

LinkedIn offers extra step to guard user accounts

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LinkedIn is joining the crowd of Internet services tying account security to mobile phones.

In a change announced Friday, the roughly 225 million users of LinkedIn Corp.'s online [professional networking](#) service can now choose to require a code to be sent to their phones whenever an attempt is made to log in to an account from a device for the first time.

The code sent to the phone is needed to complete the login process. The extra step is designed to lessen the chances of [computer hackers](#) breaking into user accounts.

[Google Inc.](#), Facebook Inc. Microsoft Corp. and Twitter are among other major companies to deploy this two-step verification process.

LinkedIn, based in Mountain View, California, had about 6 million user passwords stolen and posted on the Internet last year.

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