

**Unsettled Legal  
Issues Facing Data in  
Autonomous, Connected,  
Electric, and Shared  
Vehicles**

Jennifer A. Dukarski

# Unsettled Legal Issues Facing Data in Autonomous, Connected, Electric, and Shared Vehicles

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# contents

## About the Editor

### Unsettled Legal Issues Facing Data in Autonomous, Connected, Electric, and Shared Vehicles . . . . . 3

Introduction . . . . .	<u>4</u>
<i>Types of Data in Automated, Connected, Electric, and Shared Vehicles . . . . .</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>Players in the Data Space . . . . .</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>Understanding the Data Flow in Vehicles . . . . .</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Is It Individualized Data or Aggregated Data? . . . . .</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Understanding a Vehicle's or Component's Data . . . . .</i>	<u>6</u>

### The Foundational Question: Who Owns the Data? . . . . . 7

<i>Can Data Ownership Be Found in Traditional Intellectual Property Rights? . . . . .</i>	<u>7</u>
Patent Law . . . . .	<u>7</u>
Copyright Law . . . . .	<u>7</u>
Trade Secret Law . . . . .	<u>8</u>
<i>Data Ownership Under Statute . . . . .</i>	<u>8</u>
Driver Privacy Act of 2015 . . . . .	<u>9</u>
State Laws . . . . .	<u>9</u>
<i>Implied or Express Ownership Under Contract . . . . .</i>	<u>9</u>
Example: Tesla . . . . .	<u>9</u>
Example: Nissan . . . . .	<u>10</u>
Example: Ford . . . . .	<u>11</u>
<i>Conclusions . . . . .</i>	<u>11</u>

### Current State of US Automotive Data Law and Legislation . . . . . 11

<i>Federal Laws . . . . .</i>	<u>12</u>
Federal Driver Privacy Protection Act . . . . .	<u>12</u>
Driver Privacy Act of 2015 . . . . .	<u>12</u>
Proposed Federal Legislation . . . . .	<u>12</u>
<i>State Laws . . . . .</i>	<u>13</u>
<i>Conclusions . . . . .</i>	<u>13</u>

### Current State of Automotive Data-related Regulations: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration . . . . . 14

<i>The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Role in Rulemaking . . . . .</i>	<u>14</u>
Preliminary Statement of Policy Concerning Automated Vehicles . . . . .	<u>14</u>

September 20, 2016, Federal Autonomous Vehicle Policy 1.0 . . . . .	<u>15</u>
September 12, 2017, Federal Autonomous Vehicle Policy 2.0 . . . . .	<u>16</u>
December 23, 2019, Federal Autonomous Vehicle Policy 3.0 . . . . .	<u>16</u>
January 8, 2020, Federal Autonomous Vehicle Policy 4.0 . . . . .	<u>16</u>
<i>Conclusions . . . . .</i>	<u>16</u>

### Furthering the Regulatory Framework: The Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communications Commission . . . . . 16

<i>Connected Car Workshop . . . . .</i>	<u>17</u>
<i>"Protecting Consumer Privacy in the Era of Rapid Change" . . . . .</i>	<u>17</u>
<i>The FCC and the 5.9 GHz Spectrum . . . . .</i>	<u>17</u>
<i>Conclusions . . . . .</i>	<u>17</u>

### Litigation and Enforcement Actions in Automotive Data . . . . . 17

<i>Cahen v. Toyota . . . . .</i>	<u>18</u>
<i>Flynn v. FCA . . . . .</i>	<u>18</u>
<i>Conclusions . . . . .</i>	<u>18</u>

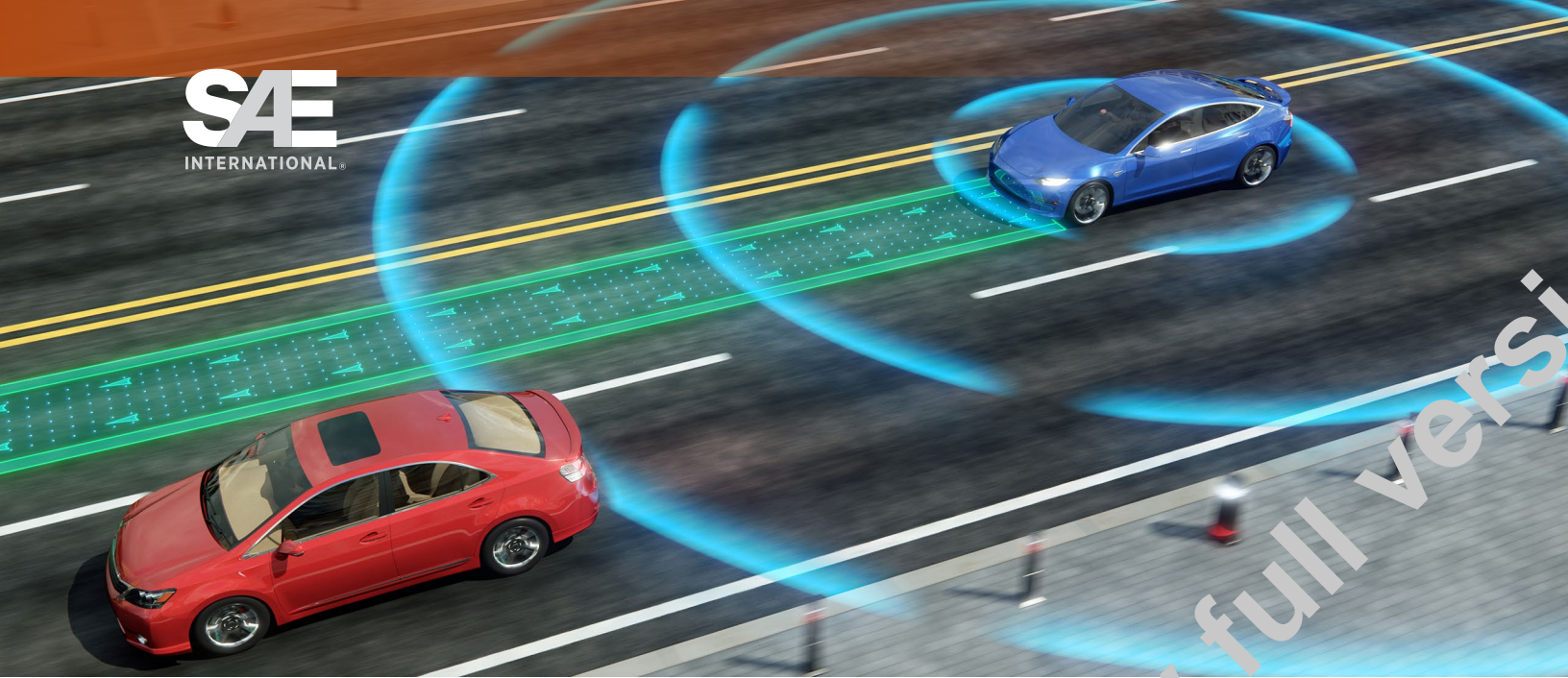
### Standards and Industry Sharing Organizations . . . . . 18

<i>Automotive Information Sharing and Analysis Center . . . . .</i>	<u>19</u>
<i>International Organization for Standardization and SAE International Standard (ISO/SAE) 21434 . . . . .</i>	<u>19</u>
<i>Conclusions . . . . .</i>	<u>19</u>

### Unsettled Issues in Automotive Data: Meeting Consumer Data Privacy and Data Protection Expectations and Regulatory Requirements . . . . . 19

<i>Emergence of Protections for the Right of Privacy . . . . .</i>	<u>19</u>
<i>Fair Information Practices or Principles . . . . .</i>	<u>20</u>
<i>State Data Privacy Laws . . . . .</i>	<u>21</u>
Practical Applications: Does the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 Apply to Automotive Companies? . . . . .	<u>21</u>

Is Vehicle Data Personal or Not Under the California Consumer Privacy Act? .....	22	Unsettled Issues in Automotive Data: Facial Recognition .....	25
<i>Automotive Data Privacy Advocates'</i> <i>Positions</i> .....	22	<i>Legal Framework Surrounding Facial</i> <i>Recognition</i> .....	26
Practical Applications: Event Data Recorder Data .....	22	<i>Conclusions</i> .....	26
<i>How Do the Existing Laws and Frameworks</i> <i>Influence Automotive Data Collection?</i> .....	23	Unsettled Issues in Automotive Data: The Impact of Foreign Data Protection Law on Automotive Data .....	26
Automotive Sector Strategies: The Consumer Privacy Principles for Vehicle Technologies .....	23	<i>The General Data Protection Regulation</i> .....	26
<i>Conclusions</i> .....	23	Basics of the General Data Protection Regulation .....	27
Unsettled Issues in Automotive Data: Protecting Information from Cybersecurity Threats .....	23	<i>What This Means to Data Collection in</i> <i>Connected and Autonomous Vehicles</i> .....	27
<i>October 24, 2016, Cybersecurity Best</i> <i>Practices for Modern Vehicles</i> .....	23	Consent .....	27
<i>2016 Cybersecurity Guidelines</i> .....	24	Legitimate Interests .....	27
<i>Cybersecurity Best Practices for the Safety</i> <i>of Modern Vehicles 2020 Draft</i> .....	24	In-Vehicle Fleet Settings .....	28
<i>Conclusions</i> .....	24	Processing Consumer Personal Data .....	28
Unsettled Issues in Automotive Data: Biometric Data .....	25	<i>Other European Automotive Data Guidance</i> .....	28
<i>Protection Under Federal Law: Is the Health</i> <i>Insurance Portability and Accountability Act</i> <i>Applicable?</i> .....	25	<i>Conclusions</i> .....	30
<i>Protection Under State Law: Biometric</i> <i>Privacy Laws</i> .....	25	Summary .....	30
<i>Conclusions</i> .....	25	<i>SAE EDGE Research Reports</i> .....	30
		<i>Next Steps for Legal Issues Facing Data</i> <i>in Autonomous, Connected, Electric, and</i> <i>Shared Vehicles</i> .....	30
		<i>Recommendations</i> .....	31
		<i>Definitions</i> .....	31
		<i>Acknowledgments</i> .....	32
		<i>References</i> .....	32
		<i>Contact Information</i> .....	35



# Unsettled Legal Issues Facing Data in Autonomous, Connected, Electric, and Shared Vehicles

## Abstract

This SAE EDGE™ Research Report explores the world of data in automated, connected, electric, and shared vehicles. Modern automobiles collect around 25 gigabytes of data per hour, and autonomous vehicles are expected to generate more than 100 times that number. In comparison, the Apollo Guidance Computer assisting in the moon launches had only a 32-kilobyte hard disk. Without question, the breadth of in-vehicle data has opened new possibilities and new challenges. The potential for accessing this data has led many entrepreneurs to claim that data is more valuable than even the vehicle itself. These intrepid data miners seek to explore business opportunities in predictive maintenance, pay-as-you-drive features, and infrastructure services. But at the same time, the use of data comes with inherent challenges including accessibility, ownership, security, and privacy.

This report will examine some of the pressing questions on the minds of both industry and consumers. Who owns the data and how can it be used? What are the regulatory regimes that impact vehicular data use? Is the US close to harmonizing with other nations in the automotive data privacy? And will the risks of hackers lead to the “zombie car apocalypse” (feared by those watching movies like *The Fate of the Furious*) or to another avenue for ransomware? As vehicles continue to generate data, lawmakers and companies are racing to understand the legal parameters and to address the risks posed by collection, processing, and storage issues.

NOTE: SAE EDGE™ Research Reports are intended to identify and illuminate key issues in emerging, but still unsettled, technologies of interest to the mobility industry. The goal of SAE EDGE™ Research Reports is to stimulate discussion and work in the hope of promoting and speeding resolution of identified issues. These reports are not intended to resolve the challenges they identify or close any topic to further scrutiny.

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