

Bumble Bee, Herbie & K.I.T.T. Cruise into a Bar

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I learn a lot being the editor of *Wireless Design and Development (WDD)*. I have the benefit to see, first-hand, a variety of innovative concepts that seem only plausible in the movies. But with each technological advancement, ideas such as flying cars, hover boards, and auto-lace shoes seem to be getting closer to becoming a reality.

One concept in particular, connected cars, is receiving a lot of attention from design engineers and OEMs due to the safety possibilities and travel efficiencies Vehicle-to-vehicle communication (V2V) presents. This technology gives cars the ability to exchange data and interact with one another and their surrounding environments to help reduce accidents and crash-related fatalities.

Current vehicle designs already incorporate wireless technologies (i.e. GPS location systems, satellite radio, various monitoring sensors, and voice-activated controls), and they are getting closer to complete autonomous travel. Several companies and universities have taken the initiative to produce [facial recognition technologies](#) [1], [V2V communication integration frameworks](#) [2], and safety systems that enable the vehicle to have an [enhanced 360° view of its surroundings](#) [3].

I haven't quite decided if I'm a supporter of autonomous driving. Not having control over my car is a scary thought (some may disagree). Putting trust into a machine with advanced technology is an even scarier one - we're all too familiar with what happens in *A Space Odyssey*.

Driving on a highway at 70+ mph without your hands on the wheels is like riding a rollercoaster - you're having complete faith that the design is 100 percent fail-proof. But, there is always the possibility that something can go terribly wrong, and it sometimes does.

I admit that I won't be the first person in line to try a driverless car, but I do appreciate the groundbreaking technology and the safety potential. Even though we may never see Bumble Bee Camaros, Herbie Bugs, and K.I.T.T. TransAms, it will be

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interesting to see what OEMs will come up with in the next 5 to 10 years, which makes me wonder: What would happen if Bumble Bee, Herbie, and K.I.T.T cruised into a bar?

Whose your favortie talking car? What technologies are important to incorporate into connected cars for them to be successful? Comment below or send your input to meaghan.ziemba@advantagemedia.com [4].

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Links:

[1] <http://bit.ly/1jox4rn>

[2] <http://bit.ly/1mSdRqd>

[3] <http://bit.ly/1qzRQhs>

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