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PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NEW PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

—Council to increase input by industry experts through enhanced Special Interest Group structure—

WAKEFIELD, Mass., June 30, 2011 —The [PCI Security Standards Council \(PCI SSC\)](#), a global, open industry standards body providing management of the [Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard \(PCI DSS\)](#), [PIN Transaction Security \(PTS\) requirements](#) and the [Payment Application Data Security Standard \(PA-DSS\)](#), today announced it is building on the success of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to date by introducing a new process and structure for contributing to PCI SSC initiatives through these groups.

The Council developed Special Interest Groups to leverage the expertise of more than 600 Participating Organizations and provide a vehicle for incorporating their ideas and input into the work of the Council. SIGs focus on developing guidance or providing recommendations to the Council on areas of the PCI Standards that may need clarification. To date SIG participants have made significant contributions to Council resources on topics such as [wireless security](#), [EMV chip](#) and [point-to-point encryption](#). Most recently the Virtualization Special Interest Group, comprised of over 30 global experts from companies such as Citrix, Bank of America, Stanford University and Southwest Airlines, led the development of a new educational resource on PCI DSS in [virtualized environments](#). In order to enhance effectiveness and increase transparency into the formation and working progress of groups, the Council is announcing the following improvements to the Special Interest Group process:

- Proposals for new SIGs will be accepted from July 1 to August 29, 2011

- Proposals for new SIGs by Participating Organizations (PO's) and Qualified Security Assessors (QSA's) will be presented to all attendees at the PCI SSC annual Community Meetings in North America and Europe
- Participating Organizations will be able to vote on which SIGs should move forward after the Community Meetings
- A new charter for Special Interest Groups will clearly outline the goals, objectives, deliverables and time frame of projects before work commences
- A Council staff member will fulfill the role of chair and project manager for each SIG, freeing volunteer participants of this administrative burden

From July 1, the Council invites Participating Organizations and Qualified Security Assessors to complete a standard form available on the Council's website to propose formation of a Special Interest Group. This form will gather information on the proposed SIG topic and objectives, participants, deliverables and market need. When the 60 day proposal period concludes on August 29, Council staff and the Executive Committee will review proposals and create a shortlist of proposed SIGs to be presented by PO's and QSA's to their peers at the Community Meetings. Following a vote by PO's a maximum of four SIGs will be convened to ensure adequate project support.

"Special Interest Groups are a critical avenue for merchants, financial institutions and other stakeholders to be involved in Council work projects and to help evolve the understanding of PCI in real-world settings," said Bob Russo, general manager, PCI Security Standards Council. "To ensure a global response to the challenge of securing card payments, I'd like to call on all of our PO's and QSA's worldwide to consider proposing and participating in a SIG. Some of our most valuable resources have come directly from the brain trust of our Participating Organizations."

For More Information:

For more information on forming a Special Interest Group or questions on completing the standard form, please visit our [website](#) or contact the PCI Security Standards Council at sigs@pcisecuritystandards.org.

About the PCI Security Standards Council

The PCI Security Standards Council is an open, global forum that is responsible for the development, management, education, and awareness of the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) and related 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 more than 600 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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