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PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL OFFERS FREE PCI AWARENESS ELEARNING COURSE IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL DATA PRIVACY DAY

WAKEFIELD, **Mass**., 28 January, 2016 — In support of International Data Privacy Day, the PCI Security Standards Council (PCI SSC), an open global forum for the development of payment card security standards, announced it will offer its PCI Awareness online training free of charge to the first 1,000 people to register on the PCI SSC website.*

"The Council applauds the National Cyber Security Alliance's initiative to encourage global collaboration on data protection," said Stephen W. Orfei, General Manager, PCI Security Standards Council. "As a Data Privacy Day champion we're pleased to make PCI Awareness training available at no cost to many who may not have the opportunity for instruction through other means."

Data breach incidents over the past year underscore the increasingly complex challenge of securing sensitive data, and the need for a global cross-industry approach to data security that involves strong law enforcement, advances in technology and industry collaboration on effective security standards. This year, in collaboration with more than 700 Participating Organizations worldwide, the PCI Council will continue driving international adoption of the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), which is focused on helping organizations make the best payment security practices business-as-usual.

"There is no silver bullet to data security. A multi-layered defense and 24x7 vigilance is absolutely necessary to protect sensitive payment card data," added Orfei. "And that's what PCI SSC provides. Cardholder data continues to be a target for criminals, so we're continuing work with stakeholders around the world to create best practices that secure

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the future of payments in stores, online and on mobile devices. Education like PCI Awareness is a vital part of that mission."

PCI Awareness training helps companies educate employees who handle cardholder data on the fundamentals of payment security. It is one of a suite of training offerings developed by the Council to train, test, and qualify organizations and individuals on PCI Security Standards.

For more information on the Council's training programs, please visit: https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/training/index.php

*Open to the first 1,000 people to enroll, the offer for free PCI Awareness online training runs from noon EST on 28 January – noon EST on 29 January (that's 17:00 GMT on 28 January – 17:00 GMT on 29 January). To allow people worldwide to enroll, there are two registration windows: the first window, open to the first 500 people is open from 17:00 GMT – 05:00 GMT. The second window, open to the first 500 people, is open from 05:00 GMT – 17:00 GMT). To take advantage of it, **please use this link:** https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/program_training_and_qualification/data_privacy_day_registration. DO NOT enroll directly from the PCI Awareness page on the PCI SSC website.*

About the PCI Security Standards Council
The PCI Security Standards Council is a global forum that is responsible for the development, management, education, and awareness of the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) and other standards that increase payment data security. Founded in 2006 by the major payment card brands American Express, Discover Financial Services, JCB International, MasterCard Worldwide and Visa Inc., the Council has over 700 Participating Organizations representing merchants, banks, processors and vendors worldwide. To learn more about playing a part in securing payment card data globally, please visit: http://pcisecuritystandards.org.

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