

Responsive Technology Partners

Issue 56 | October/ November 2023

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION



*Bearing scissors, L-R:
Responsive CEO
Steven McComas,
VTXI CEO Patrick
McDonnell*



**Watch the Ribbon
Cutting now!**

Responsive Technology Partners and VTXI celebrated their plans for a strategic alliance based in the San Antonio area with a joint ribbon cutting provided by the Greater San Antonio Chamber and San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Both VTXI Internet and Responsive Technology Partners' teams were enthusiastically welcomed by Ambassadors and Membership Team members of both Chambers and welcomed to the business community. "The energy in this room is amazing," remarked Steven McComas, Responsive's CEO. "You can immediately tell the passion of your community by the people you first run into. The impression we're getting as a team is very welcoming, very exciting, very dynamic. That truly explains why San Antonio is a great place for us to launch our services."

The mission of this strategic alliance is to provide San Antonio's business customers with global systems and technologies that are currently underserved in the rural communities. "When Steven and I started talking, it was about how to get back into the side of business of additional services: what's beyond Internet," stated VTXI Internet CEO Patrick McDonnell. "Hearing about their rural service roots really fit with our roots, so we felt like this is a great opportunity. We looked at trying to start this in the Austin area, but it worked out better and is more advantageous to do it in the San Antonio area."

Responsive's CRO Tom Glover acknowledged the influence and value of a Chamber membership. "I've sat as the Chairman of a Chamber for 4 years and realized that you get out of it what you put into it. I see the Ambassadors here; you all know that. We're really looking forward to engaging with both the Greater San Antonio Chamber and The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber to become part of this community and serve."

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HERE'S WHAT GOOGLE MAPS TIMELINE KNOWS ABOUT YOU

(And It's More Than You Think)

It's 10:00 p.m. – do you know where your children are? Google probably does. Thanks to Google Maps' Timeline feature, the tech company probably knows where your whole family has been – down to the GPS coordinates. The feature was first rolled out in 2015 on Android devices and two years later on Apple, but many people still don't know how much information the app actually collects. Before you hit the road this holiday season, take a minute to review your privacy settings to see if the risk is worth the benefits.

What Google Maps Timeline Can See

With Google Maps Timeline, you can go back to any day and see in detail where you were, when and for how long. For example, the map will show you when you left work, got home and any pit stops you made. It can also tell if you traveled by bike, car, train or bus. If you haven't changed the settings, this information may have been stored for YEARS. This kind of tracking is helpful if you forget the name of that new lunch place you visited last month with the great chicken wrap. However, if you care about your privacy and prefer not to have your home address or daily jogging routine under Google's watchful eye, you need to turn this feature OFF.

Pros And Cons

Under the guise of being a digital assistant, Google collects that information to make your life easier. At the same time, it's creating detailed profiles of all of us. In some ways, this makes our lives easier. In other ways, it invites severe risks.

Upsides:

- Find what's lost: Has your kid ever lost their phone during an errand spree and is not sure if they left it in the cart at Target or the bathroom at Cheesecake Factory? Yeah – it's not a good feeling. If your phone is connected to the Internet, Google Maps Timeline can retrace your steps.
- Peace of mind: Many parents gain peace of mind about their children's safety by knowing where they are and where they've been.
- In business: Employers can also use the feature to ensure employees working remotely are where they are supposed to be when they are supposed to be there.
- Tailored ads: Because Google apps speak to each other, your ads and recommendations are customized to your lifestyle.

Downsides:

- Peeping Toms: Anyone who gets hold of your account can build a profile of you. They know where you live, work and hang out. Threat actors weaponize profiles in extortion schemes or impersonate people to commit other heinous crimes.
- Not 100% accurate: You must be connected to the Internet and logged in to Google for the feature to work.
- A lot less privacy: It's creepy when an app tracks and stores personal information!

Turn Tracking OFF From Your Computer

1. Log in to your Google account.
2. Tap your profile icon or initials, and select "Manage Your Google Account."
3. Click on "Data & Privacy."
4. Scroll to "History Settings" and select "Location History."
5. Pause your history.
6. BONUS TIP: Delete your timeline history by going to Maps Timeline, "Manage Location History," and selecting an auto-delete option.

TIMELINE TIPS!

If the benefits outweigh the risks for you or your family, do two things. First, define a timeline to delete stored data. You can delete your location history after 3, 18 or 36 months – or keep it forever (which we don't recommend). Once you pick an option to remove the data, Google is legally obligated to delete it.

Second, use MFA on your devices and accounts so that even if someone finds your phone or hacks your account, they can't get in. Take control of your privacy and review this buried feature in Google's Maps app!

OUR COMMITMENT TO GROWING GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY SUCCESS DURING CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH 2023

"Now in its 20th year, Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2023 is highlighting the growing importance of cybersecurity in our daily lives and encouraging individuals and businesses to take important cybersecurity steps to stay safe online."

Responsive Technology Partners today announced its commitment to cybersecurity education by participating in the 20th Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Founded in 2004, Cybersecurity Awareness Month, held each October, is the world's foremost initiative aimed at promoting cybersecurity awareness and best practices. Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a collaborative effort among businesses, government agencies, colleges and universities, associations, nonprofit organizations, tribal communities, and individuals committed to educating others on online safety.

"At Responsive Technology Partners, safeguarding client data isn't just a priority; it's our unwavering commitment. We adapt, innovate, and stand guard to ensure our clients are protected against the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats.", states CRO Tom Glover.



Responsive CRO Tom Glover at Milledgeville-Baldwin Chamber's October "Eggs & Issues" speaks on behalf of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

From mobile to connected home devices, technology is deeply intertwined with our lives. And while the evolution of technology accelerates, cybercriminals are working just as hard to find ways to compromise technology and disrupt personal and business life. For 20 Octobers and counting, Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to highlight some of the emerging challenges that exist in the world of cybersecurity today and provide straightforward actionable guidance that anyone can follow to create a safe and secure digital world for themselves and their loved ones.



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month



Airline Ticket Scams Are Soaring

Scammers love travel season. They know your eyes are peeled for a cheap ticket and have devised convincing ways to get their hands on your money. Tricked consumers have spent months of their lives dealing with the consequences of these scams and lost thousands of dollars in the process.

In a recent plague of travel scams, criminals are pretending to be “travel agents” selling plane tickets. Between 2020 and 2021[SRI], digital fraud in travel and leisure increased 68.4% globally, according to TransUnion’s 2022 Global Digital Fraud Trends Report.

[SRI]Should this be “From 2020 to 2021,”?

How Plane Ticket Scams Work:

There are a handful of tactics travel scammers use to steal your information. They create fake websites, pose as travel agents and send you “confirmation” e-mails that don’t include an airline ticket. Some call your phone to “confirm your information” for a flight, asking for your credit card, bank or personal information. Or they use social media ads or e-mails advertising free or cheap tickets. These are all major red flags to watch out for. Before clicking or booking anything, pay attention to these travel tips to avoid getting scammed out of thousands of dollars of your hard-earned vacation savings.



Here’s How To Avoid Travel Scams



1. Always verify that an agent or agency is legit.

In the US and Canada, you can use the Better Business Bureau (BBB) or travel associations like the International Air Transport Association to verify agent credentials. Read customer reviews and look for weird grammar errors in e-mails and on websites. However, the BBB recommends booking directly through hotels or airlines.

2. Check for a ticket confirmation number.



If you don’t get a ticket number with your confirmation e-mail, a scammer may have reserved you a seat instead and stolen your money.



3. Watch out for online deals.

Scammers use fake e-mails and ads to boast amazing deals on hotels or flights. If you think they are too good to be true, they are.

4. Be skeptical of “confirmation calls.”



If you get a follow-up call from an agent to verify your personal information, it’s probably a scam.



Stay informed, pay attention and implement these practical tips for your next adventure. Safe travels!