Media Contacts

Ella Nevill, Laura K. Johnson
PCI Security Standards Council
+1-781-876-6250
press@pcisecuritystandards.org

PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL ENTERS NEXT PHASE OF DATA SECURITY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

— Version 2.0 of PCI DSS and PA-DSS effective January 1, 2011—

WAKEFIELD, Mass., January 05**,** 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 the start of phase two of the standards development lifecycle, with version 2.0 of the PCI DSS and PA-DSS formally made effective on January 1, 2011. Stakeholders may begin using version 2.0 as the basis for their payment security programs as of this date.

The updated versions of the standards were published in October of 2010 and marked the beginning of the three year lifecycle for development of the security standards. Validation against the previous version of the standard (v.1.2.1) will be permitted until December 31, 2011 allowing more time for merchants to understand and implement the new versions of the standards as well as provide feedback throughout the process. However, the Council recommends organizations move to the updated version as soon as possible.

In an effort to support this transition process, the Council's updated website provides targeted information and resources aimed at helping meet the needs of its diverse stakeholders, including multilingual and small merchant micro sites. Several new documents are now available to aid in adoption of the revised standards, such as Navigating the PCI DSS 2.0 and the updated Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs). Translated versions of the standards in Chinese, Dutch, French, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish can also be accessed. Updated fact sheets and the Quick Reference Guide will be published shortly in the PCI SSC website documents library.

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Additionally, the Council encourages organizations to take advantage of its various training programs, including the PCI Awareness training and Internal Security Assessor courses, geared specifically towards facilitating understanding and proper implementation of version 2.0. 2011 training dates are [now posted](#) on the Council site.

"As we kick off the new year and the next phase of the lifecycle process, the Council is committed to ensuring that our stakeholders have the support and resources necessary to begin putting version 2.0 of the standards into place within their organizations, " said Bob Russo, general manager, PCI Security Standards Council. "The PCI Security Standards continue to provide the best foundation for strong data security programs and the protection of cardholder data."

About the PCI Security Standards Council

The mission of the PCI Security Standards Council is to enhance payment account security by driving education and awareness of the PCI Data Security Standard and other standards that increase payment data security.

The PCI Security Standards Council was formed by the major payment card brands American Express, Discover Financial Services, JCB International, MasterCard Worldwide and Visa Inc. to provide a transparent forum in which all stakeholders can provide input into the ongoing development, enhancement and dissemination of the PCI Data Security Standard (DSS), PIN Transaction Security (PTS) requirements and the Payment Application Data Security Standard (PA-DSS). Merchants, banks, processors and other vendors are encouraged to join as participating organizations.

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