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PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL STRENGTHENS APPROVED SCANNING VENDOR (ASV) PROGRAM WITH PCI DSS TRAINING
— Specialized training for ASV staff to increase consistency and quality of scanning services to merchants—

WAKEFIELD, Mass., March 10**,** 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 introduced a new PCI DSS training program to increase the consistency and quality of Approved Scanning Vendor (ASV) scanning services to merchants. Beginning June 1, as part of their validation requirements, ASV companies will be required to qualify at least two employees through PCI ASV training. The training is designed to ensure that ASV staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to assess scan outputs and provide reports that are complete and accurate to ensure the integrity of the card data environment.

Approved Scanning Vendors validate adherence to specific PCI DSS requirements by performing external vulnerability scans of Internet facing environments of merchants and service providers. Organizations rely on the list of more than 130 ASVs on the PCI SSC website as PCI approved providers to assist them in their PCI compliance efforts.

With ASV PCI training required as part of the ASV validation process, merchants can have added confidence that those responsible for assessing and reporting the scan results are equipped with the appropriate training and the highest skill and knowledge set to assist them in their PCI DSS compliance efforts.

"This is a direct response to the feedback we've received from the merchant community and part of the Council's continual efforts help provide organizations with the best tools to secure their card data," said Bob Russo, general manager, PCI Security Standards Council.

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PCI ASV training is an in-depth eight hour online course and exam that delves into PCI DSS requirements and ASV scan testing procedures, including key competencies such as: reading and interpreting reports, vulnerability reporting, CVSS calculation and compliance determination requirements. With the knowledge gained in this course, ASV staff will be better trained to serve their customers in ensuring the consistency and accuracy of scan outputs and reports.

Scheduled in two-week blocks, the first session will be available online from March 15-28, 2011, with ongoing online courses scheduled twice a month from the 1-14th and 15-28th throughout the year. ASV companies whose validation renewal dates fall before June 1, 2011 will need to qualify at least two ASV staff through the PCI ASV Training, at a cost of $995 USD per person, by June 15, 2011. ASV companies whose renewal date falls after June 1, 2011 will need to qualify two ASV staff through the ASV training prior to their annual renewal date.

The list of PCI Approved Scanning Vendors on the PCI website will now note that the validation requirements for ASVs have been updated in 2011 to include PCI training for staff. The list will now be amended with a separate column to indicate those companies with "Qualified ASV Employees," so merchants can be aware of the ASVs whose staff has completed the PCI training.

Please see the PCI ASV training page on the PCI SSC website for a detailed course description and the Validation Requirements for Approved Scanning Vendors v2.0, February 2011 for more information on the ASV program.

For More Information:

For more information on PCI ASV training, please contact asv@pcisecuritystandards.org.

To learn more about the PCI Security Standards Council and how to become a Participating Organization, please visit www.pcisecuritystandards.org or contact the PCI SSC Secretariat at secretariat@pcisecuritystandards.org.

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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