

New Verizon Wireless (VZW) policy

- In early January 2022, VZW introduced a new policy tracking **all your uses of apps and web pages** on your VZW phones and tablets
- This policy is now **imposed by default** on your VZW phones and tablets.
- VZW claims the benefit for you is to more precisely customize offers (meaning ads) from VZW and possibly third parties.
- There are ways to **OPT OUT** of the new VZW policy.
- Read this **Wired Magazine** article:
www.wired.com/story/verizon-user-privacy-settings/

Scan the QR code



Tiles and AirTags for Tracking Your Stuff

A Learn in 30 presentation

By John Krout

For PATACS + OPCUG

January 15, 2022

Do you lose or misplace things?

- Purse / wallet
- Keys
- Pets
- Bicycles
- Spouse or Grandchildren
- Cannot find your car in a parking lot
- **Tiles and AirTags can help you find your stuff**

Agenda

- Tile Mate and the Tile App
- Other models of Tiles
- AirTags and the Find My app
- How to find your tiled or airtagged stuff
- Surreptitious tracking

About Bluetooth

- **Bluetooth** is a short-range two-way radio tech in which two digital devices are “paired”, permitting communication between them.
- In this presentation, **paired** means: your Tile or AirTag is recognized and ready to communicate with an app on your phone or tablet via Bluetooth.
- Today you will learn how to connect a new Tile or AirTag to the corresponding app on your phone.
- Bluetooth is short range, and can be diminished or blocked by terrain, buildings and metal.

No GPS built into Tiles or AirTags

The only way for an app to know the locale of a Tile or AirTag is to use GPS (Location Services) to save that phone or tablet locale when the app is within Bluetooth range of the Tile or AirTag.

1. Your smartphone or tablet must have Locations Services and Bluetooth turned on.
2. Your tiled or airtagged property must be close enough to the smart phone or tablet for Bluetooth communication.
3. In the case of Tile, your Tile app must be running.

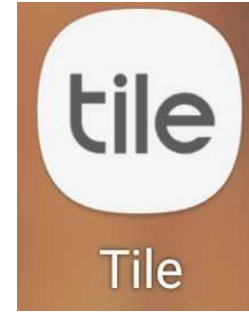
Tile Mate and the Tile app

Tile Mate

- My daughter gave me two Tile Mates for Fathers Day 2020.
- Tile Mate is 1.4 x 1.4 x 0.25 inches
- Replaceable Battery is CR1632
- Replace battery every year; the free Tile app will remind you to do that.



The Tile App



The free Tile app is on the App store for Android and iOS.

The app provides **three ways to find tiled property:**

(1) The Tile app can make your nearby Tile produce music, and show the signal strength of the Tile as you move around.

(2) The Tile app tells you the last known locale of your Tile.

(3) The Tile app lets you initiate a **global search** using *all* Tile apps on smart phones and tablets.

How to attach Tiles to your stuff

- Put a Tile inside luggage, wallet, purse, backpack, car, lens case. Close to the exterior.
- Use the Tile Mate **hole**: attach to camera strap, key ring, dog collar, child's belt loop.




Caribiner
Clip

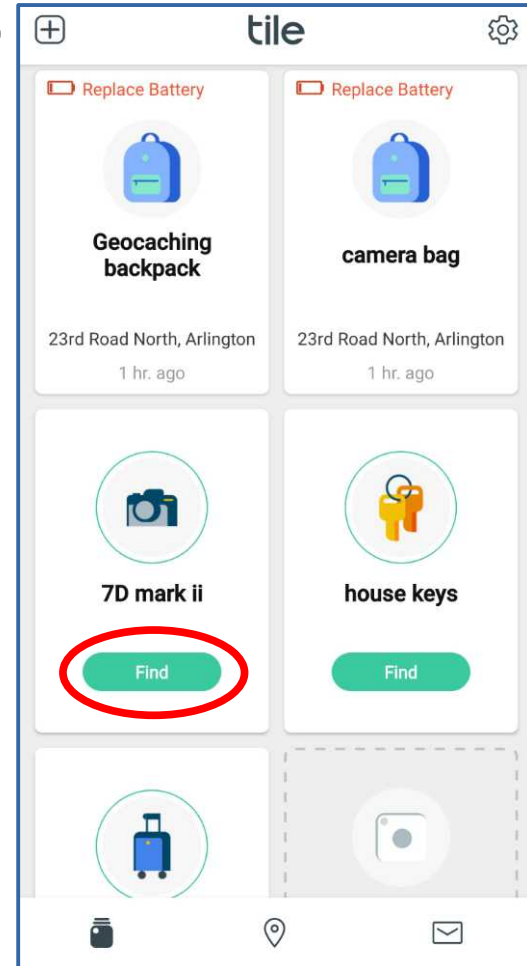
Split
Ring







Plastic
Tie

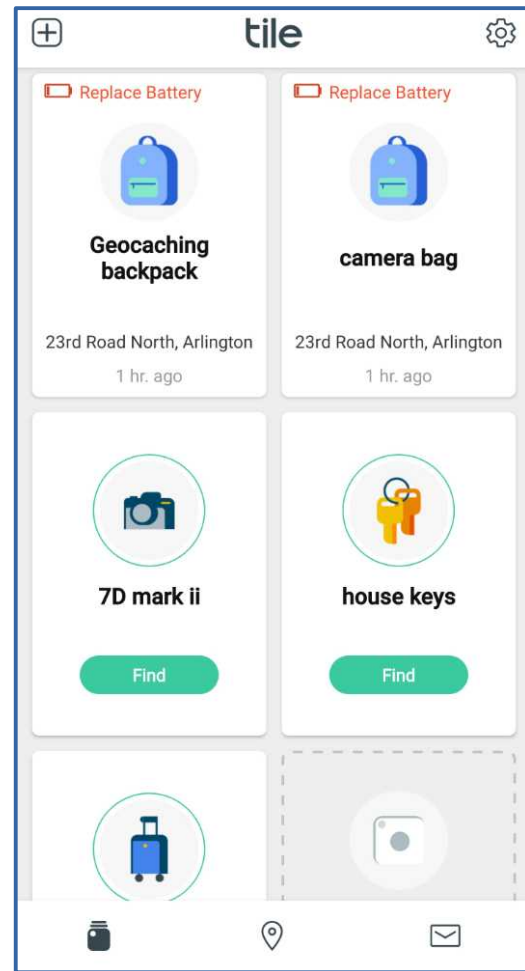
The Tile app main screen

- These images were captured using Tile app version 2.91.0 on an Android 11 phone.
- Shows a list of all paired Tiles. The list can be longer than the screen; scroll down to see more.
-  **button** means the tiled item is close enough for Bluetooth to work; tap the button to make the Tile play music.
- **Nearby** means the tiled item **was in Bluetooth range recently**.




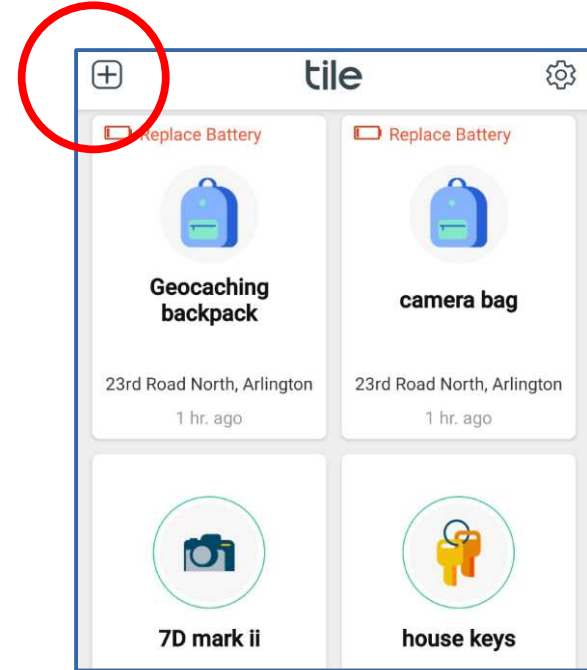
The Tile app buttons

- The  button lets you pair a new Tile with the Tile app's device.
- At the bottom, the  button displays a **map** showing last known locales of paired Tiles.
- The  button displays **Notifications**.
- The  button returns to this tile list screen.



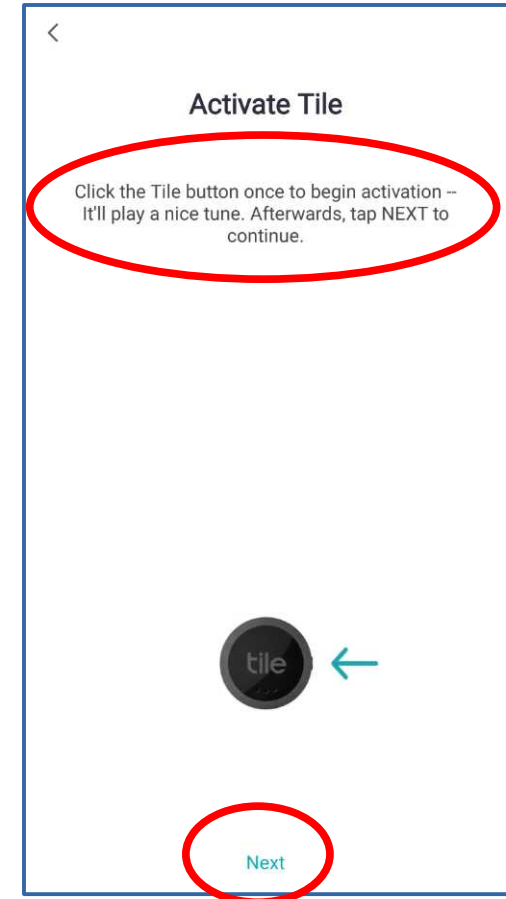
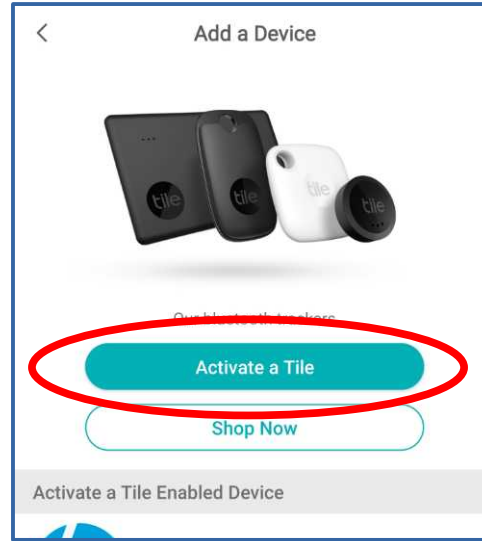
How to connect a new Tile to the Tile app

- Make sure Bluetooth and Location Services are enabled on your device.
- Keep your new Tile within reach.
- Start the Tile app on your portable device.
- Tap the  button in the upper left corner of the screen.



How to connect a new Tile to the Tile app

- The screen shows an **Activate a Tile button**. Tap that button.
- The screen tells you to tap the **Tile button on your new Tile**.
- After you do that, tap the **Next button** on the screen.



How to connect a new Tile to the Tile app

- The Tile app searches for your new Tile, and then displays **Activating Tile...**
- When done, the app displays **Great! Tile is now activated! Tap Next to Continue.**
- After you tap Next, the app displays a long list of use type choices for the new Tile: wallet, car etc.
- If you are unsure, select Other, and name the specific object TBD or Don't Know Yet. You can change the use type and name later.

Other Tile models

- **Tile Slim**, designed for wallets and purses.
- Form factor: credit card, thickness of two credit cards.
- Battery is said to last 3 years; battery is ***not*** replaceable.
- Other models as of 2022:
Tile Sticker (smaller, with adhesive back; battery is not replaceable) and **Tile Pro** (a bigger Tile Mate)



The 2022 Tile Mate

- The 2022 Tile Mate has a greater Bluetooth range than its predecessors.
- Tile says the 2022 Tile Mate battery will last 3 years.
- The 2022 Tile Mate battery is **not** replaceable.
- I bought two discounted 2020 Tile Mates after I found out that the new Tile Mate battery cannot be replaced.
- As of 2022, only one current Tile model includes a replaceable battery: the **Tile Pro**.

AirTags and the Find My app

AirTags

- Apple introduced AirTags in 2021.
- Replaceable battery is CR2032.
- The AirTag is a disk, 1.5 inches diameter, 0.25 inches thick, with no hole or strap.
- Apple and others sell straps and cases.
- AirTag can be located using both **iCloud.com** and the **Find My** app.
- Apple says its **global search** option uses *all* iPhones and iPads.



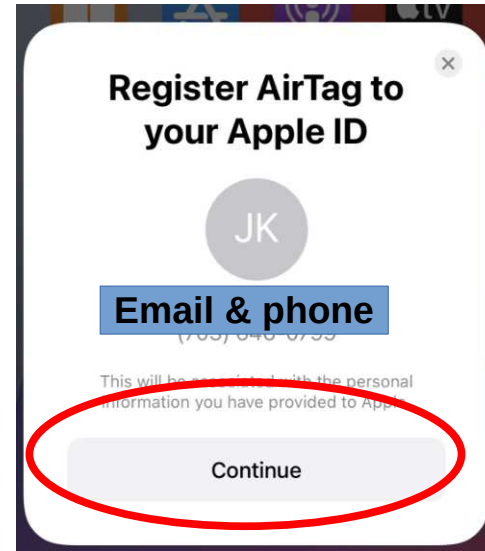
How to connect a new AirTag to your Apple ID

- Instructions inside the AirTag box:
Update to the latest iOS or iPadOS.
Turn on Bluetooth, then pull tab.
Hold near device and follow onscreen instructions.
- Also turn on **Location Services (GPS)**
- The tab wraps completely around the AirTag. That wraparound is not obvious when you open the box.



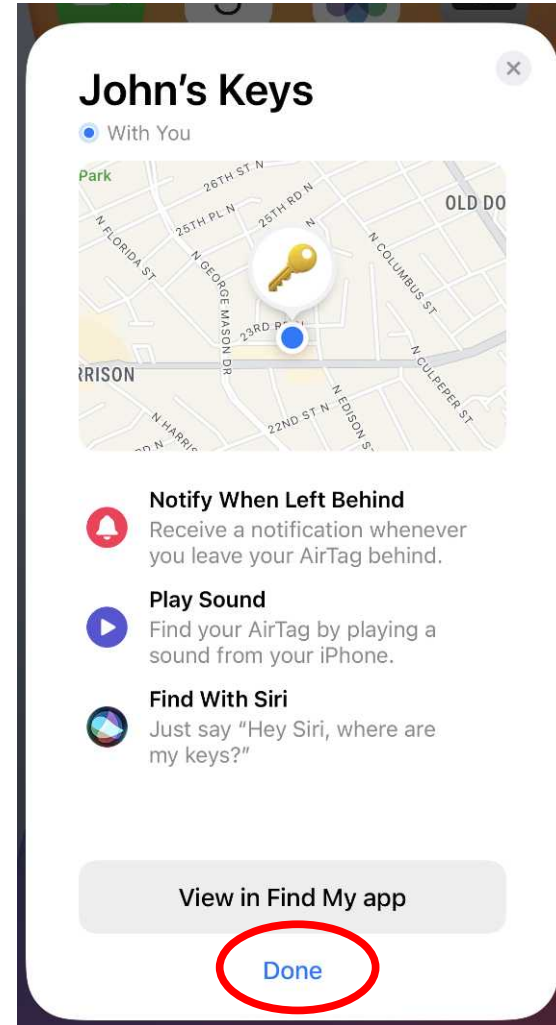
How to connect a new AirTag to your Apple ID

- The onscreen instructions for iOS 15.1:



How to connect a new AirTag to your Apple ID

- Final setup screen: tap **Done**



Hiding a Tile Mate or AirTag


- Some of my personal property is expensive and attractive to thieves.
- I hid a Tile Mate in the **bottom of the lens case** for each of my two most expensive lenses.
- I hid a Tile Slim in the **glove box** of my car.
- I hid a Tile Mate in **my luggage and my backpacks**, in pockets close to the exterior.
- I cannot hide a Tile Mate for my key ring or my cameras. The camera Tiles are attached to the camera straps.

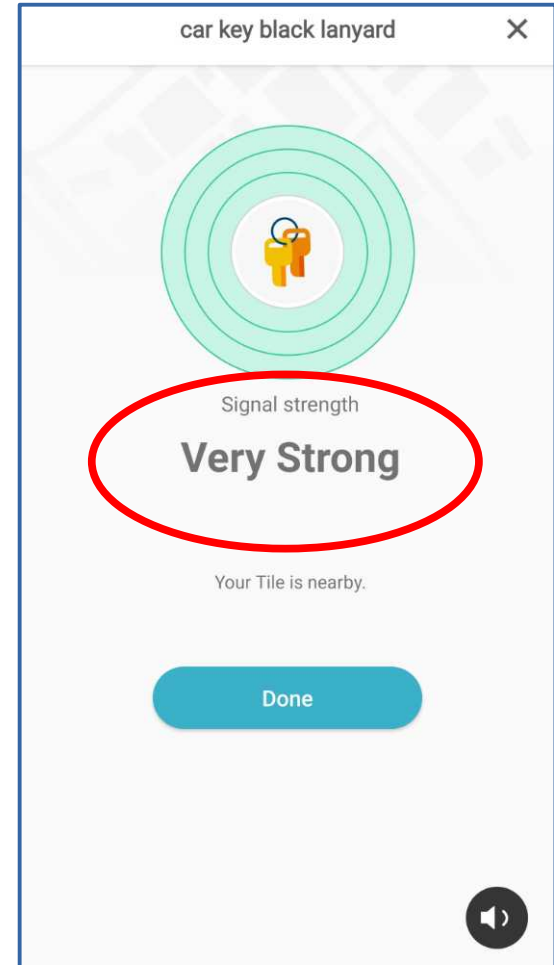
How to keep AirTag and Tile locales up to date in your app

- Based on my experience with Tiles and Android, I think it is necessary to keep the Location Services, Bluetooth, and Tile app running constantly, on Android.
- The Tile app on iOS says it can keep track of Tiles even when the app is not running, so long as the app has permission to use Location Services constantly, even when the app is not running.

FINDING TILES

Force your misplaced Tiled stuff to make a sound


- In the Tile app, tap the  button to display all your Tiles.
- You can find any Tile that displays a green Find button.
- Tap the green Find button of the Tile you want to find.
- Listen carefully for the sound.
- The app also displays **Bluetooth signal strength** for the Tile you want to find.

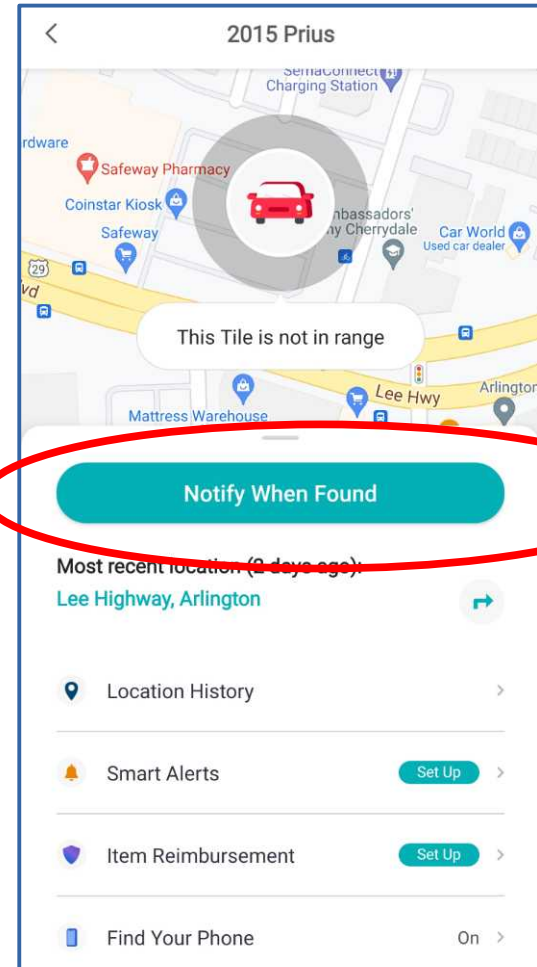


The Tile app Signal Strength meter

- The Signal Strength meter is very useful for anyone who has hearing difficulties or when the Tile you seek is muffled by its surroundings.
- Move around and watch the meter.
- If the signal strength decreases, then reverse course.
- If the signal strength increases, then keep going.

Tile: Start a Global Search

- In the Tile app, tap the  button to display all your Tiles.
- Tap the name of the Tile you want to search for; another screen appears.
- In that screen, tap the **Notify When Found** button.
- The apps of all Tile users will attempt to contact your Tile; when it is found, your app will notify you.



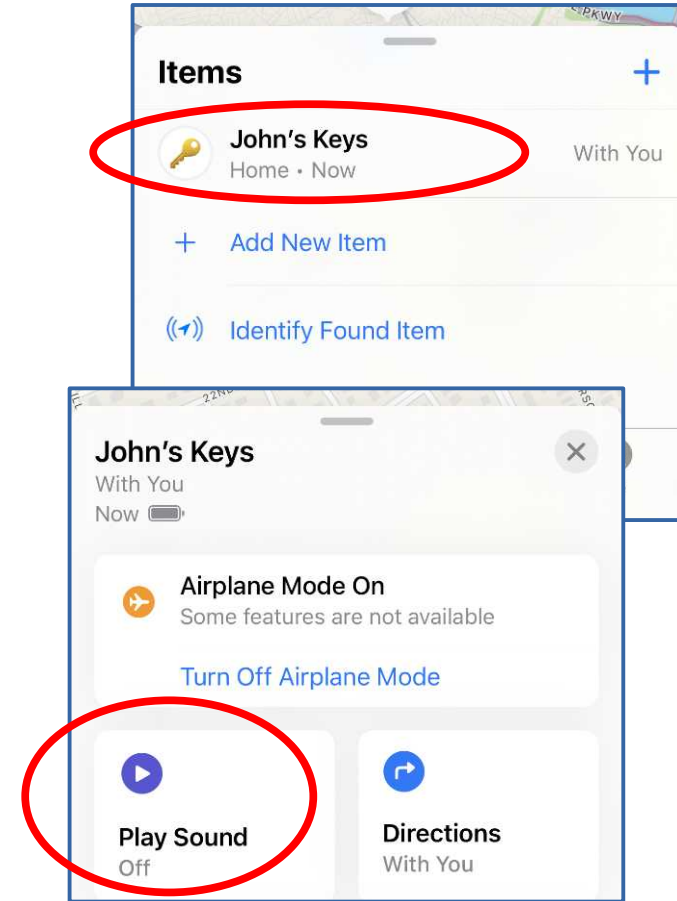
Find your Phone or Tablet using your Tile

- Double-tap the Tile button on any of your Tiles.
- The device on which you have installed the Tile app and connected that Tile will make a sound, if the device is in Bluetooth range.
- That sound is fairly loud.

FINDING AIRTAGS

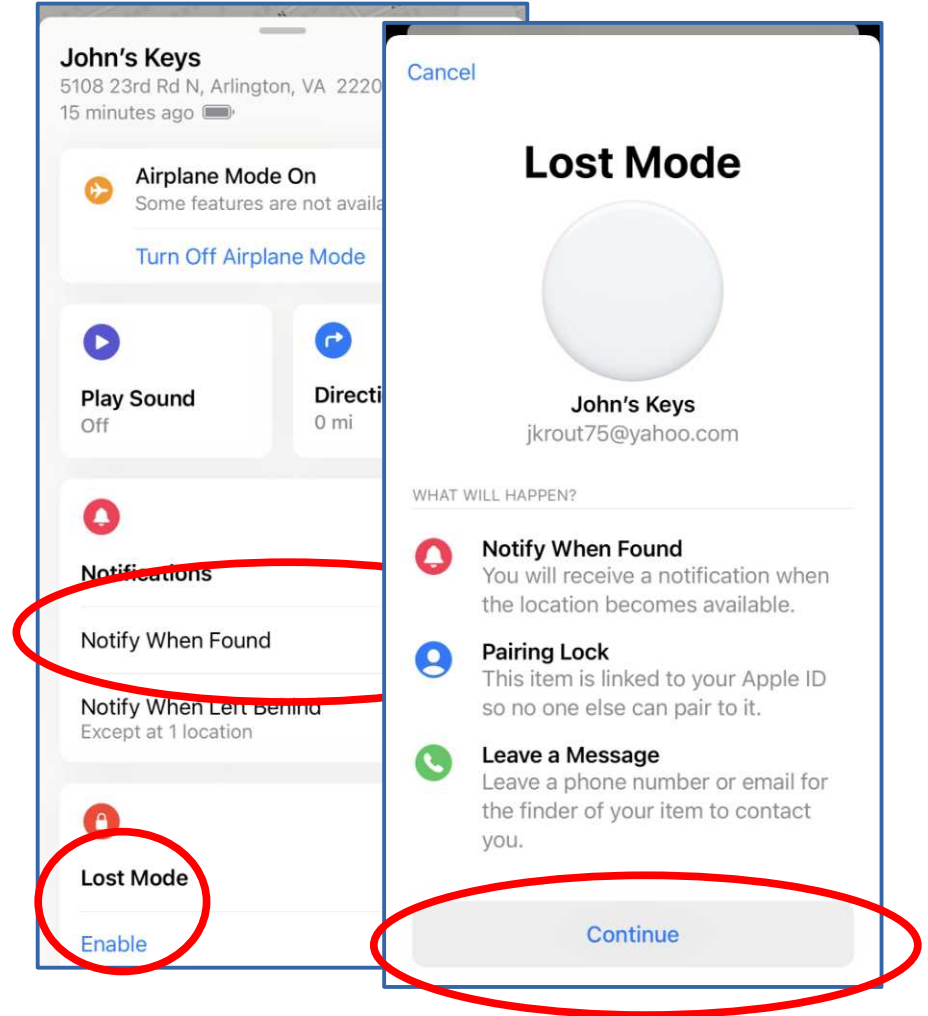
Force your AirTag to make a sound

- In the Find My app, tap the Items button at the bottom of the screen. The lists shows a list of AirTags registered to you.
- Tap the name of the AirTag you want to make a sound.
- The screen shows a **Play Sound button**; tap that button.
- The sound ends after about 30 seconds; you can restart it.



AirTag: Start a Global Search

- In the Find My app, tap the **Items** button.
- Tap the name of the AirTag you want to find.
- Under **Notifications**, turn on the **Notify when Found** switch.
- Under **Lost Mode**, tap the **Enable** button.
- The screen displays a list of actions and a **Continue** button. Tap that button.



SURREPTITIOUS TRACKING

Surreptitious Tracking

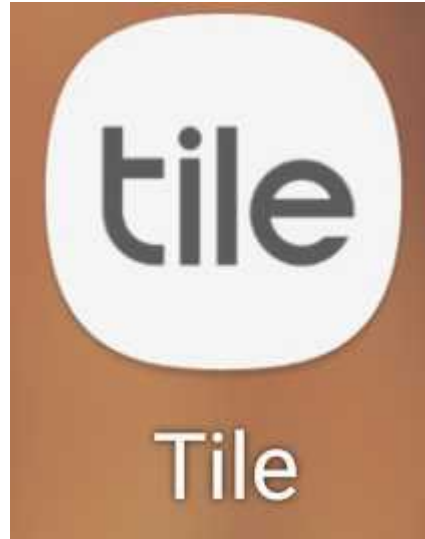
- Some general media have reported Tiles and Airtags have been attached to a car or stashed in a backpack by a bad apple ***without the car or backpack owner knowing of it***, to be tracked using Global Search.
- iOS devices now tells an iOS user when an unknown AirTag is moving around with them.

Surreptitious Tracking

- Tile has not addressed that problem yet, however ...
- Try the Android **Wunderfind** app or iOS **Bluetooth Inspector** app.



How to get the Tile app



PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

- My next public presentation:
Thursday January 20, 2021, 7 PM ET
COMPLETE ROBOCALL DEFENSE
updated for Android 11 and iOS 15
Computer Users of Erie PA www.cuerie.com
Send an email request for
January 20 Zoom meeting details to:
cuerie@gmail.com

Scan the QR code to
Write the email



THE END