

Five common car features that are going the way of dinosaurs

RAHBAR AL HAQ

Full-Size Spare Wheel

Usually, automakers adopt and drop car features based on the market demand and avoid forcing something onto the customers. The space-saver tires are somewhat of an exception to this rule. As tires grew in size, the automakers found it more and more difficult to fit a full-size spare in the trunk. This, combined with the ever-increasing cost of alloy wheels, it simply became more convenient for them to replace all spare tires with a small diameter substitute wheel, commonly referred to as a "donut" by the car community. Some tried to eliminate the concept of spare wheel entirely, replacing it with run-flat tires and tire sealant kits, which thankfully didn't catch on. Regardless, the adoption of the donut all but killed the practice of full-sized spare tires, with most carmakers only offering them with proper 4x4's.



Car phones

Before the days of everyone having a phone in their pockets, portable cellular devices were a privilege reserved only for the extremely wealthy. Early mobile phones were not only very bulky, but they also cost as much as an entry-level car. Factory-installed telephones were a popular option in high-end luxury cars from the 1970s to the early '90s, being treated both as a necessity and a status symbol. However, as phones shrunk down in size and cost, they slowly lost their allure. The final death knell for these devices came in the late 2000s when cellular service providers shut off their connection, turning these once ultra-luxury options into decorative pieces.

CD/disk Players

Although still a common sight on Dhaka roads, head units with dedicated cd players are slowly being phased away from new cars. The reason for this is twofold. Firstly, the use of CD itself has pretty much fallen on the wayside since the early 2010s, with most people preferring USBs for data transportation. The other reason is the widespread adaptation of mobile phones and music streaming services. It simply does not make any sense for anyone to lug around half a dozen CDs when one can simply have all the songs on their phone. So, as much as some people love their CD racks, they are not making a comeback.



Cigarette lighters

Of all the items on this list, this one is something we are glad is no longer a thing. Before the turn of the millennia, cigarette lighters and ashtrays use to be common on all cars. And people did use them, much to the detriment of both their personal health and car's interior. Modern cars have largely done away with this feature, replacing the lighters with 12-volt sockets or dual USB chargers. Not only this shift has resulted in a positive health impact, for us petrolheads, it also had the added benefit of being able to buy lightly used cars without a grimy, tar covered interior.



Power radio antenna

Cars used to have large metal poles—about 31-inches—sticking out of them. These served as the antennae for the car's radio. The 1/4th wavelength rods were essential for radio reception, and required users to manually stretch them out in order to listen to some music. Luxury cars usually had a motorized collapsible antenna, which automatically extended whenever the occupants turned on the head-unit. Modern cars have traded these impromptu flagpoles for rooftop-mounted "shark fin" and stubby rubber antenna's, which while admittedly more practical, lacks the sheer presence of the old solution.



Catfishing: What you need to know about this form of cyberbullying

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Thanks to the internet and social media, we can now connect and communicate with new people now and then. However, this innovative way of communication opens up the doors to fraudulence and cyberbullying. And catfishing is one of those deceptive ways to trick and bully people.

What is catfishing?

Catfishing is the act of pretending to be someone else to deceive people or to entangle people into fake relationships and later exploit them. It refers to the practice of creating a false identity by setting up a fictitious profile. A catfish gets a hold of someone's picture and uses it as bait to con people. In most cases, the ultimate goal of this malicious actor is to extract money or personal details from people by harassing or blackmailing them. It is like a combination of phishing and cyberbullying.

Catfishing and cyberbullying go hand in hand as a catfish impersonate someone else and it is an intentional act. Like a cyberbully, a catfish often exploits the emotions of people, especially those who are emotionally vulnerable. The victims are mostly those who have somehow expressed some kinds of their personal views and

opinions online which have caught the attention of the catfishes.

Telltale signs of catfishing

If you don't want to be duped by any strangers online, look for the signs of a catfish in a person with whom you are interacting.

Avoid personal communication

A catfish does not want to talk in person, on the phone or in video chat showing excuses. They are too much friendly while interacting with you and build a good bonding within a short period. But they still avoid to share minimum contact information or to have a face-to-face conversation with you.

Have lots of friends of the opposite sex or a handful of friends on social media
For instance, a regular female catfish will have a great number of male friends online. Likewise, a male catfish targets females resulting in a great number of female friends online. Additionally, a catfish may keep very few friends or no friends online which is quite unusual for now. It can also be a sign of a catfish.

Lack of proper grammar

Whenever it comes to some sorts of phishing and cyberbullying, there is a

common way to find out about it and that is a lot of grammatical mistakes in the texts or messages. And there is no exception in the case of catfishing. If you see the unknown person is not at all comfortable while sending you messages in their native language, you should try to find out some more details about them. This is a sign that you should consider, but it may not always be true.

Ask for money

As mostly the ultimate aim of these frauds is to extract money from the victims, they'll ask for money giving various excuses such as family issues, medical conditions, financial crisis etc. It is always nice to help people who are in need. However, you need to be cautious before any money transaction for your safety. Don't fall for people with profile pictures of some random anime characters or dolls asking for money or flexload. Let's not go back to those days of Facebook when such fraudulence regarding flexload or money transaction was common.

How to avoid a catfish

Being cautious

While talking to someone whom you don't know personally, you must be cautious

about their approach and intention. Try to find out what they want by questioning tactfully. And if someone whom you know is trying to contact you from a different profile and the behaviour seems unusual, do not hesitate to confront that person. In case you have that person's number, you can even call him/her to be assured.

Search his/her image on Google Reverse
Sometimes a catfish takes images from the common resources available such as different social media platforms or Google. In case you are confused, you can check their picture of what they claim to be theirs on Google Reverse. If you get the exact one and they are different people, you are being catfished.

Avoid accepting random friend requests or talking to people

The internet is a great way to communicate with new people. However, we must ensure that the person with whom we start building a relationship is not a fraud. Do some basic research about the person before accepting a random friend request. Furthermore, thorough research and basic details of that person are mandatory before you share your feelings or sensitive information with them.