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PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES GLOBAL PAYMENT SECURITY EDUCATION WEEK

- *Initiative emphasizes the importance of building a culture of vigilance to secure cardholder data; free PCI Awareness eLearning course offered -*

BERLIN, 9 October, 2014 — Today at its annual European gathering of payment security leaders, the [PCI](#) Security Standards Council (PCI SSC), an open global forum for the development of payment card security standards, announced the creation of *Global Payment Security Education Week*, a training awareness initiative to drive greater learning and understanding of payment data protection.

In honor of former Council employee and friend James Barrow who passed away in October 2013, the awareness initiative will run 13-20 October this year and offer PCI Awareness online training free of charge to those who register on the [PCI SSC website](#).*

“Many remember James and how strongly he felt about education and the benefits of understanding what data security and, in particular, the PCI Security Standards really mean,” said PCI SSC General Manager Emeritus Bob Russo. “We hope that *Global Payment Security Education Week* will honor James’ legacy and commitment to education, and encourage continued learning and awareness to secure the future of payments.”

The new Council initiative coincides with National Cyber Security Awareness month (NCSAM), the U.S. National Cyber Security Alliance effort focused on driving improved understanding of secure online practices to protect sensitive information. The PCI Security Standards Council is an official [NCSAM Champion](#).

“Vigilance in payment security efforts is critical to protect against hack and attack, and this starts with education and awareness. *Global Payment Security Education Week* supports the Council’s efforts to give merchants and others the training resources they

need to build a culture of ongoing security,” said PCI SSC General Manager Stephen W. Orfei.

Organizations are encouraged to promote the initiative and highlight supporting efforts on social media using #GPSEW.

[PCI Awareness](#) training helps companies educate employees who handle cardholder data on the importance of payment security. It is one of a suite of training offerings designed and developed by the Council to build awareness and to train, test, and qualify organizations and individuals to assess and validate adherence to PCI Security Standards. Organizations can access the training offer* by registering on the PCI SSC website: [Click Here for Complimentary PCI Awareness Training](#)

For more information on the Council's training programs, please visit:

<https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/training/index.php>

**The offer for free PCI Awareness online training runs for one week from 13-20 October 2014. To take advantage of it, please use this link to access the registration page:*

<https://classic.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1630772>

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 700 Participating Organizations representing merchants, banks, processors and vendors worldwide. To learn more about playing a part in securing payment card data globally, please visit: <http://pcisecuritystandards.org>.

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