



## **PCI Compliance for Security**

The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) is a set of requirements designed to ensure that all companies that process, store or transmit credit card information maintain a secure environment. Essentially any merchant that has a Merchant ID (MID).

The Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC) was launched on September 7, 2006 to manage the ongoing evolution of the Payment Card Industry (PCI) security standards with focus on improving payment account security throughout the transaction process. It is important to acknowledge that the payment brands and acquirers are responsible for enforcing compliance, not the PCI council.

### **Is PCI a law?**

PCI is not, in itself, a law. The standard was created by the major card brands Visa, MasterCard, Discover, AMEX and JCB. At their acquirers'/service providers' discretion, merchants that do not comply with PCI DSS may be subject to fines, card replacement costs, costly forensic audits, brand damage, etc., should a breach event occur. For a little upfront effort and cost to comply with PCI, you greatly help reduce your risk from facing these extremely unpleasant and costly consequences.

### **PCI Compliance Training:**

There is an entry-level course that the PCI Security Standards Council provides basic knowledge of PCI DSS for individuals working for organizations that must meet compliance requirements. The course offers an opportunity for your company to provide general PCI training across multiple functional areas to ensure a universal understanding of PCI compliance. The Council also qualifies payment hardware and software so that merchants select and implement approved solutions for securing payment data and systems.

There are other companies who offer Payment Security Training, in which ends with an examination leading to the certification as Certified Payment Card Industry Security Implementer (CPISI). This training course is designed to offer companies the depth of knowledge necessary to make informed decisions regarding their compliance efforts. The participants will leave with a strong understanding of the intent behind each requirement and how to apply them to their business environment.

### **The future of the card industry:**

As of 2014, the United States used a magnetic stripe on a card to process transactions and its security relies on the holder's signature and visual inspection of the card to check for features such as hologram. This system is now merging and replaced by EMV. EMV is a global standard for

inter-operation of integrated circuit cards (IC cards or "chip cards") and IC card capable point of sale (POS) terminals and automated teller machines (ATMs), for authenticating credit and debit card transactions. It has enhanced security features, but is still susceptible to fraud.

A copy of the PCI DSS (Security Standards) is available here.

[https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/security\\_standards/documents.php](https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/security_standards/documents.php)

To benefit our clients, OMG, LLC Team Members, who work in the card payment and banking industry, are PCI trained and compliant. If you would like to know more about the Payment Card industry compliance, standards and departmental improvements, please contact us at 513-429-9526 or call 800-207-4807 or e-mail [info@omgservices.com](mailto:info@omgservices.com).