

Apple cuts 200 people from its autonomous vehicle team

Enlarge / Apple CEO Tim Cook looks on as the iPhone X goes on sale at an Apple Store on November 3, 2017 in Palo Alto, California.

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Apple has trimmed the size of its autonomous vehicles team, laying off 200 people, CNBC reports. Code-named “Project Titan,” the secret team has been operating for several years, but Apple has yet to reveal what specifically the group is working on.

According to CNBC, the cuts are part of a reorganization led by Doug Field, an Apple executive who went to Tesla a few years ago, then returned to Apple last summer to help lead Project Titan.

Other employees are being reassigned within Apple, CNBC says.

“As the team focuses their work on several key areas for 2019, some groups are being moved to projects in other parts of the company, where they will support machine learning and other initiatives, across all of Apple,” an Apple spokesman told CNBC.

Apple has a lot of people working on its autonomy project. Last July, after an Apple employee was arrested for stealing

secrets from the project, Apple disclosed that up to 5,000 people had access to information about it, including 2,700 people who had access to one or more confidential databases related to the effort.

In the past, Apple was rumored to be working on a fully self-driving car. Over the last couple of years, Apple has had dozens of vehicles driving around California streets, outfitted with a distinctive rack of sensors.

But CNBC says that the project “appears to have been scaled back from the initial rumored vehicle to a focus on software.”

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