FACTSHEET

Is it the end of OBD-II? If so, what comes next?

Some predict that the end of OBD-II is near

"The current Vehicle Communications Interface (VCI) — the On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) underdash port – is outdated. While users can easily access direct vehicle data, software and other information by plugging in a scan tool or other diagnostic device, the industry agrees the current architecture and associated protocols no longer meet modern demands."
Source: Telematics Talk

"There is already some indication that OEMs are hoping to restrict OBD-II access (in a few cases, they have made it physically difficult to keep a dongle-type device plugged into the port during vehicle operation)."
Source: MAPSA

Two new vehicle communication interfaces that are contenders for replacing the OBD-II.

Secure Vehicle Interface (SVI)
Requires "the gateway module to be installed internally onboard vehicles, which would use security protocols to govern access either via the current under dash port (not recommended by SAE), a new access port or via wireless communications."
Source: Telematics Talk

Extended Vehicle
Requires "gateway security measures for initial access to be located outside of the vehicle within the automaker's cloud server."
Source: Telematics Talk

Security through obscurity

It would seem logical to assert that SVI, as the more open interface, would be the less secure of the two. The term "security through obscurity" is often used to describe how closed interfaces achieve security. Interestingly, the case has been made that open interfaces are more secure because of their – well - openness.

"This open design principle is echoed by the United States Department of Defense. The DoD notes that open design makes it easier for third parties analogous to owners or aftermarket manufacturers in the fleet field-to identify and fix security flaws. In contrast, a closed system relies only upon a small core development team to spot and correct issues. History has demonstrated that these core teams often cannot keep up with security threats. For this reason, according to the DoD, "'Security by Obscurity' is widely denigrated."
Source: Geotab

Stay tuned for more information and to learn how you can involved in the access to vehicle data conversation.

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