

DIAGNOSTIC FOCUS

CAN BUS IN MODERN VEHICLES

The Controller Area Network (CAN) is a standardized data transfer network that enables multiple electronic control units (ECUs) or modules within a vehicle to communicate efficiently. It connects various electronic control units (ECUs)—such as the engine control module, transmission, and instrument cluster—allowing them to share critical data without the need for complex wiring. Troubleshooting the CAN Bus becomes manageable once technicians understand the network's structure and data transfer methods.

WHY IT MATTERS?

CAN Bus provides efficient communication, simplified wiring, and flexibility. Fewer wires mean reduced vehicle weight, easier diagnostics and allows the flexibility for new features to be added without major rewiring.

HOW SNAP-ON® HELPS

With a Snap-on® diagnostic tool, technicians can access live CAN Bus data and perform advanced diagnostics on newer vehicles. Coverage includes the ability to communicate with all available modules, identify communication faults, and run bidirectional tests. For instance, if a module drops offline or stops responding, Snap-on® scan tools allow you to determine whether it's a wiring issue, a power supply fault, or a failed module—quickly and accurately.





A platform with current software ensures you have access to the most current software and information. Plus a product that includes a scope, such as TRITON™ or ZEUS® gives you access to Fast-Track® guided component tests that show you what to test, how to connect and what to look for.





WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Our CAN Bus training is always the most popular content out there, so make sure you take a look.

You can also watch our Quick Tip on CAN Bus Testing or read the Technical Focus Article on Automotive Communication Networks







Technical Focus Article: Automotive Communication Networks, Part II CAN BUS