



PARCS for the 21st Century

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Parking, with its attendant benefits and issues, will be with us for a long time. Until a practical point-to-point transporter is invented, we will rely on personally owned vehicles for some time—self-driven or autonomous.

At the same time, actual new technologies will be introduced, while in other cases we will see existing capabilities tied together in new ways, offering novel solutions to the challenges we face.

PARCS Software to Take Center Stage

Broadly, PARCS equipment will evolve to focus on software and integration capabilities. Specific hardware used to implement the three parking business processes (entry, payment and exit) will be able to exist independently of a specific manufacturer.

Fully Connected Cars Will Make Systems Gateless

One vision of the future brings this point home: With cars becoming ‘fully connected,’ meaning they will be able to beacon their unique identity, the only entry and exit mechanisms required will be small radio antennas—truly a gateless system. Payment can be effected upon exit via a Bluetooth connected mobile phone app from the driver’s pocket, communicating via the car to the exit antenna.

Tech to Adapt to New Cars; Will Still Work for Old Cars

A great vision, yes? No clutter, minimalist technology, ultimate customer convenience—what more could you ask? The practical matter is that the new technologies won’t outright replace existing devices. Instead, they will get layered in on top of the existing technologies.

Think about all of the different ways we use today to get into/out of garages: tickets, prox cards, AVI tags, LPR, keypads, biometrics—what they all have in common is that they are being used from millions of ‘dumb’ cars, which will be around for some time. We will continue to need accommodate these vehicles while continuously adapting to new features in ‘smart’ cars, as they emerge.

Finally, we have all heard of many different versions of the ‘smart city’ concept—some basic, some grandiose. We will get closer during our careers and new technologies like those discussed above will be important to this advance.

However, from the PARCS perspective, smart software will be the key. When you think about it, for all the great hardware we now have at our disposal, it’s the software that makes it all work, doesn’t it? ■



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