

AUTOMOTIVE

## Volkswagen teams with Microsoft for connected car tech

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*Volkswagen is embracing the Internet of Things (IoT) with Microsoft. Image courtesy of Volkswagen*

By STAFF REPORTS

Germany's Volkswagen Auto Group is working with technology giant Microsoft Corp. to ramp up the company's digital efforts.

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The parent company of automakers including Audi, Bentley and Porsche has entered a strategic partnership with Microsoft, which will include the creation of a Volkswagen Automotive Cloud to power connected features and mobility services across the group's fleet. As automakers venture further into connectivity and alternative mobility solutions, technology becomes even more important to vehicle development.

"The strategic partnership with Microsoft will turbocharge our digital transformation," said Dr. Herbert Diess, CEO of Volkswagen AG, in a statement.

"Volkswagen, as one of the world's largest automakers, and Microsoft, with its unique technological expertise, are outstandingly well-matched," he said. "Together, we will play a key role in shaping the future of auto-mobility."

### Car meets cloud

As part of this initiative, Volkswagen is establishing a cloud development office in North America, nearby to Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, WA.

Here, Microsoft will help Volkswagen set up this facility, providing assistance via hiring and consulting services. Volkswagen expects this cloud computing team to eventually number 300 engineers.

The Volkswagen Automotive Cloud, which will be used for both in-car services and the group's One Digital Platform, will be built on Microsoft's Azure platform and Azure's Internet of Things Edge. This will turn the cars into moving Internet of Things devices, starting with Volkswagen vehicles built in 2020.

"Volkswagen is harnessing technology to digitally transform and deliver innovative new connected car services to its customers," said Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, in a statement. "The world's leading companies run on Azure, and we are thrilled that Volkswagen has chosen Microsoft. Together we will reimagine the driving experience for people everywhere."



*Volkswagen is building a cloud for its cars. Image courtesy of Volkswagen*

Volkswagen plans to roll out the technology created at the office to its fleet of cars across brands and markets around the globe.

Connectivity is getting a number of investments from Volkswagen brands. Audi recently appealed to drivers that rely on Android operating systems in a partnership that embeds Google into its dashboard.

During the Google I/O developer conference on May 17 the automaker showcased the new Audi Q8 sport concept technology platform. The interface will allow users to interact with various Google applications through Audi's infotainment system, without having to need a smartphone ([see story](#)).

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