This study was an online survey of American adults about their level of concern with cybersecurity of personally owned self-driving vehicles (with and without driver controls) and current conventional vehicles.

Of interest in this survey were both vehicle security and data privacy. Within vehicle security, the issues examined were hacking vehicles to cause crashes, hacking by terrorists to use the vehicle as a weapon, disabling many vehicles simultaneously, and disabling the main traffic-management system. Within data privacy, the issues examined were gaining access to data on personal travel patterns and gaining access to personal information not related to travel. The survey also asked about the safe and appropriate minimum age to operate self-driving vehicles with and without controls. Completed surveys were received from 519 respondents.

The main findings are as follows:

1. Hacking of vehicles is of concern even for conventional vehicles.
2. Hacking of self-driving vehicles with controls is of greater concern than hacking of conventional vehicles.
3. Hacking of self-driving vehicles without controls is of greater concern than hacking of self-driving vehicles with controls.
4. The respondents expressed more concern about hacking to gain control of vehicles or the main traffic-management system than hacking of vehicles to get access to personal information.
5. Females expressed stronger concerns about cybersecurity than did males.
6. The oldest respondents expressed stronger concerns about cybersecurity than did the youngest respondents.