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US Carriers Testing Replacement for Two-Factor Authentication

US cell phone carriers are working on a mobile authentication system that could create a new open standard. Under the banner of the Mobile Authentication Taskforce, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon say they have a solution which could roll out before the end of the year: next-generation, multi-factor mobile authentication which is intended to provide better security than two-factor authentication. The platform, powered by the carriers' networks, works by delivering a cryptographically verified phone number and profile data to authorized applications with the user's consent. Then it takes into account a whole bunch of other authenticating factors, such as a network verified number, IP address, SIM card attributes and phone account type, to make sure purchases and data usage is legit. Advanced analytics and machine learning is also slated for the platform, so it can assess risk while understanding users' unique habits. Registered developers will be able to leverage the platform only after submitting requests through a system that uses private blockchain technology.