

Click "Download PDF" above to activate the article's links.

## Finding your iPhone, Android, and more



Apple  
"Find My"



Google  
"Find My Device"



Apple  
AirTag tracker



Pebblebee  
card tracker

Some months ago, I had a pleasant picnic lunch with a cousin in a local park. When we got up to leave, I inadvertently left my iPhone on the picnic table or bench. A half-hour later, I realized that I did not have my phone and raced back to the park. However, it was gone.

Logging into iCloud on my home PC, I tried to locate it using Apple's "Find My" tool. It did not show the location of my iPhone. I tried for several days and then proceeded to purchase a new iPhone. After setting it up, I decided to give "Find My" one more attempt, from my new iPhone.

It indicated that my iPhone was at a specific address. I drove there and knocked on the door. A lady answered. I politely, but firmly, requested my iPhone. She claimed that she did not know anything about it. My body language communicated that I was not satisfied. She then stepped back and made a phone call, proceeding to whisper in Spanish. I knew enough Spanish to follow the conversation.

The lady was speaking to her son, querying him about the iPhone. She then went to his room and retrieved my iPhone, none the worse for wear. I thanked her and left with a terrific sense of accomplishment. I was able to return the new iPhone to Costco for a full refund. Although I was successful, on reflection, it might not have been the wisest thing for me to go up to a strange house and demand the return of my property.

While I cannot recommend this approach for retrieving lost property, I do strongly encourage Apple and Android users to turn on "Find My" (Apple), or "Find My Device" (Google/Android), and then periodically practice using the feature from another device. Had I not activated, and exercised, the "Find My" feature on my iPhone, it would not have been available when I needed it.

For instructions on setting up the "Find My" feature on your iPhone (or another Apple device), go to: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/102648>. For instructions on setting up the "Find My Device" on your Android, go to: <https://support.google.com/android/answer/6160491?hl=en>. Here is another helpful article: <https://www.foxnews.com/tech/how-find-your-lost-iphone>.

I have a long-standing habit of misplacing things. So, I purchased a set of [Apple AirTag](#) trackers, placing one on my keyring and one in my laptop computer bag. [Pebblebee](#) offers similar trackers, including one shaped like a credit card, fit for a wallet. Pebblebee trackers work with both Apple and Android devices. I am now able to locate my wallet, keys, and laptop from my iPhone, and my iPhone from my PC.

When I was a child, my mother would tell me that I should thank G-d every day that my head was attached (or I would surely lose it). Little has changed. But technology can now help.

*Bro. Hal Bookbinder*

[hal.bookbinder@ucla.edu](mailto:hal.bookbinder@ucla.edu)

Bro. Bookbinder is a retired Information technology director and university instructor. This is the 99<sup>th</sup> article in this series. All articles can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/SafeComputingArticles>.