

# *Tech Tips for Seniors*

## **Stop Google from Tracking You**

Press the back arrow < to return to the menu.

Anyone who does a web search, watches a YouTube video, or gets directions using Google Maps will have their personal information available to advertisers.

That's because Google sells that data to companies that pay for access to the information.

Those companies know your E-mail addresses, phone numbers, where you live, where and when you drive, what products you buy online, where you are planning your next vacation and

other information you may have mentioned when you sign up for services using your phone or computer.

If you have installed Google devices such as Home or Nest, their built-in microphones and cameras may be invading your privacy at home and sharing it with others.

There's a way to block access to your information, though. According to a recent article published by c|net, here's how:

1. Sign into your Google account and choose Data & Personalization from the navigation bar.
2. To see a list of all your activity that Google has logged, scroll to Activity controls and select Web & App Activity.
3. If you want Google to stop tracking your web and image searches, browser history, map searches and directions, and interactions with

Google Assistant, uncheck both boxes.

Otherwise, move on to step 4.

4. Next, click Manage Activity. This page displays all the information Google has collected on you from the activities mentioned in the previous step, all the way back to the day you created your account.

5. To set Google to automatically delete this kind of data either every three or every 18 months, select Choose to delete automatically and pick the timeframe you feel most comfortable with. Google will delete any current data older than the timeframe you specify, for example, if you choose three months, any information older than three months will be deleted immediately.

6. If you'd rather delete part of all of your activity history manually, on the navigation bar choose Delete activity by and choose either Last hour, Last day, All time or Custom range.

7. Once you choose an autodelete setting or manually select which data you want deleted, a

popup will appear and ask you to confirm.

Select Delete or Confirm.

To make sure your new settings took, head back to Manage Activity (step 4) and make sure whatever's there (if you deleted it all there should be nothing) only goes back the three or 18 months you selected in step 5.

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If you have questions about any of this, feel free to make a “Technology Tips” appointment on Tuesday mornings at Generations, when the center opens. Just call the main number: 215-723-5841.

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