THE HANSEN REPORT ON AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRONICS

Editorial Notes

Dear Reader,

When I shop for a new car, I definitely want one that is connected, and because it is connected, I want it to have excellent cybersecurity. But when I Google, "Which cars have the best cybersecurity?," I come up empty. Nobody is making recommendations. Consumer Reports' widely read auto issue grades cars based on their reliability, road-test results and advanced safety features, but the magazine doesn't yet offer grades for cybersecurity. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety assesses cars based on how safely they perform but doesn't consider the threats posed by vehicles with poor cybersecurity.

Euro NCAP's 2025 Roadmap, published in 2017, included a small section on cybersecurity, noting that "a system that is not secure [from cyberattacks] is not safe." According to the Roadmap, "cybersecurity is not, per se, of direct relevance to Euro NCAP," but it did say that they will monitor how the industry is developing cybersecurity standards and responding to them. Consumer confidence in the security of connected cars is vital, and it could be enhanced with measures such as cybersecurity accreditation from trusted experts, and collaboration with the Automotive Information Sharing Analysis Center (Auto-ISAC) community.

Two new UN regulations on Cybersecurity and Software Updates, which establish clear performance and audit requirements for car manufacturers, were adopted in June 2020, and became effective

in January 2021. In the European Union, these new regulations will be mandatory for all new vehicle types from July 2022, and will become mandatory for all new vehicles produced from July 2024. The UN requirements set a baseline for managing, mitigating, detecting and responding to cyber risks. That is a positive development. And some car-makers will likely go beyond the baseline, developing systems and management approaches that respond to cybersecurity risks more effectively than others. There is an opportunity here for organizations that make best-car recommendations to collaborate with cybersecurity firms to assess cars based on their cybersecurity and keep those assessments up to date. The cybersecurity picture changes quickly.

Sincerely Yours,

Paul Hansen
Editor

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Abraham-Lincoln-Straße 46 ·
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Managing Directors: Stefanie Burgmaier,
Andreas Funk, Joachim Krieger

Director Production: Ulrike Drechsler

Head of Media Sales: Volker Heselndenz

Editor in Chief: Dr. Alexander Heintzel

Editors: Paul Hansen, Robert Unseld

Head of Sales and Marketing: Jens Fischer

Production / Layout:
Kerstin Bröderlin, Heiko Köllner

Offprints: Martin Leopold,
Medien-Kontor Leopold, Kreuzstr. 1,
53489 Sinzig · phone +49 2642/90 75 96
leopold@medien-kontor.de

Sales Management Automotive:

Rouwen Bastian,
phone +49 611 7878-399 ·
fax +49 611 7878-78399
rouwen.bastian@springernature.com

Display Ad Manager:

Carmen Calvo-Zeller,
phone +49 611 7878-616 ·
fax +49 611 7878-78616
carmen.calvo-zeller@springernature.com