

Amazon has a new fitness tracker and wants to get personal

August 28 2020, by Joseph Pisani



Amazon, the company that made shopping from a La-Z-Boy possible, is

going into the fitness-tracking business.

The company started selling a wrist band Thursday that tracks workouts, sleep and body fat. It can also listen to your voice and tell you when you sounded happy or sad.

Amazon might already know what books you like and how often you need [toilet paper](#), but the fitness tracker may give the company a wealth of new information about its customers, although Amazon says it won't use the for marketing or advertisements or to sell you stuff.

Jon Reily, global chief strategy officer at Dentsu Commerce and a former Amazon executive, says that the microphones in the tracker could help it listen to how people talk, which could make its voice assistant Alexa smarter by detecting moods and providing better responses.

To measure [body fat](#), Amazon is asking users to get personal, scanning their body with their smartphone cameras while wearing boxers or a sports bra with bike shorts.

Data has been a concern with other fitness trackers, including FitBit, which tech giant Google is in the process of buying. Regulators in Europe are investigating how the deal could give Google more data to use for personalized ads, furthering its dominate position in the online ad market.

Amazon said health data is encrypted so others can't see, and users can turn off the microphone if they wish.

The [fitness tracker](#), called Amazon Halo, costs \$100 and has no screen. There's also a monthly \$4 charge to use all of its features. Those who don't pay up can still track steps, sleep times and heart rates.

Seattle-based Amazon has been trying to score a hit in the competitive wearable tech business, which is dominated in the U.S. by FitBit and the Apple Watch. Last year, Amazon started selling wireless earbuds, finger rings and prescription eyeglasses with Alexa built in, but none have proven to be hits so far.

More information: [amazon.com/haloband](https://www.amazon.com/haloband)

© 2020 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Amazon has a new fitness tracker and wants to get personal (2020, August 28) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2020-08-amazon-tracker-personal.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.