

GENERIC · NETWORK

U0028

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U0028

Vehicle Communication Bus A

U0028 is a generic network communication code indicating that the vehicle's primary communication bus, typically the high-speed Controller Area Network (CAN), has experienced a general failure or loss of signal. The computer sets this code when it cannot reliably exchange data with other modules on that bus, often due to wiring faults, module failures, or power supply issues.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Network	Generic (all makes)	High	Professional	Network wiring and bus faults

Symptoms you may notice

- Multiple warning lights illuminated simultaneously, including the check engine light, ABS, and airbag lights
- The engine may start but run poorly or stall, or the vehicle may fail to start at all
- Inoperative dashboard gauges, such as the speedometer or fuel gauge
- Transmission may default to limp mode or fail to shift properly
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent
- Other electronic features like power windows, radio, or climate control may behave erratically

Common causes, most likely first

- Damaged or corroded wiring in the communication bus, such as a broken wire or poor connection at a connector
- A faulty module on the bus that is shorting the network, preventing communication
- Low battery voltage or a failing charging system causing modules to drop offline
- Water intrusion or physical damage to the bus wiring harness
- Failed termination resistors within a module, disrupting signal integrity
- Aftermarket electronics improperly installed and interfering with the bus



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a thorough visual inspection of the communication bus wiring and connectors for damage, corrosion, or loose pins
- 2 Check battery voltage and charging system output to ensure stable power to all modules
- 3 Use a scan tool to retrieve all stored codes from every module and identify which modules are not communicating
- 4 Measure resistance across the bus lines (CAN High and CAN Low) to check for proper termination and shorts
- 5 Disconnect modules one by one to see if communication is restored, isolating a faulty module
- 6 Repair or replace any damaged wiring or connectors found during inspection
- 7 If a module is suspected, test it on a bench or substitute with a known-good unit before replacement

Before you replace the BCM or PCM

- A weak battery is a very common cause of U0028; modules may boot up but fail to communicate reliably if voltage drops during cranking.
Aftermarket alarms or remote starters tapped into the bus wiring often introduce noise or shorts that set this code.
- The code can be set by a single module holding the bus low, so disconnecting modules one at a time is a fast way to isolate the culprit.
- U0028 does not always mean the bus is dead; intermittent faults from chafed wires can set it without any current driveability issue.
Some vehicles require programming of a replacement module to the bus, so swapping parts without proper setup can introduce new communication codes.

Can I keep driving with U0028?

If the vehicle starts and runs, limit driving to a short distance to a repair shop, as communication failures can cause unpredictable stalling or loss of critical systems. If the engine will not start or multiple safety systems are disabled, do not drive and have the vehicle towed.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with enhanced manufacturer-specific capabilities
- Digital multimeter for voltage and resistance checks
- Wiring diagram and connector pinout for the vehicle
- Oscilloscope for analyzing bus signal integrity
- Breakout box for testing module connectors without damage



Reading U0028

- U** Network: communication between the vehicle's control modules.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 0** Network wiring and bus faults.
- 28** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

U0001 Loss of Bus Communication · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A · **U0121** Lost Communication With Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) Control · **U0140** Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster · **U0155** Lost Communication With Body Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Helicopter Flies: Rotor and Tail in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/u0028/>

