

Is Your Car Spying on You?

What It Might Know and What to Do About It

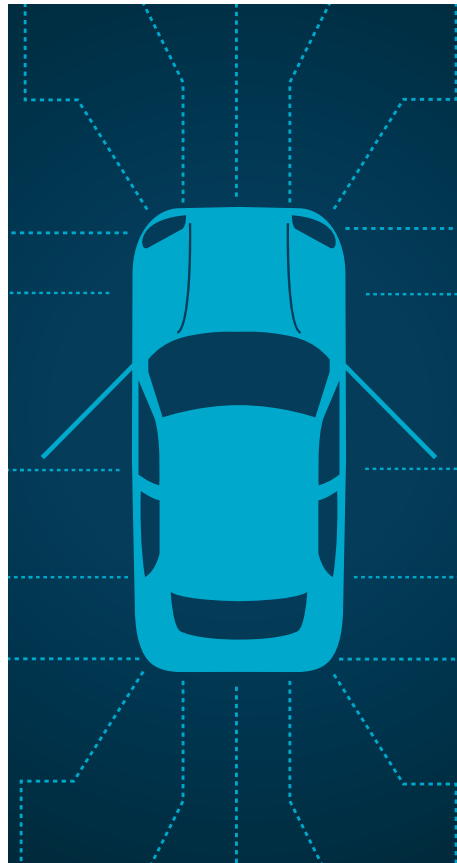
Smart devices are everywhere, collecting all sorts of information about us. For instance, did you know your car or truck might be gathering data and tracking what you're up to?

Many vehicles on the road are equipped with technology that collects information about a car owner's driving style, mobile phone data, and the vehicle's location and trip details. If that's not unnerving enough, some manufacturers share or sell the data they collect to other parties, such as insurance companies, the government, and data brokers. Companies providing entertainment, navigation, insurance, and other apps that people use when driving also collect, analyze, and sometimes capitalize on data.

So how do you know what information your car is collecting and what can you do about it?

Request a Vehicle Privacy Report

Privacy4Cars, a technology company focused on data



privacy issues across the automotive industry, has recently developed a free online tool for concerned consumers.

After you enter your car's vehicle identification number (VIN) at vehicleprivacyreport.com, the Vehicle Privacy Report tool provides information about what data your car's manufacturer might collect and share based on their data collection policies.

For example:

- **Personal details** (such as name, address, email address, driver's license number)
- **Location data** (where the car is presently and where it has been)
- **Voice recordings** from the vehicle's voice assistant
- **Biometrics** (such as voice patterns, fingerprints, and facial features) collected by the car's camera or microphone
- **Data from connected mobile devices** (e.g., phone contacts, text messages, and call records)

Delete Data Tracking From Your Car

In addition to helping drivers understand what data their cars are gathering, Privacy4Cars has also created an app (available for iOS and Android devices) that lets you delete your personal information from the vehicles you drove or connected your digital devices to.

Examples of the information it allows you to purge include:

- Navigation history

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The Lowdown on Your Car's LITTLE BLACK BOX

Airplanes aren't the only mode of transportation equipped with event data recorders (EDRs)—a.k.a. "black boxes." Most vehicles have them, too. EDRs have been mandatory in all new vehicles since 2014, and many older cars and trucks have them, too.

What's an EDR's Purpose?

An EDR records moments leading up to a crash, giving investigators information about what might have caused the accident. Its primary purpose is to provide insights that can help manufacturers better design vehicles to prevent collisions.

Examples of the sorts of data collected by an EDR include:

- Speed
- Brake application
- Seatbelt use
- Throttle position
- Steering angle
- Airbag deployment

Typically, the black box is installed under the vehicle's driver's seat or central console between the front seats.

Who Can Access Its Information?

Not just anyone can access a car's black box data, and it requires a sophisticated crash data retrieval system to do so. The National Highway Safety Administration, law enforcement, and car manufacturers can download the data from an EDR. Some states have enacted laws restricting the allowable circumstances for extracting EDR data and imposing other rules to safeguard the information gathered by black boxes in cars and trucks.

Does Your Car Have an EDR?

Under Federal Law, vehicles manufactured after September 1, 2012 must have a notice in their owner's manual if they have an EDR. So, if your car or truck was made after that date, consult your manual to find out if your vehicle has one. If you have an older vehicle, contact the manufacturer to verify whether it's equipped with a black box.



SOURCES: rslone.com/blog/general/does-my-car-have-a-black-box, exchange.aaa.com/automotive/automotive-trends/event-data-recorder

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- Phonebook
- Call logs
- Text messages
- IDs and biometrics
- Home address
- Passwords
- Garage door codes
- Vehicle credentials
- Medical and financial information
- Third-party apps
- Users' profiles

The app provides step-by-step instructions, and Privacy4Cars recommends using it after using a rental car, carshare, or rideshare and before selling, trading, or turning in a vehicle. To download it, visit privacy4cars.com/personal-use/delete-data-from-a-car.

Other Tips for Protecting Your Privacy

- **Turn off your phone's Bluetooth connection** to your car when you're not driving or riding in your vehicle.
- **Don't download your mobile phone contacts** to the car's phone system.
- **Store the address of a nearby public place—instead of your actual home address**—in your GPS or car's navigation system.
- **If you use a portable GPS unit**, don't leave it in your car.

SOURCES:

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BEST CAR PUNS

- **What has four wheels and flies?**
A garbage truck.
- **What has 10 letters and starts with G-A-S?**
Automobile.
- **Who can drive all their customers away and still make money?**
Taxi drivers.
- **I ran my Subi into a lake.**
Now it's a Scubaru.
- **Why can't motorcycles hold themselves up?**
Because they are two-tired.
- **What do you say to a frog who needs a ride?**
Hop in.
- **What's a car's favorite meal?**
Brake-fast.
- **What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down?**
It gets toad!
- **When is a car not a car?**
When it turns into a driveway.

From
<https://thoughtcatalog.com/january-nelson/2018/07/car-puns/>



- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 lemon, juiced and zested
- 2 teaspoons dried tarragon
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 16 spears fresh asparagus, trimmed (thin spears work best)
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken cutlets (thin sliced breasts)
- 4 slices provolone cheese
- 1 cup panko bread crumbs

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 475 degrees. Grease a baking dish. In a bowl, mix together the mayonnaise, Dijon mustard, lemon juice, lemon zest, tarragon, salt and pepper until the mixture is well combined. Reserve half of dressing in a separate bowl to serve with chicken. (Dressing is also excellent on fish)
- Place 1 slice of provolone on each chicken breast, and top the cheese with 4 asparagus spears per breast. Roll the chicken

breasts around the asparagus and cheese. Place, seam sides down, in the prepared baking dish. With a pastry brush, apply a coating of the mayonnaise mixture to each chicken breast, and sprinkle each with panko crumbs, pressing the crumbs into the chicken to make a coating.

- Bake in the preheated oven until the crumbs are browned and the chicken juices run clear, about 25 minutes.

Adapted from allrecipes.com

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