Payment Card Industry
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PCI SSC Statement on Recent Breaches

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Recent breaches must sharpen our collective focus on combatting the persistent, illegal attacks against our IT and payment infrastructure. Retailers and banks are under constant assault from international organized criminals who remain out of reach, in safe havens worldwide. In response, we must remain vigilant and ensure our defense strategy incorporates strong industry-led standards; technology solutions that devalue and protect data; robust law enforcement response; and international cooperation. Creators of the advanced malware used in recent attacks and the criminals exploiting it must be sought out and brought to justice.

Although details of the latest breaches are still unfolding, the Council urges retailers and others to reference the PCI SSC Bulletin on Malware Related to Recent Breach Incidents for further recommendations to ensure they have the proper layers of defense in place for detecting, preventing and defending against malware and other attacks on their systems. EMV chip based systems offer a significant security advantage in face-to-face retail environments as the technology rolls out in the USA. But EMV chip technology does not solve all payment security challenges.

Businesses must approach security as a round-the-clock, 365 day-a-year necessity. Attacks can come from any corner of the globe, but the defense starts with the layers of security provided by PCI Standards. However, this defense must be supported by adequate law enforcement resources and international agreements that allow for the apprehension of international cybercriminals. Bringing the perpetrators of these attacks to justice needs to have the highest priority.

Against this backdrop, more than 1,000 global payment security leaders are gathering at the PCI Community Meeting in Orlando this week, working to secure the future of payments together, through people, process and technology. The Council will convene leading forensics investigators, key players from across the payment ecosystem including retailers, banks and technology experts, to discuss our strategy to maintain the highest levels of defense against these attacks. In addition, the Council's payment terminal taskforce will continue to focus on maximizing security at the point of sale level in its September meeting.