Explorer” when not tracking.



Start
Tracking

Refresh

Stop
Tracking

Show only
Street View

Split map
with Street view

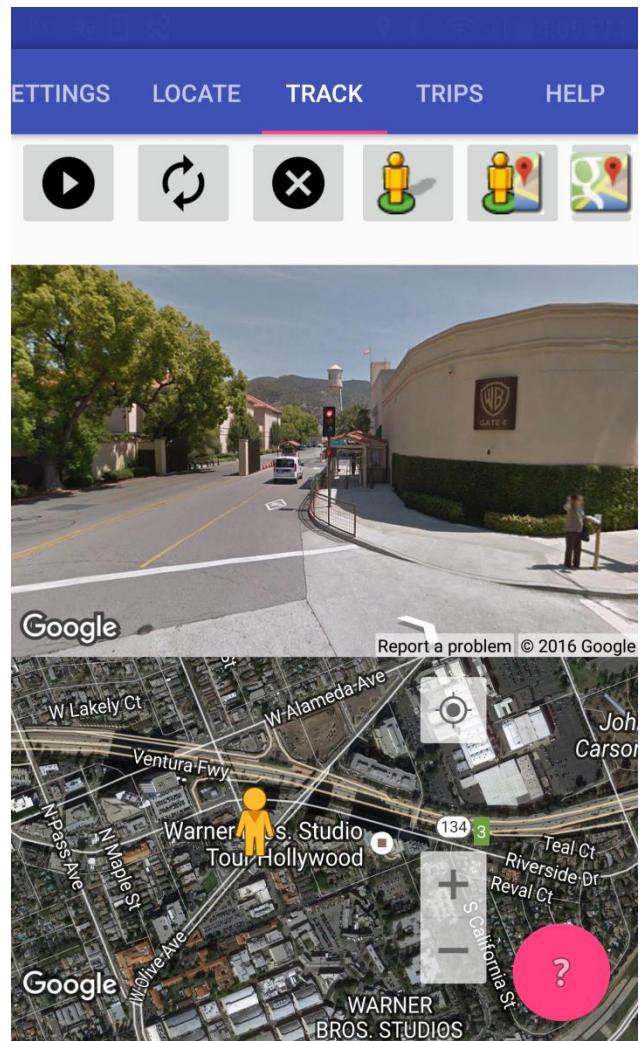
Show only
Map

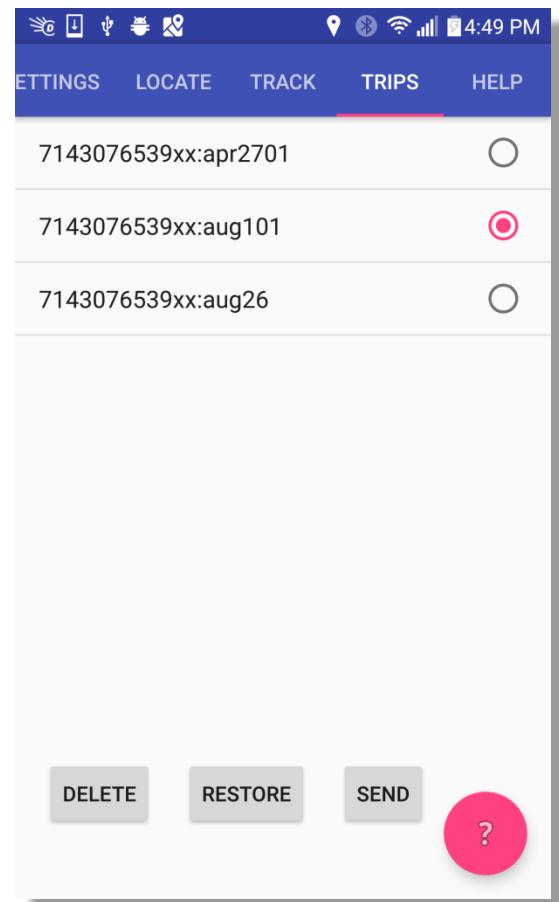
When tracking child phone movement, Street View may or may not be available from Google Maps. If the 4th and 5th buttons, above, are enabled it is available. If those same two buttons are grayed then it is not available. This can change frequently throughout a trip. You have three choices on how you want to view the trip at any point in time. This gives you the ability to see the trip as the person carrying the child phone would see it.

Street View World Explorer . . .

When FMK is not being used to track or locate it can be used to explore the world using the gold PegMan. Whenever the app is started the Pegman shows at your location. Pegman can be dragged anywhere on the world map and if Street View is available at that location you can show it using the buttons at the top.

A past trip can be restored to the Track page where Pegman will also show. This allows past trips to be analyzed and explored.





You can start tracking, then end FMK; FlashBeacon will continue to track the child phone. Later, you can start up FMK again and hit the refresh button and resume viewing the progress of the child phone's movement.

Trip Management . . .

When you start recording a trip you have the option of giving it a name or not.

If you don't give it a name, the trip is never stored anywhere.

If you do give it a name, the trip is stored on a cloud server and will appear on the Trips page the next time the app is started. This allows you to recall the trip to the map for viewing later.

If an email address was entered in the Settings page the trip can be emailed to your PC or MAC. The email contains trip statistics, and attached is a KML file for viewing the trip in Google Earth.

You can also delete any saved trips which will save space on your phone.

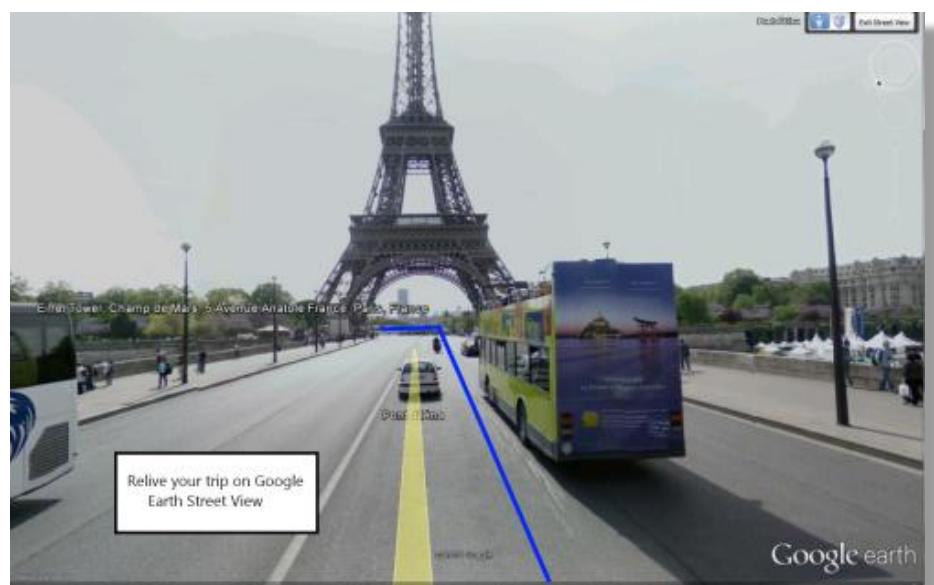
Google Earth Viewing . . .

Viewing a trip in Google Earth can present a different detail than following it on the phone because of the larger screen. The blue line shows the exact path traveled by the child phone.

Startup Guide . . .

Try to follow this guide as closely as possible to make connection work the first time . . .

1. If possible, get both your Parent Phone and the child Phone together at the same time. If that is not feasible, setup the child phone first.
2. The Data Connection and GPS must be enabled on both



phones. Easiest way to check this is to run the "Maps" application from Google on both phones. If it shows the proper location of the two phones with no errors, everything is on.

3. Make sure FMK is installed on your parent phone and FlashBeacon is installed on the child phone.
4. Run FlashBeacon on the child phone following the FlashBeacon setup instructions earlier in this document. Write down the key you entered.
5. Run FMK on your parent phone following the setup instructions earlier in this document. Make sure the key is the same for both phones.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Step 4 must be done **BEFORE** step 5.

6. On the Settings page hit the "Test For Connection" button. A count down will begin. In about 10 seconds you should get a happy sound and see the button now says "Success!! Response Received." These messages are usually very quick but sometimes can take takes minutes instead of seconds so give it some time. If the child phone is in a deep sleep or turned off it won't respond until it is awake.
7. If you got a failure on the above step, read the "What if it doesn't work" section later in this document. If that doesn't solve your problem then contact Gary@deanblakely.com. We can implement more advanced diagnostics to detect your problem.

Viewing trips with the web viewer . . .

In addition to viewing trips real time or historically on the phone, trips can also be viewed, real time or historically, on the web by going to <http://www.deanblakely.com/view.aspx> and entering the "Key" for the trip into the viewer. If the trip was not given a specific Trip Name then the Key is exactly as it was entered in Settings. If the trip was given a name then the key is the Key + a colon + trip name. For instance 714551212:disneyland.

Note: This viewing will only work with the Internet Explorer version 11 browser with Silverlight installed.

If privacy is desired then the trip should be given a complex name that no one would guess making the Trip Name more like a password.



The trips typically remain on the cloud servers for at least 30 Days so if trip details are desired beyond that, the trip should be emailed to your PC or MAC or left on your parent phone.

Map Gestures . . .

FMK supports a rich set of gestures allowing you to manipulate the map . . .

Zoom

- Hit the plus or minus buttons on the map.
- Double tap to zoom in
- Two finger tap to zoom out
- Two finger pinch/stretch
- One finger zooming by double tapping but not releasing on the second tap then sliding the finger up or down the screen.

Scroll

Drag the map around with one finger.

Tilt

Place two fingers on the map and move them up or down.

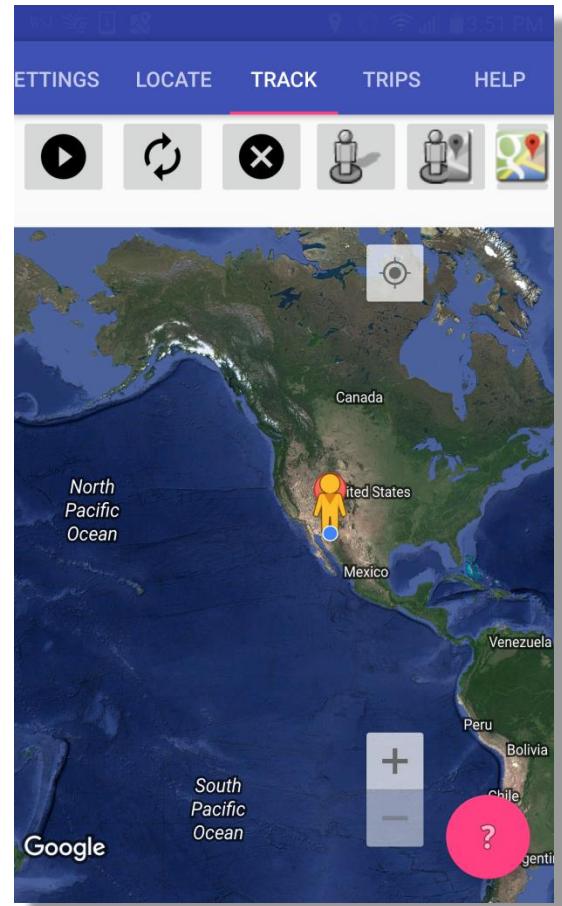
Rotate

Place two fingers on the map and apply a rotate motion.

What if it doesn't work?

There are thousands of users using our tracking technology with 99.9% success but FMK is a sophisticated app and there are some issues with GPS tracking . . .

- The child phone could be turned off, the battery power could be too low, Data Enabling might be off, or it could be in Airplane Mode. Battery saving features should be turned off on the child phone.
- On the child phone, Location must be turned on.
- The FlashBeacon may not be installed and properly set up on the child phone.
- You could have entered the key wrong in one of the phones.
- FMK and FlashBeacon use "Google Cloud Messaging" which uses ports 5228, 5229, and 5230. If the phones are behind a firewall these ports need to be opened to allow communication to work.



END OF DOCUMENT