

With VW's accession to AGL (Automotive Grade Linux) and the Linux Foundation, greater mass is lent to more openness in auto software development.



The Linux Foundation is a non-profit organisation that regards the open-source idea as enabling mass innovations and promotes it accordingly. AGL is a cross-sector consortium developing an open platform for the networked vehicle.

The open-source project AGL will, according to its authors, change the way automobile manufacturers develop software. Currently, more than 140 members are working together on a common platform that will serve as a de facto industry standard. The introduction of an open platform across the industry will let automotive manufacturers and suppliers use a common codebase and reuse software. It follows the principle of developing a product once, which can then be used by several car manufacturers. This reduces development costs, shortens the time-to-market for new products, and reduces fragmentation within the industry.

AGL Executive Director Dan Cauchy says "The automotive industry is undergoing the digital transition. That's why OEMs and suppliers are increasingly turning to open source solutions such as the AGL platform to drive innovation and bring products to market faster".

Members of the AGL project include Honda, Toyota, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz and now Volkswagen. Chip manufacturing members are Arm, Renesas, NXP, Intel and Qualcomm.