Mobile Network Evolution to NGN

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The emergence of Next Generation Networks will usher in an era offering a wide range of services delivered over an integrated combination of diversified, heterogeneous access networks. Users of a NGN will have access to a wide range of devices (with varying capabilities, such as phone, PDA, laptop and embedded wireless devices). They will find themselves with a need to communicate in a variety of environments (e.g., home, enterprise, fixed or mobile hotspots and automobiles). Successful evolution to a NGN will be enabled by the introduction of advanced network and service capabilities that will contribute to end user satisfaction as well as profitable business operations for carriers. For pragmatic reasons, carriers may consider a roadmap to evolve toward a NGN architecture by overlaying key technology elements of the NGN on their existing network investments and infrastructures. As the evolutionary path to NGN is undertaken, it is essential to ensure users have a consistent, predictable experience under all circumstances. This will require the targeting (or retargeting) of information content for seamless service delivery to users taking into account the specifics of device, network, application, user preference and other factors into account. We will present a vision of converged network and services expected in a NGN and a plausible path to realizing the vision.