

PCI Data Security Essentials for Small Merchants



Acquirers, help your small merchants understand payment security and simplify security evaluation

The PCI Data Security Essentials for Small Merchants provide security basics to protect against payment data theft and to help small merchants simplify their security and reduce their risk. The Data Security Essentials evaluations provide an alternative for eligible small merchant to evaluate and report how they are meeting these security basics for safe payments.

It is up to each acquirer, in coordination with the applicable payment brands, to determine which small merchants are eligible to use Data Security Essentials evaluations.

Merchants are only eligible to use a Data Security Essentials evaluation if they have been notified by their acquirer that it is appropriate for them to do so. We encourage acquirers to review Data Security Essentials for Small Merchants, ask your eligible small merchants to read these materials too, and then start these merchants on the path to simpler validation today.



In addition to the educational resources included in PCI Data Security Essentials, PCI SSC provides resources to help small merchants with Data Security Essentials evaluations, so they can learn more about their security posture and complete a *preliminary* evaluation. **Optionally**, small merchants can use either the [Data Security Essentials Evaluation Tool](#) OR the [Common Payment Systems](#) PDF to find the payment system that most closely matches theirs, download the related Evaluation Form, answer the security practices, and review and save their *preliminary* results. Merchants may then reference these *preliminary* results to complete the official Evaluation Form, per instructions from their acquirer.

Follow these steps to help your small merchants evaluate their security:

