

J. Partanen. *LDS finder: a GPS based person locating service. Gerontechnology 2009;8(2):116; doi: 10.4017/gt.2009.08.02.010.00* Location Data Systems LDS Oy is a Finnish service provider working in co-operation with a GPS tracking device manufacturer Tracker Security Oy¹. LDS does not produce the locating software or manufacture the device, but purchases these from Tracker Security. The role of LDS is then to provide its customers with a fully tailored person locating service, including ready-to-use product, user training and end-user support. The name of the service LDS offers its customers is LDS FINDER. The purpose of LDS is to offer high quality living for the elderly in a safe way. With the help of this product a memory-disabled or developmentally disabled individual can have strolls and perform daily activities without the constant presence of a nurse or caretaker, and live longer at home. The positioning service is a multifunction safety solution designed for easy implementation. In addition the device acts as an emergency phone with an integrated alarm button. LDS FINDER has several customer groups, the main group being in the domain of nursing and caretaking. The service has been found beneficial for home care and nursing homes dealing with memory-disabled and developmentally disabled individuals. **Technical description** LDS FINDER person locating service consists of the positioning device and positioning software. Each device is configured to be used via Internet or mobile phone. In case of Internet configuration, the user gets login and password information from LDS. In case of mobile phone configuration, LDS provides the user with the mobile phone software used for locating and a mobile phone, if needed. The positioning device properties include: geofencing / area alarm, two-way talking connection, integrated alarm button and alarm messages to mobile phone: power off, low battery, button alarm. **User studies** The service has been in use by Finnish nursing homes, municipalities and individual caretakers since 2007. Due to its recent implementation no studies of its performance are available. However, many users have expressed their gratitude towards LDS for providing such a service. In addition, the system has successfully located memory-disabled individuals who have wandered off. According to Mrs. Annikki Kiljunen the system has been a great help for her and her husband and she does not know how they have managed before without it. Mrs. Kiljunen uses the system to locate her husband Simo, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's a few years ago. Simo has always enjoyed hiking in nature. With the help of LDS FINDER Simo can continue his walks and if he stays out longer than usually, Mrs. Kiljunen can call their children and ask them to locate her husband and bring him back home².

References

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2. Luukkonen M. Ei enää eksyksissä [Never lost again]. Suomussalmi: Ylä-Kainuu; 2009 (January 9)

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LDS positioning device GTS-200