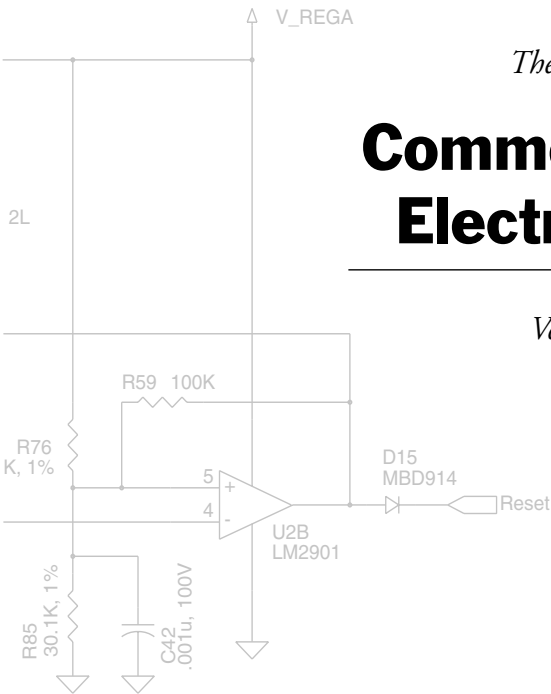


The 46th L. Ray Buckendale Lecture

Commercial Vehicle Electronics Design

Vern A. Caron, Caron Engineering



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**Vern A. Caron
Caron Engineering**



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Vern A. Caron

Vern Caron is president of Caron Engineering, a consulting firm engaged in hardware, software and systems design for passenger car and commercial vehicle applications.

Vern graduated from college in 1971 and spent the first ten years of his career at Chrysler Corporation engaged in the design of electronic ignition, fuel injection and emission controls. Among other projects, he was responsible for the design of the engine electronics for the Omni and Horizon car lines when they entered production.

Vern joined the International Harvester Research Center in 1981 and later became Chief Engineer in charge of Engine Electronics for Navistar's Engine Division. At Engine Division, he managed design and development efforts for a variety of engine electronics projects, including cold starting systems, fuel injection electronics, and turbo charger controls. One of these projects was the design of the prototype controls for the Navistar/Caterpillar HEUI injection system.

In 1988, Vern joined Eaton Truck Components Division as Chief Engineer of Antilock Brake Systems. Related activity included engineering support for the VORAD program, Tire Pressure Management Systems, and for several of the Automated Transmission Control projects. Vern also handled the concept work for Eaton's 3rd Generation Auto-Shift Transmission.

Vern received his bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1971. In 1981, while at Chrysler, he earned a Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering from Wayne State University. In 1987, he received an MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management in Chicago. Vern holds 25 U.S. patents and is registered as a Professional Engineer in Michigan and in Illinois.

Vern has been a member of SAE since 1973 and has been active in various SAE committees and subcommittees including the Convergence Committee and Buckendale Committee. He is currently a member of the Truck and Bus Council.

L. RAY BUCKENDALE LECTURES

The L. Ray Buckendale lectures, inaugurated in 1954, commemorate the contributions of the 1946 SAE President.

L. Ray Buckendale, by his character and work, endeared himself to all who were associated with him. Foremost among his many interests was the desire to develop the potential abilities of young people. As he was an authority in the theory and practice of gearing, particularly as applied to automotive vehicles, it was in this field that he was best able to accomplish his purpose. To perpetuate his memory, the Society of Automotive Engineers administers a series of lectures called "The L. Ray Buckendale Lectures." This series of lectures is intended to provide practical and useful technical information to young people involved in vehicle engineering. Sponsorship of the lecture series is rotated among companies within the commercial vehicle industry. Current sponsors include: ArvinMeritor Automotive Inc., Dana Corporation, Eaton Corporation, Cummins Inc., and TRW Inc.

Arvin-Meritor Automotive sponsors this year's lecture.

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The L. Ray Buckendale Committee of SAE welcomes nomination for future lectures and suggestions for subject matter related to the basic objective of the program. Nominations and suggestions may be addressed to: Secretary, L. Ray Buckendale Committee at SAE Headquarters.

Abstract

Transportation touches the lives of everyone on a daily basis. The Society of Automotive Engineers is involved in the continuous improvement of all areas of transportation. Like most products and services, the automotive business has benefited from the advances in electronics and computers. The sometimes unsteady alliance between engineers that work with metal chips and those that work with silicon chips has ultimately led to real value for the end user and for society as a whole.

The paper focuses on the design of automotive electronics and controls including hardware design and packaging, systems architecture, software architecture and systems interaction. As one of the papers in the Buckendale series, it concentrates particularly on the commercial vehicle aspects of this technology. This paper is intended for use as a general reference to the subject matter and is especially hoped to be of use to new practitioners in this field.

Automotive electronics contains elements of commercial, industrial, defense, computer and communications electronics. Specifically, it has the economics of commercial electronics, the durability requirements of military electronics, the life cycle of industrial electronics and the complexity of computer and communications electronics. Much of the innovation is driven by government regulation aimed at improving emissions, fuel economy and vehicle safety. But marketing pressure to gain a competitive advantage is also a strong driving force.

Commercial vehicle electronics is a unique segment of the automotive electronics business; essentially the same, except the durability requirements are tougher, the design life is longer, the production volumes are lower, and the systems are more varied and complex.

This paper is the first in a series of three papers on the subject of electronics for commercial vehicles. The second paper will discuss systems integration and the third paper will discuss validation and testing.

Commercial Vehicle Electronics Design

Vern A. Caron
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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
The Automotive Electronics Business.....	1
Key Suppliers	2
Cost and Volume	2
The Impact of Marketing Strategy	2
2. History	3
Engines	3
Milestones in Electronics	4
Automotive Electronics History	6
3. Processes	13
Project Initiation	15
Product Specification.....	15
Program Approval	15
Design Reviews	15
Design Analysis Reports	16
Reliability Analysis	17
Design Validation	18
4. Tools	19
Project Management Tools.....	19
System Design Tools.....	20
Mechanical Drawing Tools	24
Tools for Electronics Hardware Design	25
Tools for Software Design.....	26
Tools for Manufacturing.....	30
5. Systems Architecture	31
Distributed Control.....	31
Central Control	31
The Impact of Smart Actuators	32
Designing for Distributed Processing.....	32
6. Vehicle Electrical System	35
Charging Systems.....	35
Cranking System	36
Lighting Systems	36
Electrical System Deficiencies	37

7. Engine and Emissions Controls	39
Engine Control Objectives	39
Emission Requirements	39
Spark Ignition (SI) Engines	40
Fuel Controls For Diesel Engines	46
Turbocharger Controls.....	51
Other Engine Controls	52
8. Transmission Controls	53
Continuously Variable Transmissions (CVTs)	53
Engine-Based Transmission Controls	55
Electronically-Synchronized Manual Transmissions	56
Full Automatic Transmissions.....	57
Electronically-Controlled Manual Transmissions	58
Other Considerations Related to Transmission Control	60
9. Vehicle Safety Systems	61
Collision Warning Systems	61
Brakes and Brake Control Systems	63
Safety Restraint Systems (SRS)	71
Recording and Reconstruction	71
10. Tire Pressure Management Systems	73
Monitoring Systems.....	73
Maintenance Systems	75
Mobility Systems.....	76
Limited Authority Systems.....	77
11. Suspension and Steering Systems	79
Suspension Control Systems	79
Steering Controls	80
Wheel Alignment.....	80
12. Body Control Systems	81
Instrument Panels and Controls	81
HVAC Systems	81
Windshield Wiper Controls	82
Other Body Electrical Systems.....	82
13. Specifications	83
Temperature.....	84
Humidity.....	85
Salt Spray Atmosphere	85
Immersion and Splash	85
Steam Clean and Pressure Wash	85
Fungus	85
Dust, Sand, Gravel Bombardment.....	85
Altitude	85
Flammability.....	86
Mechanical	86
Electrical Environment.....	86
Electrostatic Discharge ESD	87

14. Packaging	95
Location	95
Wiring	96
Connectors	98
Potting and Conformal Coating	101
Alternatives to Potting	102
Housing Design	102
Printed Circuit Boards	103
15. Sensors	105
Mechanical Switches	105
Temperature Sensors	107
Liquid Level Sensors	110
Water in Fuel Sensors (WIF).....	111
Pressure Sensors	111
Rotational Speed and Position Sensors	112
Linear and Angular Position Sensors	114
Eddy Current Sensors	115
Flow Meters.....	116
Vortex Shedding Devices	116
Oxygen Sensors	117
Accelerometers	118
Yaw Rate Sensors.....	118
16. Actuators and Output Devices	119
Incandescent Lights	119
Ignition Coils and Coil Banks	120
Spark Plugs	120
Glow Plugs	121
Solenoids	122
Fuel Injectors	123
Diesel Fuel Injectors	124
Motors.....	127
Brushless Motors	129
Stepper Motors	129
17. Microcontrollers	131
Microprocessor Architectures.....	131
Memory	131
Microcontrollers	132
Connecting a Microcontroller	134
18. Circuit Design	137
Basic Concepts	137
Filters.....	138
Operational Amplifiers	140
Circuits for Embedded Controllers.....	142
Input Interface Circuits.....	144
Interface to Actuators and Output Devices.....	145
Data Link Interfaces	149
19. Communication Links	151
Data Link Options	152
North American Commercial Vehicle Data Links	153

20. Diagnostics	157
Fault Detection	157
Fault Management	158
Reporting	158
21. Software	159
Dealing with High Speed I/O	159
Set Up the Data Links	161
Assign the Analog Inputs	161
Assign Non-Critical I/O	161
Set Up the RTOS	161
Constructing the Main Routines	163
Special Techniques 165	
Macros and Subroutine Calls.....	167
Helpful Subroutines.....	167
Conclusion	167
22. Manufacturing	169
Overall Approaches to Quality	169
Manufacturing Design Input.....	170
The Manufacturing Process.....	171
Customer Considerations.....	171
Cost Estimating	172
Volume Estimates.....	172
23. Future Trends	173
Near-Term Trends	173
Trends in Electronics	174
24. Glossary	177
25. References	181
26. List of Figures	183
27. Index	187