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PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL EXPANDS ONLINE PCI TRAINING OFFERINGS FOR SECURITY PROFESSIONALS

-Popular Internal Security Assessor (ISA) training now available as eLearning course -

WAKEFIELD, Mass., August 02, 2012 -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 its popular Internal Security Assessor (ISA) training will be offered as an eLearning course beginning September 1, 2012. Eligible organizations and security professionals can register now by visiting the PCI SSC website.

The new self-paced <u>eLearning</u> course is an online version of the Council's existing instructor-led <u>ISA training</u> offering. ISA training provides businesses the opportunity to educate qualifying employees responsible for managing their PCI security programs on how to assess and validate their company's adherence to PCI Security Standards. The curriculum is comprised of a four-hour online pre-requisite course and exam called PCI Fundamentals, followed by the ISA training session and exam. Now candidates have the option to attend the two-day instructor-led session or complete the eLearning training course online. eLearning candidates can then schedule to take the exam locally at one of more than 4,000 <u>Pearson VUE Testing Centers</u> worldwide.

Since the start of the program in 2010, the Council has trained over 500 ISAs. "We benefited from the interaction with fellow delegates taking the course, said PCI DSS Manager and ISA Parminder Lall, Everything Everywhere. "The ISA training provided a different spin on how to reduce cost when it comes to PCI efforts. We also gained insight into working with a Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) and seeing their side of things."

The new eLearning option complements the Council's already available online <u>PCI</u>

<u>Awareness</u> training offering, a four-hour introductory PCI course. Businesses can take advantage of ISA training for their security professionals to ensure consistency in understanding their PCI DSS compliance efforts across their organization.

"The ISA program was developed in response to feedback from the PCI community requesting a course that would help organizations in training their own internal PCI experts," said Bob Russo, general manager, PCI Security Standards Council. "We're excited to be able to offer this popular session in a new online format, along with our PCI Awareness training, so more companies can take advantage of these resources to improve their PCI security efforts."

For more information on the ISA and PCI Awareness programs, pricing, and participation requirements, please visit the <u>training section</u> of the PCI SSC website. Questions? Email us at <u>training@pcisecuritystandards.org</u>.

The Council will be hosting instructor-led ISA sessions at the upcoming <u>PCI Community</u> <u>Meetings</u> in Orlando, Florida on September 6-7; 10-11, and in Dublin, Ireland on October 18-19. For more information or to register, visit:

- North America:
 https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/communitymeeting/2012/north-america/training.shtml
- Europe: https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/communitymeeting/2012/europe/training.

 shtml

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 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 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: pcisecuritystandards.org.

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