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How do I know so much about how [@elonmusk](https://twitter.com/elonmusk) does things? I spent 3 years investigating Tesla at [@BusinessInsider](https://twitter.com/BusinessInsider) from 2018-2021. Here are some of sloppy, dangerous, callous, things I learned:

Tesla put batteries with potentially defective cooling systems in people's cars. And they knew about it.



Tesla knew its Model S battery had a design flaw that could lead to lea...

In a rush to build the Model S, Tesla ignored the car's flawed battery cooling system design. And it's unclear when, if ever, the company fixed it.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-faulty-battery-cooling-systems-design-model-s-...>

That time Elon told his engineers to stop doing brake tests on Model 3s. The tests were finding too many defects, and he wanted speed up the manufacturing process. Is that "hardcore engineering?"

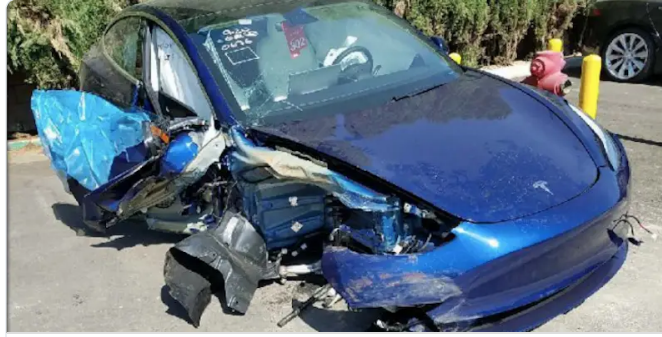


Elon Musk ordered Tesla engineers to stop doing a critical brake test o...

Internal documents show that Tesla CEO Elon Musk ordered his staff to remove the brake-and-roll test from mandatory tasks on the Model 3 production line. This is a standard test that checks wheel ali...

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-elon-musk-orders-engineers-to-stop-brake-and-...>

Tesla has been much faster to do recalls in China than in the US. One of the China recalls sounds like it could be about this defect I reported on, known within the company for years.



'Aladdin' star says a defect in his Tesla Model 3 led to his car wreck, a...

Those who follow Tesla closely have come to refer to the company's problems with suspension as "whompy wheels."

<https://www.businessinsider.com/aladdin-stars-problem-with-tesla-known-as-whompy-...>

This story put me on Tesla's sh*tlist. It shows a factory in chaos, and explains why Musk was desperately behind schedule while building the Model 3. And if you're looking at it from an accounting lens, it's extremely suspect too.



Internal documents reveal Tesla is blowing through an insane amount ...

About one-third of the raw material Tesla tries to turn into Model 3s at its Gigafactory ends up as scrap, internal documents show. It's not efficient. It's not environmentally friendly. It's not tec...

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-model-3-scrap-waste-high-gigafactory-2018-5>

Musk would later admit Tesla was on the verge of bankruptcy during this period.

More on the accounting implications of millions of dollars of waste (that doesn't seem to appear anywhere on Tesla's balance sheet). Yes, I'm a nerd.



And yes, there was that time [@elonmusk](#) was a total creep to me on this app, which only convinced me I was asking good questions.



Musk has always been reckless. His cheerleaders Morgan Stanley almost stabbed him in the back in 2019 when Tesla looked like it might go bankrupt.



I can't imagine how those bankers feel now that he's completely screwed them with this Twitter deal. If he had closed earlier, it would be much easier to unload the debt.



'An over-levered clown': Elon Musk is gambling his business empire o...

Musk is taking on massive debt to fund his Twitter buyout — and he's putting Tesla and the rest of his business empire on the line to do it.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-twitter-takeover-money-sucking-quagmire-...>

And don't even get me started on what Tesla's relationship with the Chinese govmt may bring. They own the land his Shanghai factory sits on and can take it back whenever they think Elon's out of line.



Elon Musk is bending over backwards to please China's government, a...

In China, Elon Musk morphs from swashbuckling rogue to government flunky, even opening a showroom in the region where Beijing is committing genocide.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-tesla-china-xinjiang-uyghurs-dark-future-2...>

China's gymnt has shown [@elonmusk](#) that it can cripple Tesla sales if it feels like it. It did it back in 2021.



Beijing's campaign to rein in Tesla has begun, now experts say it has a...

It's clear from state media that Beijing is trying to slow Tesla's growth to boost domestic rivals. Too bad Tesla desperately needs China's market.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-china-could-hurt-tesla-2021-4>

I wouldn't be surprised if Tesla acquires Twitter. Why? Because that's how [@elonmusk](#) bailed himself (and his family) out when SolarCity was going bust. He made up some synergies for Tesla, lied about some new SolarCity product — merger managed.



The future of Elon Musk's empire was in peril in 2016, and new docum...

In 2016, SolarCity was on the brink of collapsing and taking SpaceX with it, so Elon Musk devised a plan to have Tesla shareholders pick up the tab, according to claims in a shareholder lawsuit.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-tesla-solarcity-merger-frenzied-plan-new-fi...>

SolarCity has been a declining share of Tesla's business basically since it was acquired. And it's been a MESS. The company had to initiate a stealth, nationwide plan to switch out defective parts that could lead to fires.



Last year, Tesla initiated 'Project Titan' — a stealth nationwide program...

Project Titan was supposed to quietly replace defective solar-panel connectors and optimizers across the US. Then Walmart sued.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-project-titan-replace-bad-solar-panel-parts-2019-8>

I've talked to dozens of SolarCity employees and customers. This is what I mean when I say I've seen [@elonmusk](#) do "sloppy" and "callous" business.



Tesla solar panels have become a nightmare for some homeowners, e...

Tesla customers from Maryland to Arizona with Tesla solar panels have said they were left frustrated as they wait on the company's repairs.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-solar-panel-fires-become-nightmare-some-hom...>

Oh, and Tesla was HORRIBLE to workers during the pandemic.



Tesla went from high fives at an all-hands meeting to shutting down its...

While Elon Musk was dismissing the severity of the pandemic on social media, his Nevada Gigafactory was having an all-hands meeting, and employees at Tesla's Fremont, California facility were afraid ...

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-coronavirus-response-was-unorganized-and-da...>

And if you're wondering how long [@elonmusk](#) has been surrounded exclusively by sycophants, Tesla's last respectable GC quit after just 2 months in 2019.



Tesla's general counsel is out after just 2 months

Dane Butswinkas will leave Tesla to return to his previous firm, Williams & Connolly. He was the top lawyer for the EV maker for two months.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/teslas-general-counsel-dane-butswinkas-leaves-after...>

I'm sure the Twitter people knew what kind of chaos to expect. Musk is proud of how life-sucking and cultish working for him can be.



70-hour weeks and 'WTF' emails: 42 employees reveal the frenzy of wo...

Business Insider spoke with employees from all over the organization to find out what it's like to work for one of the world's most ambitious companies. In a word: intense.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tesla-employees-describe-intense-conditions-life-und...>

Anyway, I'll leave you with one of the first pieces I ever wrote about [@elonmusk](#), before I started any investigating, It was clear to me then what I think more people understand about him now.



Elon Musk doesn't care about you

OPINION: Elon Musk's ongoing war with the media and his lack of specifics on Tesla's Q1 earnings call tell you everything you need to know about how important customers, investors, employees, and eve...

<https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-doesnt-care-about-you-2018-5>

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