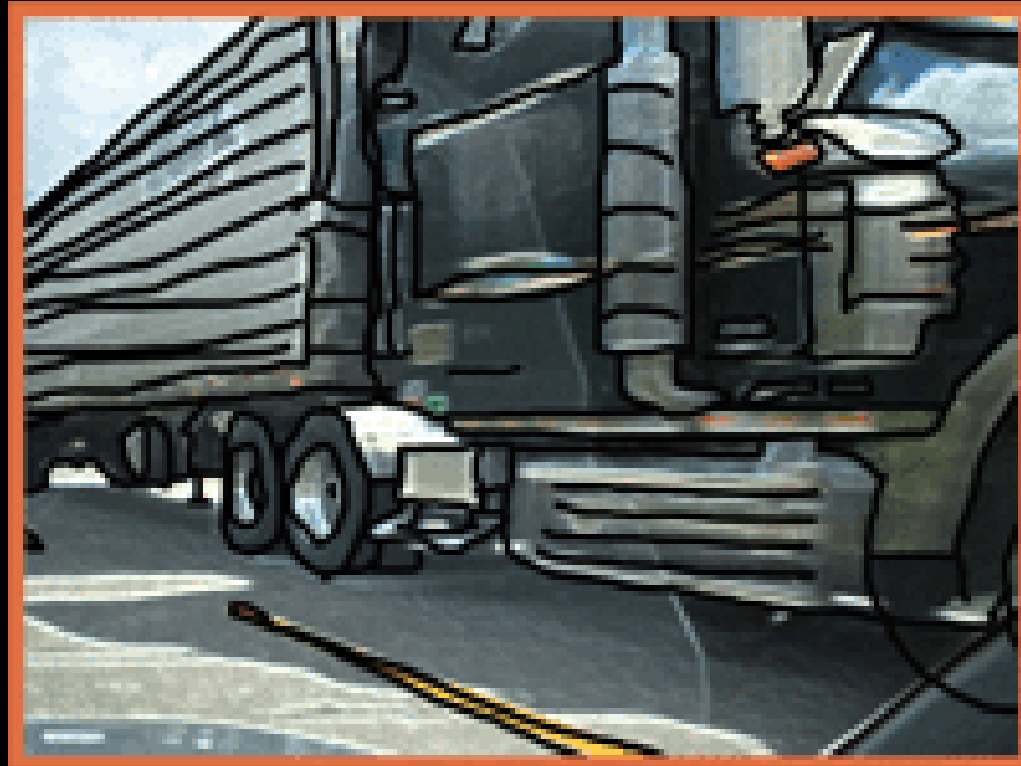


# EXCHANGE 2006



Nancy Nisbet, Artist & Asst. Professor  
[nnisbet@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:nnisbet@interchange.ubc.ca)  
[www.finearts.ubc.ca/nisbet](http://www.finearts.ubc.ca/nisbet)

**Whatever else** might be said for the beginning of the twenty-first century, there appears to have been renewed a time of war, disagreement and inequity around the world. Histories tell us, all too well, that this is nothing new. It was not long ago that there were two Super-Powers in the world. Slowly the clock hands were wound back from the annihilation threatened by the Cold War. Today we see the pendulum swing again. The enormous power imbalances marked by the unsustainable system of a single Super-Power (notably propped up by other governments) may once more topple the tectonic plates of global politics. Perhaps it is time to leave the studio and sharpen artistic practice toward political engagement and social resistance.

**N.Nisbet**

## Exchange 2006 Description

- **collect** and inventory all my personal belongings
- **label** them with RFID tags
- **load** them into a transport truck
- **drive** across Canada, down the east coast of the United States, around Mexico, and up the west coast of the United States back to Vancouver
- **exchange** my things with people along the way

## Exchange 2006 Artistic Goals

- **To perform a drive** around Canada, the United States and Mexico in a transport truck and freely trading my personal belongings with people along the way.
- **To consciously place myself outside** of the expected private or commercial categories with respect to international border crossing declarations through the personal (not-for-sale) contents of the commercial truck.
- **To raise awareness** and create performative friction and resistance surrounding political trade agreements and issues of surveillance, national security, and identity authentication.
- **To develop personal relationships** and cross-border solidarity for pressing political, economic, and technological issues.

## Exchange 2006 Objectives

*Political:* To engage in and offer artistic resistance to international economic agreements such as the *North American Free Trade Agreement*.

*Technological:* To critique and resist *Radio Frequency Identification* (RFID) technology both for its implementation as a response to fears of terrorism and national security, and its potential widespread use in identity authentication.

*Identity:* To disrupt the political/economic correlation between collected data and personal identity by dispersing and exchanging personal belongings as data/identity elements.



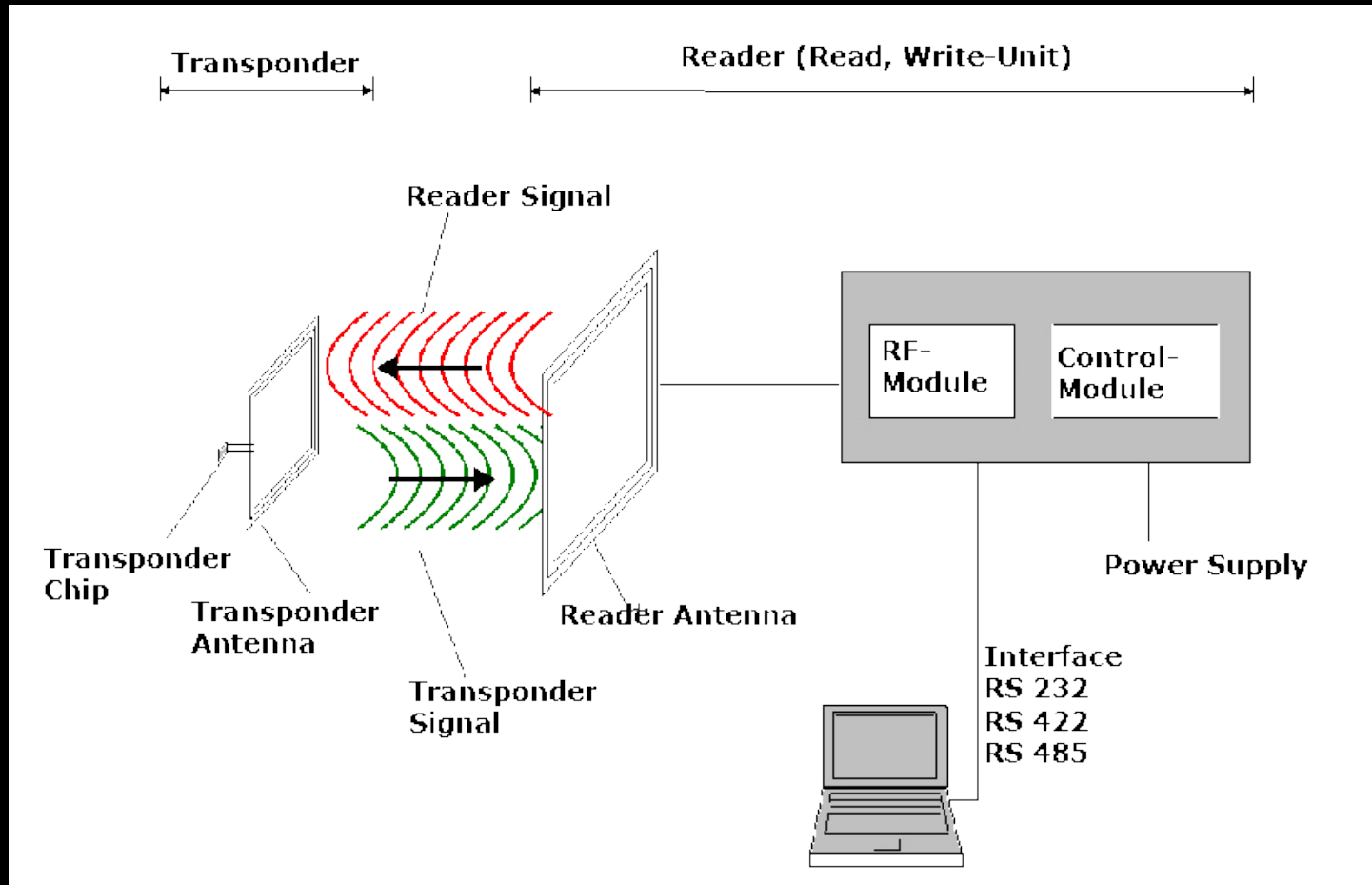
Route for  
6 month  
road trip

May 2006 -  
Nov. 2006

# 'Surveillance' Technology used

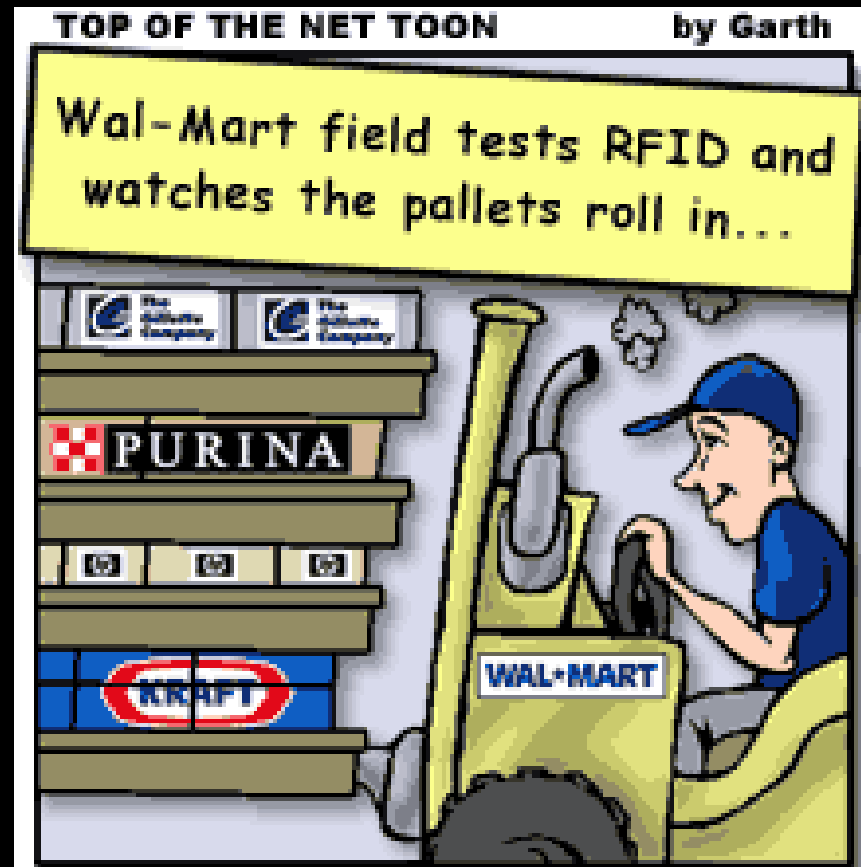
- Radio Frequency Identification
  - Global Positioning System

# RFID - is a wireless identification system





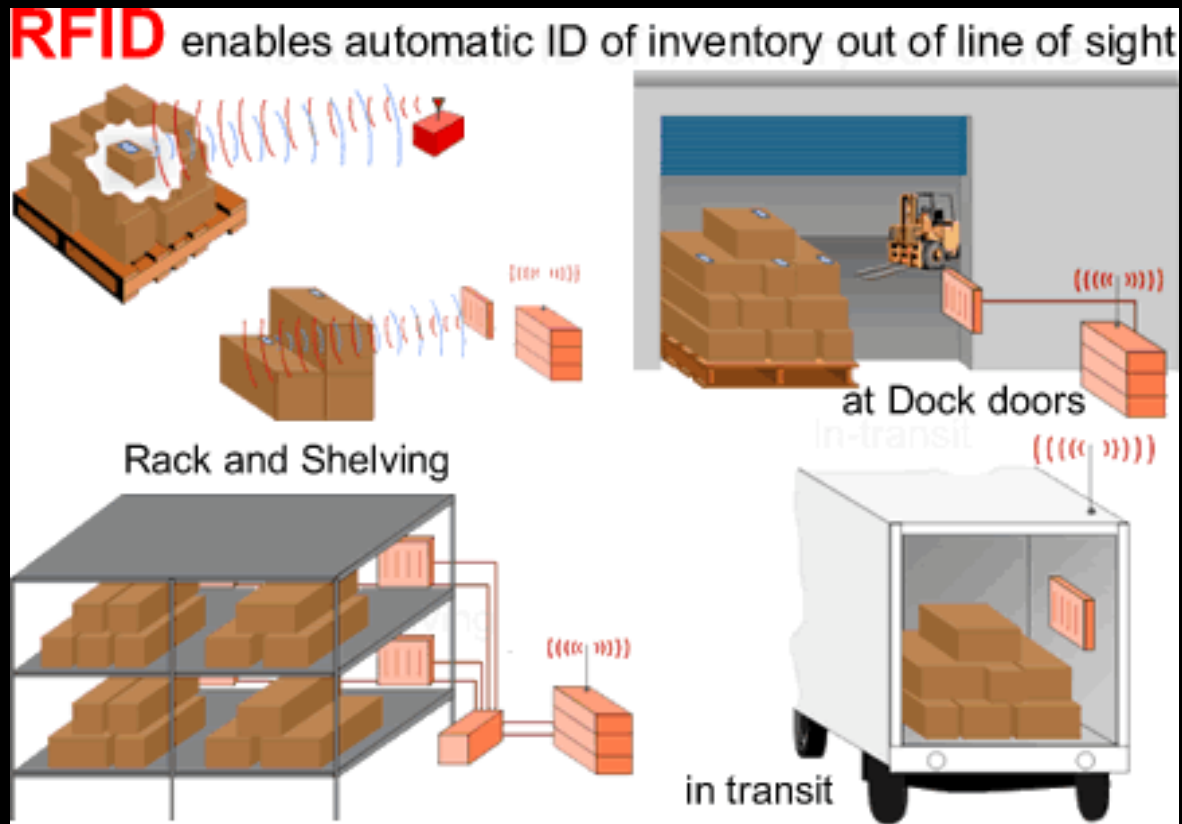
**RFID** - is a 'non-line of sight' system



**RFID** - provides unique vs generic identification



# RFID - may increase inventory efficiency



# RFID - raises some privacy issues

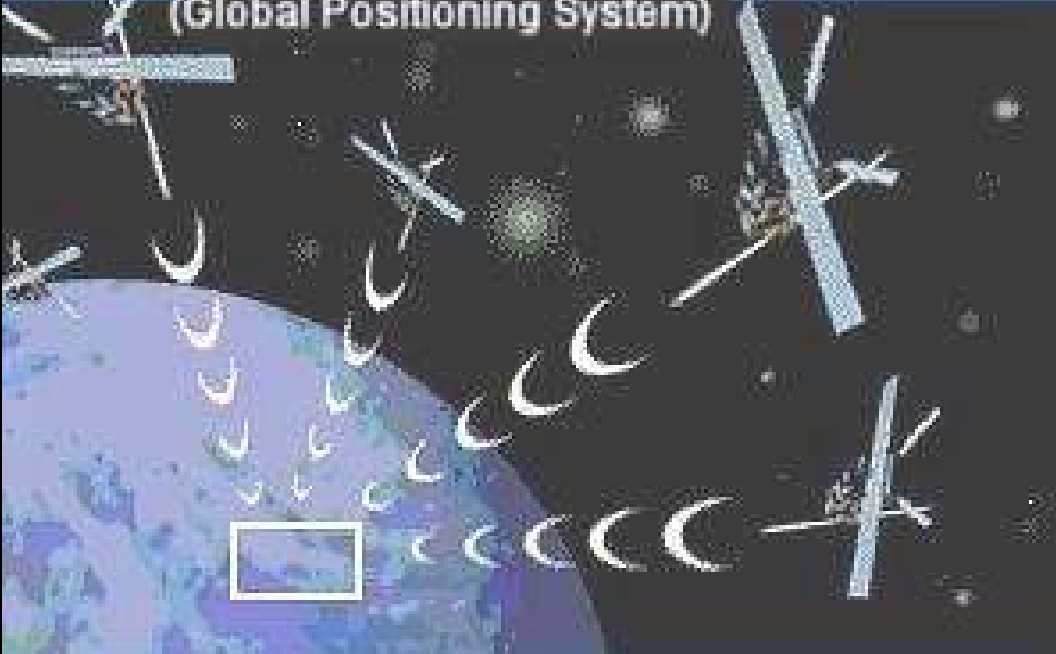


*"Would you like to purchase a videotape of your transaction?"*

See also:  
Gilette, Benneton,  
WallMart, Electronic  
Privacy Information  
Center

# GPS

**How GPS works**  
(Global Positioning System)



The diagram shows a blue and white Earth with a white rectangular box on its surface. Several white satellite icons are shown in orbit around the Earth, with lines representing signals being transmitted from the satellites to the Earth's surface. The background is a dark space with some stars.


The Earth is continually circled by 24 GPS satellites. At least four are always visible from any one point. Your GPS receiver listens for signals which give the satellites' location and the exact time of sending. Triangulation then gives your latitude and longitude to within 100m.

The truck will be tracked  
Via GPS and current  
Location can be found  
On-line.

Exchanges will be  
Documented with GPS  
Coordinates of the  
exchange.

# GPS & surveillance

**Alarm Received**

 **Alarm**

**B05 - Wendell**

**Unit ID:** 12345678

**Date:** 06/21/02

**Time:** 09:12:48

**Location:**

2600 - 2699  
47TH ST

Acknowledge

See also :  
Geofencing,  
“On-Star”,  
Mobile phone GPS

*Exchange* confronts free trade. In contrast to multinational business, this performance trades personal belongings through individual negotiation.

*Exchange* questions the value of RFID purchased at the cost of personal privacy. Is loss of control of privacy worth the touted advancements to security?

*Exchange* resists expectations of a fixed identity connected to geography. Crossing borders and dispersing belongings questions the benefit of international trade agreements such as NAFTA.

*Exchange* aims to build international community and solidarity through creative critique.

# INTERESTED?

- Want to program a self-contained Exchange Event?
- Want to participate in Exchange?
- Need more information?

CONTACT: Nancy Nisbet  
[www.finearts.ubc.ca/nisbet](http://www.finearts.ubc.ca/nisbet)