



CELLGUARDIANS

Abstract

CellGuardians is a new Android mobile app that eliminates distracted driving caused by cell phones. Uniquely, it automatically disables driver-distracting functions when the user starts driving and has an escape mode for emergencies. CellGuardians helps break the habit of using cellphones while driving. CellGuardians also has an add-on feature that allows parents/managers oversee the safe or unsafe driving habits of drivers. CellGuardians is ideal tech solutions for parents, teen drivers, seniors, and employees who drive for work to support safe driving habits.

Problem

Distracted driving causes significant hardships to individuals and employers. In 2018, more than 2,841 people were killed by distracted driving and an estimated 400,000 people were injured by a distracted driver.¹ Among those killed, 1,730 were drivers, 605 were passengers, 400 were pedestrians, and 77 were bicyclists.¹ Car crashes are the leading cause for death for teens and employees.² In 2013, work-related car crashes cost employers \$25 billion.² Distracted driving cost the U.S. economy over \$129 billion a year in property and personal losses.¹

Current distracted driving mitigation requires a user to manually place their phone in a “Do Not Disturb” state. While this can be effective, it requires a conscious effort to turn off notifications and/or put the phone away.

Solution

CellGuardians is available on Android phones in the Google Play store. The app uses the phone’s accelerometer sensors to detect motion consistent with driving a vehicle. Once the app determines that the user is driving, it places a screen on top of all other running processes, blocking distracting apps. CellGuardians does this automatically. The user does not have to remember to manually turn off any notifications or put the phone away.

The Guardian concept refers to the parent, employer, or manager who oversees use of the application installed on their teen or work drivers cell phones. The Guardian can see all installed applications on the user’s phone and place them in an allowed or disallowed state. Applications that are allowed will be able to be accessed on the user’s CellGuardians protected mode screen. For example, a parent may want to allow a GPS mapping app to be used while driving. These app features would be accessible to the user while in protected mode, while all other applications, which include popular messaging and social media apps like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Messenger, will be disabled to prevent distracted driving.

A core feature of CellGuardians is the notification process that occurs between the user’s phone and the Guardian. If a user decides to exit the protected mode while driving, an SMS or email notification is sent to the Guardian. This alerts the Guardian that the user is in a moving vehicle and has disabled the protected mode. If the user is a passenger or rider, then the phone can still be used normally. Notifications are still sent to the Guardian, so they can monitor the user’s phone use while inside a vehicle. A Guardian dashboard web app allows the Guardian to see what applications are installed on the user’s phone, and to see when the user manually disabled protected mode while in a vehicle.

CellGuardians takes minutes to register and install. First, the parent or manager registers as a Guardian and receives a license code. Next, the Guardian purchases and installs the app through the Google Play store. Finally, the Guardian selects which apps to allow in protected mode on the Guardian dashboard.

Conclusion

CellGuardians is a simple, cost-effective solution to saving lives and preventing personal and property loss caused by distracted driving. It is available as a subscription for each device for either \$1 per month or \$9.99 per year.

CellGuardians is a patented product of MI Technical Solutions, Inc., a woman-owned small business, in Chesapeake, Virginia. CellGuardians is a member of the National Safety Council and their Road to Zero campaign.

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¹ National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA)

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



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