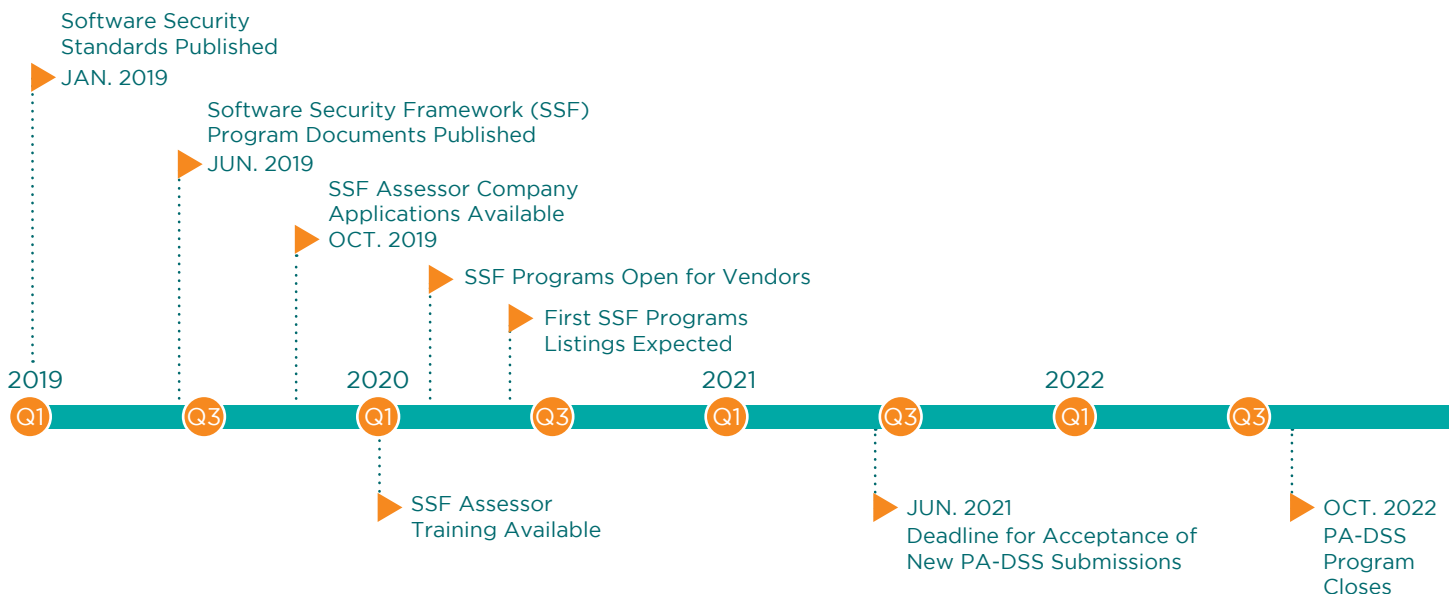


# Transitioning from PA-DSS to the PCI Software Security Framework

## A Resource Guide from the PCI Security Standards Council

When Payment Application Data Security Standard (PA-DSS) v3.2 expires at the end of October 2022, it will be formally retired and replaced by the **PCI Software Security Framework (SSF)**. In the interim, to help minimize disruption and ease the transition process for stakeholders, the standard and program will remain available and fully supported. This guide provides key information and resources to help organizations plan for transitioning from PA-DSS to the PCI Software Security Framework.

### TIMELINE



### WHAT IS THE PCI SOFTWARE SECURITY FRAMEWORK?

Payment acceptance relies on software that processes and transmits payment data. As technology advances and new payment platforms emerge, the security of this software is critical to safeguarding payment transactions. Modern software development requires objective-focused security to support more nimble development and update cycles than traditional software development practices.

The PCI Software Security Framework (SSF) recognizes this evolution with an approach that supports both traditional and modern payment software. It provides vendors with security standards for developing and maintaining payment software so that it protects payment transactions and data, minimizes vulnerabilities, and defends against attacks.

Software Security Framework Assessors (SSF Assessors) will evaluate vendors and their payment software products against the Secure Software Lifecycle (Secure SLC) and Secure Software Standards. PCI SSC will list both Secure SLC Qualified Vendors and Validated Payment Software on the PCI SSC website as resources for merchants.

## WHAT STAKEHOLDERS NEED TO KNOW



### Vendors with PA-DSS Validated Software

- Existing PA-DSS validated applications will remain on the List of Validated Payment Applications until their expiry dates, and per the normal process vendors can submit changes to them until the end of October 2022. At that time PA-DSS validated payment applications will be moved to the “Acceptable Only for Pre-Existing Deployments” tab on the List of Validated Payment Applications, and the PA-DSS Program will close.
- Submissions of new payment applications for PA-DSS validation will be accepted until 30 June 2021, and validation will expire at the end of October 2022.
- Once SSF Assessors are qualified and listed on the PCI SSC website, vendors can begin the validation process for their software lifecycle management practices and payment software. PCI SSC anticipates assessments will begin in Q1 2020.
- PCI SSC will list both Secure SLC Qualified Vendors and Validated Payment Software on the PCI SSC website.

**Key Resources:** [Secure Software Program Guide](#), [Secure SLC Program Guide](#)



### Qualified Security Assessors (QSAs) and Payment Application Qualified Security Assessors (PA-QSAs)

- QSAs, PA-QSAs, and others may apply to become Software Security Framework Assessors (SSF Assessors), which can be qualified to perform Secure SLC assessments, Secure Software assessments, or both.
- For both the Secure SLC and Secure Software Programs, PA-QSAs that meet the SSF Assessor Qualification Requirements may complete computer-based training and the corresponding exam, rather than the instructor-led training and exam required for new assessors. QSAs are eligible for computer-based training for Secure SLC only.
- PCI SSC will start accepting applications from assessors in late 2019, followed by training in early 2020. SSF Assessor Companies will be recognized on the PCI SSC List of Software Security Framework Assessors.

**Key Resource:** [Software Security Framework - Assessor Qualification Requirements](#)

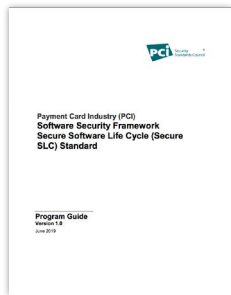


### Merchants, Service Providers, Acquirers

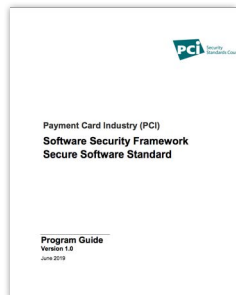
- The PA-DSS Program will continue to support PA-DSS validated applications through the end of October 2022, with no impact to users. Existing PA-DSS validated applications will remain on the List of Validated Payment Applications until their expiry dates.
- Payment software that is validated as meeting the Secure Software Standard will be recognized on the PCI SSC List of Validated Payment Software, which will supersede the current List of Validated Payment Applications when PA-DSS is retired at the end of October 2022.
- The SSF also includes a PCI SSC List of Secure SLC Qualified Vendors, which identifies payment software vendors with software lifecycle development practices that have been evaluated by a Secure SLC Assessor and validated as meeting the Secure SLC Standard.

**Key Resource:** [Software Security Framework At-a-Glance](#)

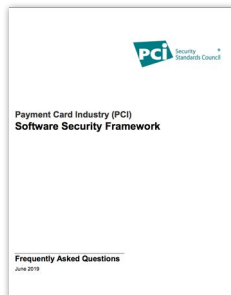
## RESOURCES



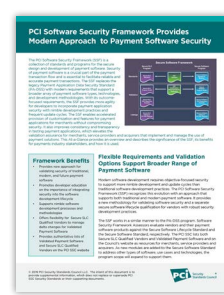
[Secure SLC Program Guide](#)



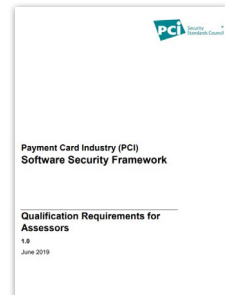
[Secure Software Program Guide](#)



[Secure Software Framework FAQs](#)



[Software Security Framework At-a-Glance](#)



[Software Security Framework - Assessor Qualification Requirements](#)

View the [PCI Perspectives Blog](#) for additional information and updates on the PCI Software Security Framework