

Land Rover looks to take autonomous driving off-road

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It's probably fair to say that off-road driving is more fun than the road bits. When the self-driving car revolution begins, people will mainly use autonomy for the boring bits like commuting and highway miles, and will likely handle the off-road portions themselves.



Land Rover is developing autonomous cars that can handle a wide range of off-road conditions (Credit: Land Rover)

But one of the hidden consequences of a self-driving city is that people will stop getting driver's licenses. Indeed, they'll stop learning to drive altogether in huge numbers. Within a generation or two, driving will be a hobby as eccentric as horse riding.

So, autonomous cars will need to learn the intricacies of off-roading at some point, and Land Rover has begun the process of developing the technology that'll let four-wheel-drives become four-wheel-self-drives with level four and five off-road autonomous capabilities.

The key issues will be topography and surface traction. Land Rover's autonomous SUV project, Cortex, aims to address these issues with a multi-sensor approach, using acoustic, video, radar and LiDAR systems to form a combined picture of what the terrain is doing...

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