Quantified Cars: Digital services and business implications based on vehicle data

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A modern vehicle is a ‘computer on four wheels’ equipped with many different types of sensors. The continuous collection of vehicle data facilitates the generation of innovative digital services for drivers and other stakeholders. In recent years, the ongoing digitalization of the automotive industry has emerged a number of new players. In analogy to the Quantified-Self-movement, the IT industry in the USA has evolved a number of Quantified Car startups, which are backed by enormous amounts of risk capital, reaching far more than 20 million USD in some cases. These developments demonstrate that investors perceive a high market value of digital services based on vehicle data.

The proposed talk dives into one important aspect of digitalization, the Quantified-Car-phenomenon, and analyses the most prominent Quantified-Car startups, Automatic, Mojo, Vinly, Zendrive, and Dash. The potentials and challenges of data-driven digital services are further explained by showcasing a demonstrator developed at Virtual Vehicle Research Center (an “IoT-enabled car2cloud data logger”), which has been applied in a series of ongoing European Research projects including SCOTT and AEGIS. Outlining the impact of quantified cars for business stakeholders, this talk continues with a short discussion on the increasing competition between players from the ICT and the automotive domain on the supremacy in the development of a digital vehicle services.

Linking to the challenge of vehicle development and production, this talk introduces another impact of digitalization in the automotive industry: The shift from traditional business models (e.g. vehicle as a product) to new, data-driven business models (e.g. transportation as a service, digital services based on vehicle operation data) is a strong driver for innovation and automotive market re-organization. Hence, this talk will further enhance the known concept of industry 4.0 as “digitalization over the entire product lifecycle", and highlight opportunities of data and information to build the bridge between technologies, application domains, and product lifecycle.

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Figure 1: Showcasing three different GUIs of Smartphone Apps developed by quantified car startups

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2 SCOTT – Secure Connected Trustable Things: https://scottproject.eu
**Dr. Alexander Stocker** holds a doctoral degree in business administration from Karl-Franzens-University Graz (2010) with a focus on information systems. He is a key researcher in the area Information & Process Management at the Virtual Vehicle Research Center in Graz, Austria. Before he was a key researcher at the Institute Digital of Joanneum Research (2008-2013), an executive assistant to the CEO at the Know-Center, Austria’s Competence Center for Knowledge Management (2004-2009), and a business consultant for information management and technology at Datev (2002-2004).

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