

# GPS on track for mobiles

**Matt Sun**

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Mobile phones that track your exact location and can tell you how to get to the nearest Italian restaurant or where the kids are will be released this year.

But the one thing they can't do is track a lost phone.

Assisted Global Positioning System tracking will be a standard feature in mobile phones, with the first handset due for release in Australia in August.

It will be a standard feature for new phones in 12 months.

The handset will feature a small GPS antenna capable of showing its location on a CBD map to within 5m.

Existing mobile phone tracking, using base stations, pinpoint handsets to within a 200-600m radius.

The AGPS handsets will be no larger than standard mobiles with the antenna concealed in a "bump" on the back.

Mobile tracking company LocateMy Phone spokesman Wade Short said the new technology had privacy concerns.

"There are family-type services being looked at but you've got to be sure about security and privacy, we are all working to make sure it's a more solid platform, especially when you're tracking kids or the elderly suffering dementia," Short said.

But it could not help track lost or stolen phones as thieves could simply switch off the GPS option and remove the handset's SIM card.

"We think location-based services will be as big as SMS but that will take another few years as people become aware of it," Short said.

■ **Would you want your phone to track your exact position? Email [sydtalk@mxnet.com.au](mailto:sydtalk@mxnet.com.au) or SMS 1999 4488.**