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PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES PCI PROFESSIONAL (PCIP)^{TM} PROGRAM

—First PCI individual accreditation program for industry professionals to improve PCI expertise across the industry—

WAKEFIELD, Mass., September 06, 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 the PCI Professional (PCIP)^{TM} Program, the Council's first individual accreditation program designed to build a greater level of PCI expertise across the industry for improved payment security globally. Eligible individuals can enroll in the program immediately by visiting the Council's website.

The PCIP Program provides IT practitioners and other professionals with industry-recognized certification that demonstrates their specialized knowledge and understanding of PCI Standards. This is the Council's first offering geared towards the individual, providing a transferable qualification that is not linked to an employer. Merchants can take advantage of the PCIP program to build PCI expertise internally, as well as leverage the global PCIP listing on the PCI website when looking to hire qualified professionals to support their payment security efforts.

The program not only offers the opportunity to build new skills for those early in their careers, but also gives more experienced professionals the chance to achieve PCI accreditation by taking the exam only. Additionally, Internal Security Assessors (ISAs) and Qualified Security Assessors (QSAs) in good standing can choose to add the individual PCIP credential to recognize their already proven level of expertise. This accreditation is available to ISAs and QSAs through registration with PCI SSC.

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PCIP training is comprised of a web-based eLearning course focused on PCI Standards and PCI DSS foundational principles and procedures. Candidates will have 30 days to successfully complete the training and then can schedule to take the exam locally at one of more than 4,000 Pearson VUE Testing Centers worldwide. Those individuals who opt to take the exam only, can do so after they've completed all necessary program requirements. The exam is now available, with the eLearning course opening on November 1. PCIPs will be then be listed on the Council's website as part of a global directory of qualified professionals.

"This is a win-win for the industry, and provides something for everyone" said Bob Russo, general manager, PCI Security Standards Council. "The PCIP program offers organizations another way to equip their IT employees to support their PCI compliance efforts, while IT security and other industry professionals can take advantage of it to build their skills portfolio. With this initiative, we hope to build a baseline of PCI knowledge across the industry. And more education means better security."

To participate in the PCIP program, an individual must meet or exceed requirements outlined in the PCIP Qualification Requirements, which include a minimum of two years of IT or IT-related experience and a base level of knowledge and awareness in information technology, network security and architecture, and payment industry participants.

For more information on PCIP program, pricing, and participation requirements, please visit the training section of the PCI SSC website at https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/training/index.php. Questions? Email us at training@pcisecuritystandards.org.

The PCIP program will also be a topic of discussion at the PCI Community Meetings in Orlando, Florida on September 12-14 and in Dublin, Ireland on October 22-24. 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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