

Does That Car Have A History?

Let's consider a type of auto protection that occurs before shopping or buying insurance. What can you do to improve your satisfaction with a new or used car purchase? Of course the simple things are to take time to closely examine the cars under consideration and ask pointed questions about them including how they handle in turns, emergency braking, gas mileage and maintenance costs. Just as important is to be comfortable with the party selling the vehicle, such as a reputable dealer.

Of course, particularly with used cars, vans or trucks, personal inspections and a vehicle Q&A session may still be insufficient to get all the details you need. A method that may be more helpful and certainly less expensive than taking a car to a trusted mechanic is to check out the car's history. But don't worry, rather than suggesting that you find an automotive private investigator, you only need to start searching with your trusty PC.

The Internet provides a number of credible services that provide historical information on any vehicle that has a legal identification or a VIN (vehicle identification number). An entity call Carfax is typical of such a service. For a reasonable fee (and in some instances, free) and armed with the VIN, a subscriber may request a search for information and can be alerted to any number of potential headaches such as the vehicle:

- is stolen
- was repaired after a serious accident
- had its odometer reading lowered
- suffered flood or other weather-related damage
- is or was part of a manufacturer recall
- has a history of recurring repairs
- was previously used by emergency personnel
- was used commercially (retail food deliveries, newspaper delivery or as a taxi)

All of these are serious considerations that, without a car history service, can be easily hidden from an unwary buyer. Why not take advantage of the Internet to find a service that can help you be certain that you find a car that is worth insuring?

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