



Samsung has already partnered with Renault to make this **Twizy** two-seater electric.

## Is FCA about to get a new owner from China?

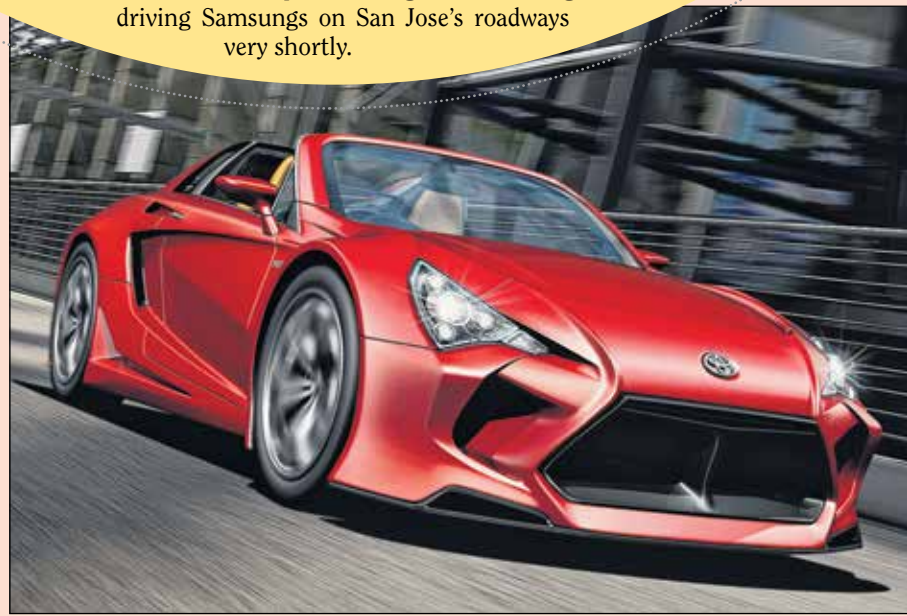
These peach-colored pages believe that's entirely possible. Word is that China-based automaker **Great Wall** is eyeing **Fiat Chrysler Automobiles** and at least a couple of others are doing due diligence on the company. FCA is apparently denying that it's talking to Great Wall, although for the past couple of years FCA CEO Sergio Marchionne has attempted to convince General Motors to purchase all or part of FCA. No dice on that one. Of course the big prize in an FCA purchase would be the profitable Jeep and Ram truck divisions. Stay tuned.



The prize in any FCA purchase would be its highly profitable Jeep and Ram Truck divisions.

## Self-driving Samsungs

Move over Galaxy S: **Samsung Electronics Co.** has just received a permit to test self-driving vehicles in California, joining the ranks of Apple, Google, Uber, Tesla and some legacy automakers in jockeying for position in the burgeoning autonomous vehicle market. (Google currently provides the operating systems for Samsung's phones.) The South Korea-based company has not said exactly what sort of vehicle it plans to test since, like Apple, Google and Uber, it has no proprietary vehicles of its own. Google's self-driving division Waymo recently retired its bubble-shaped Firefly prototype in favor of established vehicles like the Chrysler Pacifica minivan, but perhaps Samsung is eyeing the Renault collaboration electric **Twizy** two-seater. Or it might go more conventional with the Hyundai vehicles it's already rigged with autonomous tech. We'll find out soon: Neighbors of its U.S. headquarters might start seeing self-driving Samsungs on San Jose's roadways very shortly.

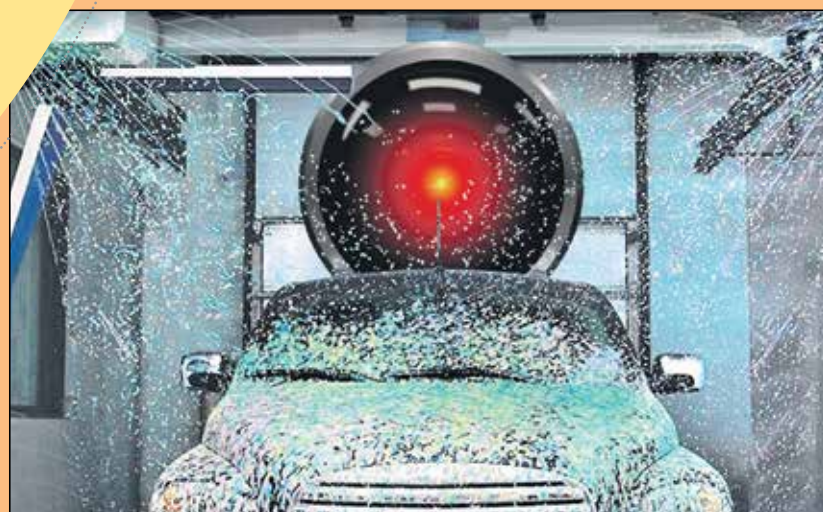


The next-gen Toyota Supra will not be a hybrid; in fact, its engine will come from BMW.

## The scoop on the Supra

While the automotive-enthusiast world wrings its hands in anticipation over the arrival of the next-generation **Toyota Supra**, our sources have gleaned some of the upscale-sportscar's specs. The available powerplants will consist of a 248-horsepower turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder and an optional 335-horsepower 3.0-liter six-cylinder. Both engines will be sourced from the BMW parts bin and will also be used in the forthcoming (and all-new) Z4 roadster.

Although the Supra will only come with an automatic transmission, the rear-wheel-drive Z4 will be available with a manual or an automatic. There's also a rumor that a gas-electric powertrain will be eventually be offered in the Supra, but it appears that Z4 buyers will get first crack at it. Both the \$45,000 Supra and \$50,000 Z4 (both prices are estimates) are expected to arrive by mid-2018 as 2019 models.



In "2001: A Space Odyssey," the HAL 9000 became aware and killed the entire crew. Fortunately, all a hacked automated car wash can do is get you soaked.

## Car washes hacked?

While some of us are still worried about Skynet becoming self-aware, others are turning their concerns to something even more ominous: The automated car wash.

A story from Washington state involves hackers hijacking the Internet-enabled PDQ LaserWash system, taking control of the automated operations to shut both entrance and exit doors, and then co-opt the mechanical spray arms to direct a continuous spray at the trapped vehicle to prevent the occupants from escaping, or at least stay dry and safe while doing so.

In this incident, the hackers in question were security researchers who had gotten prior permission from the car wash owners to launch the cyber attack in order to prove such a scenario was possible. Whitescope Security, in fact, presented its eventual findings at the Black Hat security conference, and even shared them with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The main problem? Default password settings over Internet controls that allow hackers a way in. It's the same vulnerability that affects many Internet-enabled devices, from phones to printers to security cameras.

And now, cars. It's already been shown that hackers can take control of actual vehicles, unlocking doors and, in some cases, even tampering with ignition, security and other systems.

Does this mean you have to give up your car's Bluetooth, or let it get filthy by avoiding car washes not run by actual humans, preferably the local Boy Scout troop trying to raise funds?

No. It just means a little more foresight from manufacturers, coders and consumers. If we could head Y2K off at the pass, we can handle this.

### TEST DRIVE

## 2018 Subaru Impreza

Continued from page 1

145 lb.-ft. of torque @ 4,000 rpm. The four-cylinder can be paired with either a five-speed manual (on base or Sport models) or Continuously Variable Transmission. A hill holder (Incline Start Assist) is standard with both transmission choices.

The 152 horses are four more than before, and mid-pack among Civic, Corolla, Mazda3 and Sentra. There's sufficient power for all daily driving requirements. High demand situations like passing and lane merges require advance planning. In this regard, the engine feels a little more lively with the manual transmission. I drove an Impreza so equipped a few years back, and I'd suggest that those wishing to maximize the sport in Sport models should consider the stick.

Four adults fit comfortably inside,

along with 12.3 cubic feet of cargo space in the trunk. That's the smallest of our reference group of sedans, and considerably less than the hatchback Impreza, which ranges from 22.5-52.4 cubic-feet. The lift over height in back is exceptionally low, simplifying the loading/unloading process.

Rear seatbacks fold to a flat floor, though the process may require that you first move the front seatbacks forward. Inboard storage spots are numerous (covered center console, door pockets, console stash spot) but small.

Auto-on headlights with windshield wipers are newly standard for 2018 on Premium, Sport and Limited models. A separate deck of HVAC controls are located midway up the center stack. They provide easy access for climate chang-



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ing. Just above, the 8-inch touchscreen accesses

Subaru's new Starlight multimedia system. The interface is comfortably uncluttered and easy to use. The system is Android Auto and Apple CarPlay compatible, for easy smartphone integration.

Sport model buyers can avail themselves of two main option packages, and dozens of standalone accessories. The first bundle includes a moon roof, blind spot protection, rear cross traffic alert and an 8-speaker, 432 watt harmonikardon sound system (\$2,150). The other builds off of the first package and adds

Subaru's EyeSight Driver Assist Technology. EyeSight includes adaptive cruise control, automatic pre-collision braking, lane departure and sway warning, lane keep assist. The package price isn't small (\$2,945), but that money buys you a lot of desirable technology, and some fun stuff too.

A regular contributor to the Times Union for more than 25 years, Dan Lyons is the award-winning author of six books, and photographer of 180 calendars.

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