



The Science of Age Verification and Parental Consent Systems

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Definitions

- Identification
 - Match identifier to a person or entity
 - Usernames and account numbers
- Authentication
 - “Prove” the relationship between identifier and entity to some degree
 - “Something you have, know, or are”
 - Risk Management – Weak to Strong
- Ancillary Data
 - Tied to an identifier
 - Date of Birth
 - Parent’s Names



Child Safety

- Age Verification
 - Initially associate DOB with child's identifier
 - Requires secure and reliable source of DOB
 - Appropriately authenticate child on subsequent visits
 - Asserting childhood different than asserting adulthood
- Parental Consent
 - Initially associate parent's identities/permission with child's identifier
 - Requires secure and reliable source of familial relationship data
 - Appropriately authenticate child on subsequent visits
- Requirements
 - "Initial Subscription"
 - "Subsequent Visit"
 - Any approach must perform these functions



Issues

- Age Verification
 - Unreliable initial subscription and subsequent authentication
 - “Safe Zones” aren’t “safe” and just add confusion
 - Create Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing
 - Create target lists for child predators
 - Databases of child information in the hands of for-profit vendors
- Parental Consent
 - Unreliable initial subscription and subsequent authentication
 - Better ways to achieve this goal
 - Databases of child information in the hands of for-profit vendors



Security?

Bad Security Tradeoff

Many new risks

Many opportunities for
unintended consequences

No security value

