

The technology behind Google Street View

To compile panoramic images of city streets for its maps site Google uses a fleet of vehicles equipped with cameras and antennas, which scan local WiFi networks. WiFi data is used to provide location-based services for phones that do not have GPS

Google
Maps



ANTENNA: Mobile phone 3G/GSM and WiFi network data collection

COMPUTER: Tracks area covered and indicates remaining hard disk space

GPS RECEIVER
Pairs image and data position with map

CAMERA RIG
5-megapixel cameras

Top: Fish eye camera provides 290-degree vertical view

Sides: Eight cameras provide 360-degree horizontal view

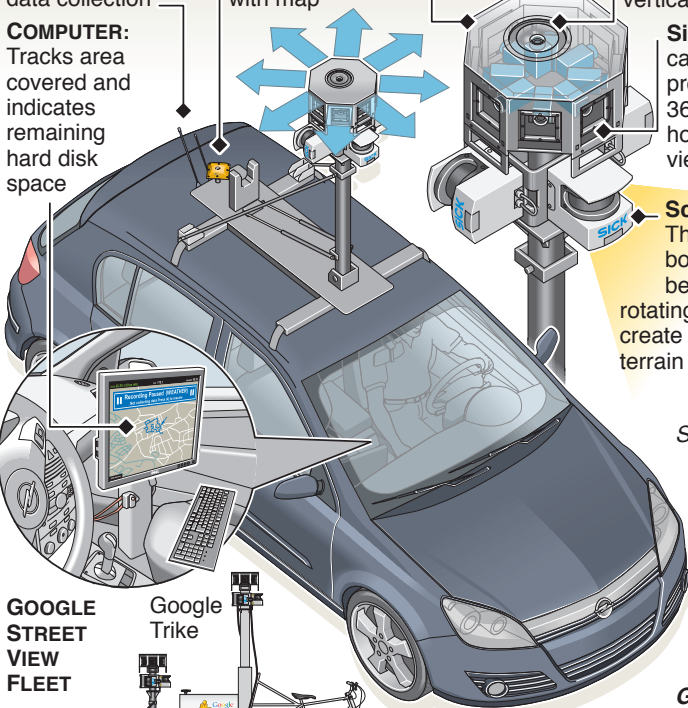
Scanners: Three units bounce laser beams off rotating mirrors to create 3D map of terrain up to 30m

SECURITY: Special face recognition software to blur people's faces and number-plates to protect privacy

Google has been attacked for collecting private data from unprotected WiFi networks

Source: Google

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GOOGLE STREET VIEW FLEET

Google Trike

Car

Snowmobile

