

EXCHANGE 2006



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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.



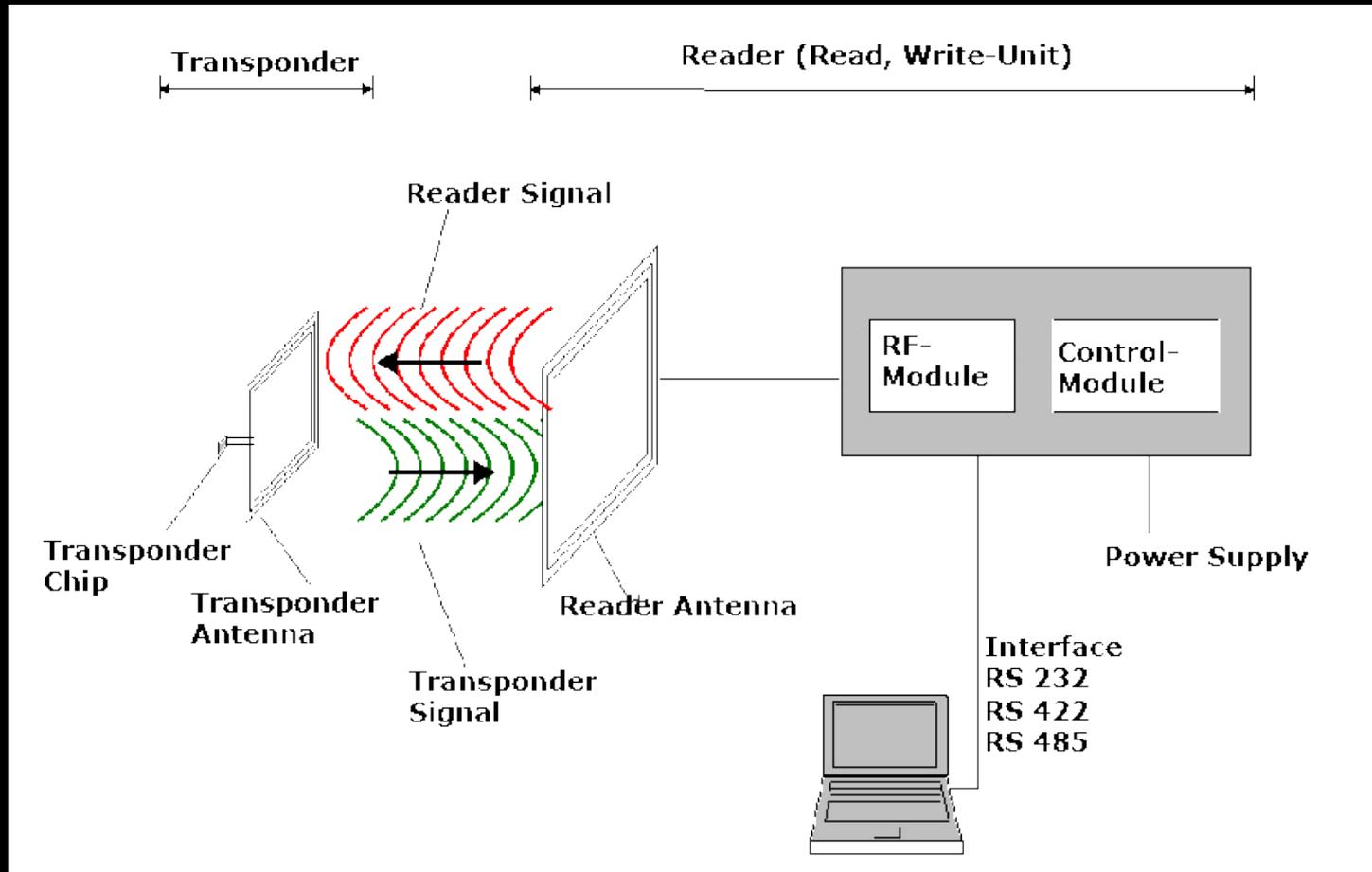
Route for
6 month
road trip

May 2006 -
Nov. 2006

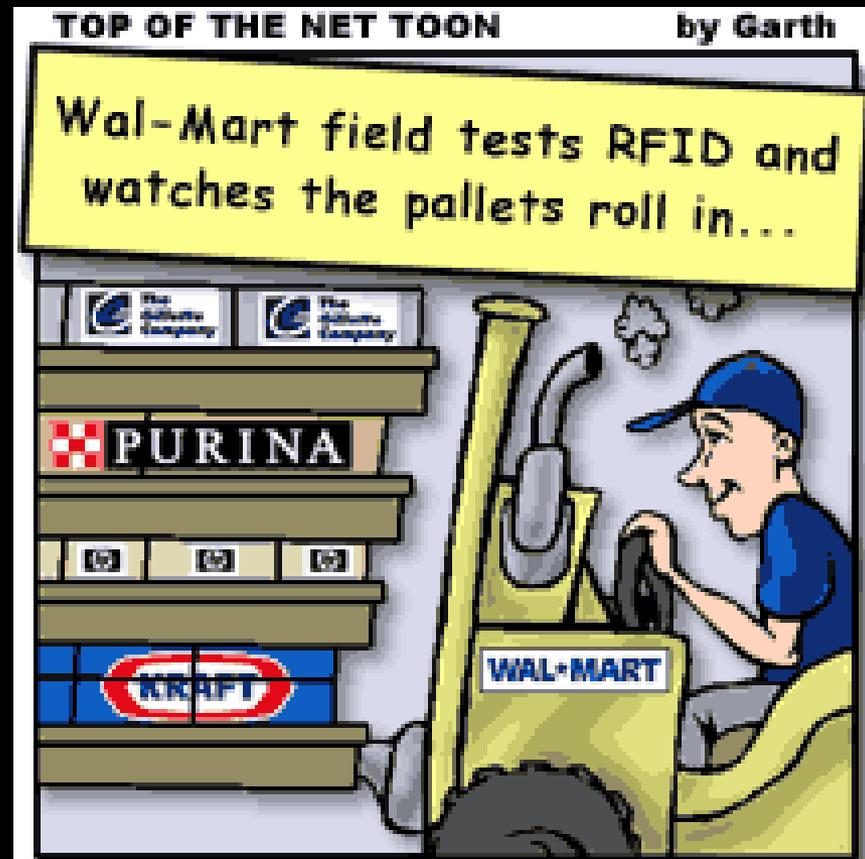
'Surveillance' Technology used

- Radio Frequency Identification
 - Global Positioning System

RFID - is a wireless identification system



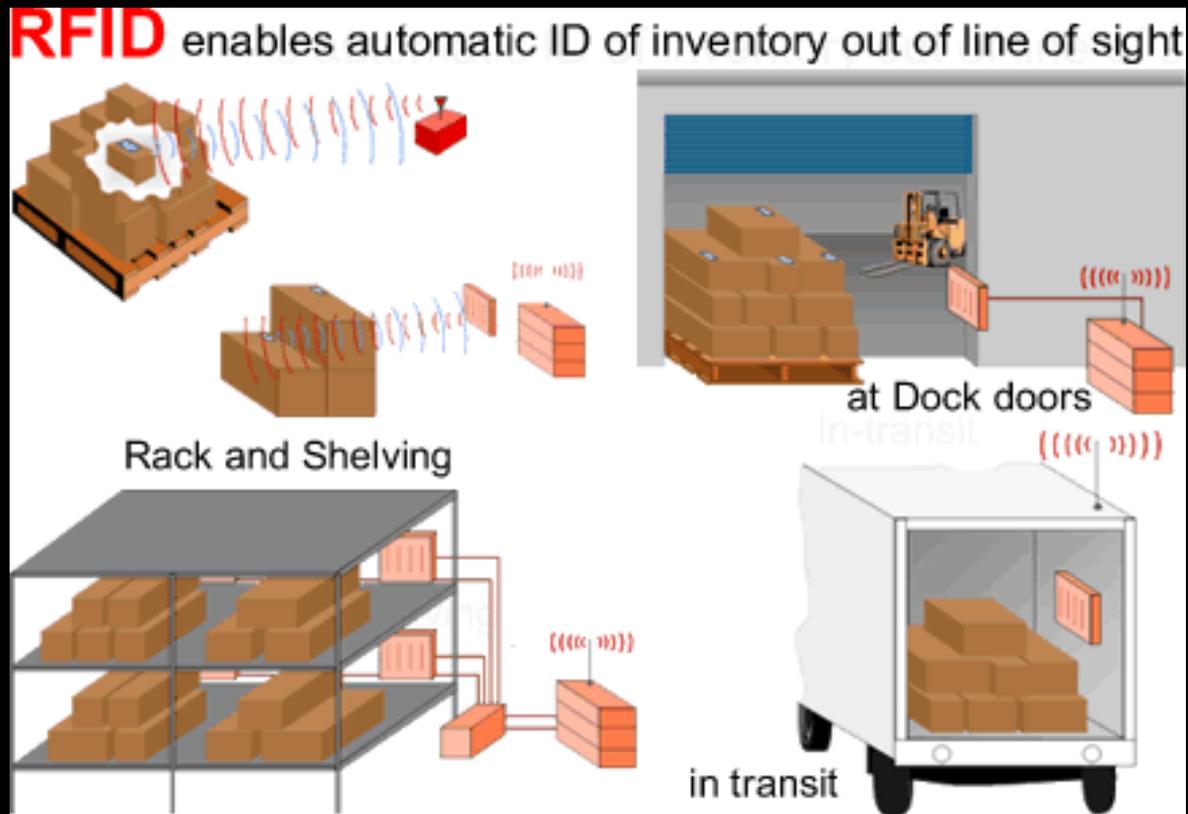
RFID - is a 'non-line of sight' system



RFID - provides unique vs generic identification



RFID - may increase inventory efficiency



RFID - raises some privacy issues

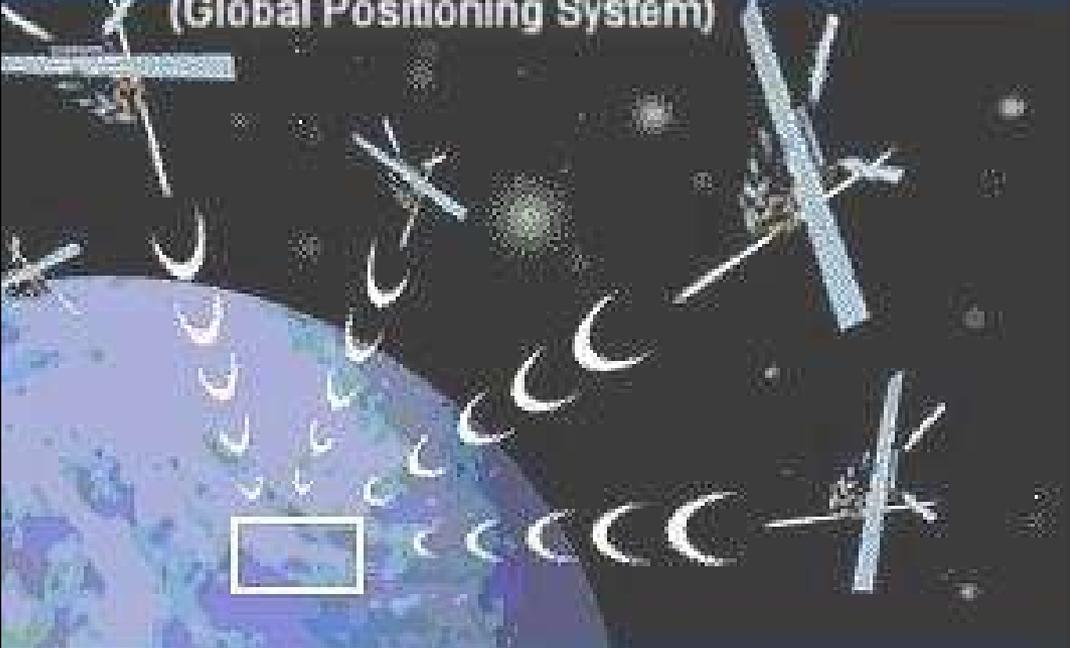


"Would you like to purchase a videotape of your transaction?"

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. Some satellites are emitting white curved lines representing signals. The background is black with small white 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?

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