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PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL COMBATS UNSAFE COMPUTING HABITS WITH NEW ELEARNING COURSE

— PCI partners with Security Innovation to provide basic training on payment data security best practices for organizations of all sizes —

WAKEFIELD, Mass., 19 June 2014 — The PCI Security Standards Council (PCI SSC), an open, global forum for the development of payment card security standards, announced the availability of PCI Essentials, a new, interactive eLearning program that organizations can use to train employees on basic security practices for protecting payment and other sensitive data. Developed in partnership with strategic eLearning provider, Security Innovation, PCI Essentials addresses unsafe computing habits and behaviors to help businesses establish a culture of security.

According to a recent study, conducted by Enterprise Management Association, 54% of employees have not received **any** security awareness education. Now, small businesses and large corporations alike can take advantage of PCI Essentials to improve their payment and data security efforts, by visiting the Security Innovation Education Portal.

"In today's high threat environment, employees at all levels within an organization must play a role in thwarting data compromises. It's critical that they are trained in what to look for and how to avoid putting their company at risk," said Bob Russo, General Manager, PCI Security Standards Council. "This new eLearning offering demonstrates our ongoing commitment to promoting the best possible payment security awareness education for businesses of all sizes."

PCI Essentials offers a series of ten interactive and engaging mini-courses each focusing on a critical area of information security needed for compliance with PCI DSS, including:

- Protecting Cardholder Data
- Password Practices
- Email and Browser Security
- Avoiding Social Engineering
- Mobile Device and Tablet Security
- Social Media Safety
- Security While Working Remotely
- Avoiding Malicious Downloads
- Updating Software and Anti-Virus Programs
- Physical Security

Each module takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and can be deployed in any sequence and at any time to meet specific training requirements.

The PCI Council invites organizations that are interested in learning more about PCI Essentials to attend a webinar hosted by Security Innovation: [“Uninformed Staff Leave Organizations Vulnerable”](#) on Thursday 19 June at 10 AM EDT or 3 PM EDT. The one-hour live webcast will include information on how to educate your staff on limited budgets and how to maintain good data security practices for both compliance and risk benefits.

"Technology has transformed the way consumers buy goods and services." said Edward Adams, CEO of Security Innovation. "However, with this transformation has come an explosion of the ways an attacker can steal payment card information. It is paramount for organizations to educate their staff on how to protect sensitive data - with this new training program, the PCI Council is leading the way."

For pricing information and course details, please visit: www.pci-essentials.com.

For additional information on PCI training offerings, please visit:
www.pcisecuritystandards.org/training

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 and Visa Inc., the Council has more than 650 Participating Organizations representing merchants, banks, processors and vendors worldwide. To learn more about playing a part in securing payment card data globally, please visit:
www.pcisecuritystandards.org.

Connect with the PCI Council on LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/pci-security-standards-council>. Join the conversation on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/PCISSC>.