

BTS MAINTENANCE DES SYSTEMES ÉPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS – Session 2016

Sujet 1

No, a Tesla didn't just crash itself into a wall while in autopilot



On Saturday, Tesla owner Puzant Ozbag made a scary claim : his Model X vehicle had suddenly accelerated into a wall by itself while parking – injuring his wife (who was driving) and narrowly missing bystanders.

“Our 5-day-old Tesla X today while entering a parking stall suddenly and unexpectedly accelerated at high speed on its own (...) and crashed into a building,” he wrote on Tesla Motors forums. “The acceleration was uncontrollable, seemed maximum and the car only stopped because it hit the building and caused massive damage to the building.”

The fear was that the vehicle had somehow activated “autopilot”. This would have serious implications for the safety of the company’s electric vehicles.

But Tesla has now reviewed the vehicle’s logs, and says Autopilot or cruise control was never activated, and that the accelerator was pushed. That indicates a more prosaic reason for the crash ; the driver accidentally pressed down on the accelerator pedal.

But right now, there’s no direct evidence for that, and all the signs point to a much simpler explanation : Driver error.

If a fault in Tesla vehicles means that they can suddenly slip into autopilot and the logs don’t even register it, then it has pretty worrying safety implications.

Adapted from Business Insider Australia, Rob Price; June 8, 2016