

Media Contacts

Mark Meissner
PCI Security Standards Council
+1-202-744-8557
press@pcisecuritystandards.org
Twitter @PCISSC

PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL SEEKS GREATER GLOBAL PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION IN PAYMENT SECURITY ISSUES

— Program Changes Designed To Increase Participation From Lower Income Countries —

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, 15 March 2018 — At the PCI [Middle East and Africa Forum](#) today the PCI Security Standards Council (PCI SSC) announced a significant change in the pricing structure for the PCI SSC [Participating Organization](#) (PO) Program that will benefit many countries throughout the region and globally. The new, two-tier approach to PO membership is being introduced in response to industry feedback and will offer different fees based upon a country's [World Bank Country and Lending Groups classification](#).

The PCI SSC PO Program is open globally to those affiliated with the payment card industry, including merchants, banks, processors, hardware and software developers, and point-of-sale vendors. A key benefit for Participating Organizations is the opportunity to participate in the development of PCI Security Standards.

“We rely on industry input and involvement in developing and maintaining PCI Standards and Programs, and this initiative is aimed at increasing this participation globally,” said PCI SSC Chief Operating Officer Mauro Lance. “The new two-tier pricing structure creates an opportunity especially for organizations from lower income countries to engage with PCI SSC, as well as take advantage of significant discounts for our world-class training programs. By expanding opportunities, we are making the PCI Council more accessible to a more diverse audience.”

The new two-tier PO program will introduce discount pricing to Participating Organizations based upon the World Bank Country and Lending Groups classification. Tier one applies to organizations headquartered in high-income economies that will continue to pay the current \$3,750 annual fee; tier two applies to organizations headquartered in upper-middle-income, lower-middle-income and low-income economies that will pay a \$2,250 annual fee, a savings of forty percent.

“We are very pleased with the pricing changes that the PCI SSC is making to the PO Program. The revised pricing structure will hopefully lead to even greater participation from organizations in South Africa and throughout the continent,” said Walter Volker, CEO of the Payment Association of South Africa (PASA). “We applaud the PCI SSC for responding to industry feedback and developing this thoughtful and inclusive policy.”

“Our Participating Organizations are highly valued, and their participation and feedback help drive PCI SSC priorities,” said PCI SSC Executive Director Lance Johnson. “Greater participation from more countries will only add to this value and give us a greater perspective from a wider range of organizations. This is a win-win for all involved.”

Interested applicants can learn more about the many benefits of becoming a Participating Organization by visiting the PCI SSC website at:

https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/get_involved/participating_organizations

To apply to become a PO, please visit:

https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/get_involved/membership_application.

About the PCI Security Standards Council

The [PCI Security Standards Council](#) (PCI SSC) leads a global, cross-industry effort to increase payment security by providing industry-driven, flexible and effective data security standards and programs that help businesses detect, mitigate and prevent cyberattacks and breaches. Connect with the PCI SSC on [LinkedIn](#). Join the conversation on Twitter [@PCISSC](#). Subscribe to the [PCI Perspectives Blog](#).

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Tier two countries in the Middle East and Africa region that may benefit from the new discount include:

Algeria Angola Benin Botswana Burkina Faso Cabo Verde Cameroon Chad Comoros Congo, Rep. Djibouti Egypt, Arab Rep. Equatorial Guinea Ethiopia Gabon Gambia, The Ghana		Guinea Guinea-Bissau Jordan Kenya Lesotho Libya Madagascar Malawi Mauritania Mauritius Morocco Mozambique Namibia Niger Nigeria Rwanda São Tomé and Príncipe	Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa South Sudan Sudan Swaziland Tanzania Togo Tunisia Uganda West Bank and Gaza Yemen, Rep. Zambia Zimbabwe
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