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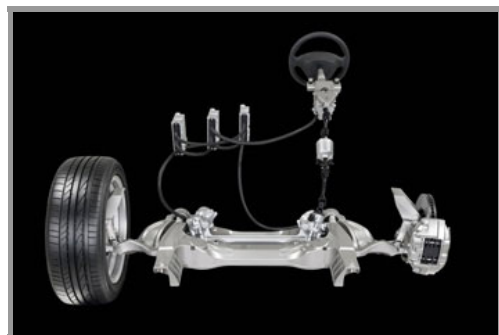
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## Nissan Will Put Drive-By-Wire in 2013 Cars

October 17, 2012 at 2:17:00 PM by [Steve Rousseau](#) | 12 Comments

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Amid a collective groan from driving enthusiasts everywhere, today Nissan [announced](#) that it plans to be first to put electronic steer-by-wire technology into production cars. Replacing the rack and pinion with a mix of wires and processors, the Japanese automaker's new system will control the tires independently from the steering inputs.

Nissan's steer-by-wire system follows the same logic as the [fly-by-wire systems](#) found in aircraft ([which have been controversial](#) in their own right). By processing steering inputs against a bevy of variables such as speed and vehicle direction, the process tries to correct for driver error—swing the wheel wildly, and the car turns subtly rather than careening off the road, because the computer system knows that's probably not what you intended.

Although enthusiasts refer to this as "video-game driving", arguing that it removes the driver's connection to the road, it could lead to a safer future for everyday drivers. In the event of a skid or a loss of control, for example, unless you're experienced at driving on the limits of grip, there's a good chance anything you do with the wheel could worsen the situation. A steer-by-wire system circumvents those bad driver inputs, and uses data to keep your vehicle stable. Fun or not, it's the natural next step in automotive safety technologies, much in the same vein as anti-lock brakes and traction control.

According to Nissan, steer-by-wire will find its way into select models by its luxury brand Infiniti within the next year, and it's not the only safety technology the company plans to implement. Today Nissan also revealed its plans for an ["Autonomous Emergency Steering System"](#). Taking the fully electronic steering setup a step further, this system will warn the driver of a threat by suggesting evasive action and, if the driver doesn't respond, automatically take control of the steering to avoid the threat.

Add on to that [last week's announcement](#) of a system that corrects for "pedal misapplication" and it seems Nissan is suddenly pushing headlong into the forefront of technology to save drivers from ourselves. "The ultimate goal is to reduce fatalities involving our brands to 'substantially zero,'" Tetsuya Iijima [said in a release](#). "In our minds, there is no such thing as an acceptable fatality."

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Michael joined the PM staff as Automotive Editor in November 2012. His love of automobiles stretches back to a Dukes of Hazard pedal car he had as a child. Since

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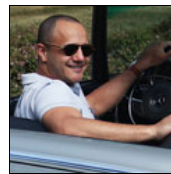
#### Andrew Del-Colle

Andrew Del-Colle is an associate editor at Popular Mechanics. He runs the Auto Intel section of the magazine, edits Jay Leno's Garage, works on feature

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#### Basem Wasef

Basem Wasef is a car and motorcycle fanatic who gets as fired up by a million-dollar McLaren F1 as he does by a ratty old Triumph Bonneville. In addition to cranking out high-octane content for PM, Wasef contributes to Men's Journal, Maxim, and Robb Report, and is the author and photographer of two coffee table books: *Legendary Motorcycles* and *Legendary Race Cars*. You can follow

That plan appears to entail the incremental removal of the biggest variable Nissan can't account for: the driver.

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**Gboly Odulate** · Temple University

Dumbest idea ever. Remind me to stay clear of Nissan. People are supposed to drive cars and not the other way around. Cars are not planes. Hilariously stupid and superfluous on Nissan's part. Perfect example of people with nothing better to do. Someone's run out of ideas..

Reply · 2 · Like · April 8, 2013 at 11:28am



**Sam Coho** · Financial Advisor at AXA Advisors, LLC

The infinity line already offers adaptive cruise control as well as safety shield technology that allows the vehicle to stop or slow down when something is in front of it it only makes sense to implement this into their vehicles. what is the overall goal of driving in the first place? To get where you are going fast and safe. The most efficient way to do that would be to take the driver out of the picture entirely. Just imagine a world where everyone knows how to merge properly. To all of you who think this idea is taking the driver out of control and putting a computer in, how many of you use cruise control? Its the same idea; to make life easier for you.

Reply · Like · April 10, 2013 at 11:01pm



**Joey Arteaga** · Sales and Marketing Manager at MicroBiz

So who's getting the blame if the electronics fail... No thank you. I would rather know the limits of my car and drive accordingly then to have a computer and sensors drive it for me.

Reply · 2 · Like · October 17, 2012 at 12:30pm



**Andrew Stein** · Works at Being Awesome

If I wanted a computer driving my car, id buy a google prius .....

Reply · 2 · Like · October 17, 2012 at 3:57pm



**Timothy Linde** · ★ Top Commenter

This sort of thing could kill people. On a daily basis dodging deer or other animals along with potholes, ditches and downed trees it involved a lot of split second course corrections at high speed. Something like this trying to keep you from doing what is intended could have deadly results.

Reply · 1 · Like · October 17, 2012 at 2:37pm

**Vincent Wolf** · ★ Top Commenter · Colorado State University

Nissan is taking a wrong step here. I can imagine how much more expensive to fix--mostly would require full replacement for failed parts. No thanks.

Reply · 1 · Like · October 17, 2012 at 1:47pm



**Barbara Simpson** · Community Health at Vancouver Coastal Health

I have bought many Nissan cars but now with his new system I will change to another brand,

Reply · 1 · Like · October 17, 2012 at 2:52pm



**Dave Taylor** · ★ Top Commenter · Medellín, Antioquia

Mark Megdanoff A Nissan made in TN or MS is more American than a GM car made in China. Where are the components made. Every car is made worldwide.

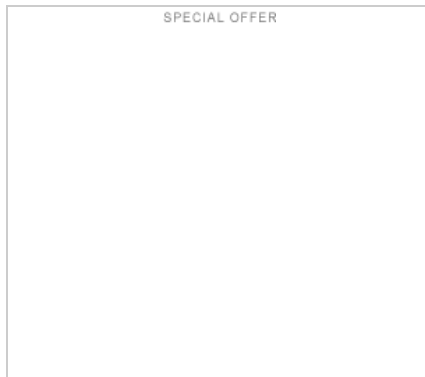
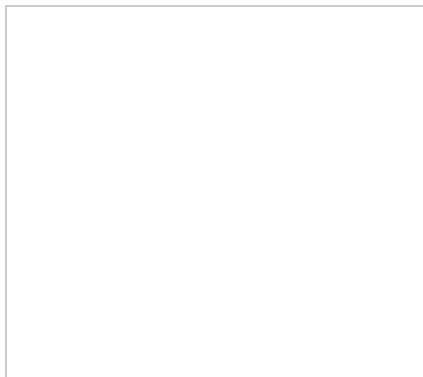
Reply · Like · November 26, 2012 at 9:19am



**Jacob Fausett** · Painted Post, New York

There will be multiple fail safes just like throttle by wire, and like throttle by wire will soon be across the board for all manufactures I'm sure.

Reply · Like · October 29, 2012 at 2:21pm

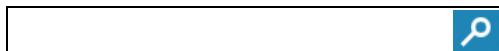


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