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## Where Has Your Car Been? A Digital Diary Can Tell You

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If you have ever wondered what happens to your car in the hands of parking lot attendants or your teenagers, the CarChip by Davis Instruments has your answer.

The chip logs driver performance, including speed (measured every five seconds), hard braking, hard acceleration, distance driven, date and time. It can also track engine diagnostics like coolant temperature and fuel pressure, and it will tell you in plain English why your check-engine light is on: "P030: cylinder 4 misfire detected." In an accident, the EX model works as a black box, generating a log of the car's status in the 20 seconds leading up to the crash.

The chip plugs into a car's OBDII connector, an "onboard diagnostic" tool in the passenger compartment of cars sold in the United States since the 1996 model year. (The National OBD Clearing House has directions for finding the connector in your car at [www.autocenter.weber.edu/OBD-CH/vehicleoems.asp](http://www.autocenter.weber.edu/OBD-CH/vehicleoems.asp).)

The CarChip EX, with a list price of \$179 (available at [davisnet.com](http://davisnet.com)), logs 300 hours of data. The data can be downloaded to any PC with a serial port (a U.S.B. model is planned). Only you can decide whether to tell your teenager that you've put this chip in the car.