

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL RELEASES VERSION 1.2 OF PCI DATA SECURITY STANDARD**

*—Revisions to standard include clarifications and other subtle changes to ease implementation—*

**WAKEFIELD, Mass, Oct. 1, 2008** — The PCI Security Standards Council (PCI SSC), a global, open industry standards body providing management of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), PIN Entry Device (PED) Security Requirements and the Payment Application Data Security Standard (PA-DSS), today announces general availability of version 1.2 of the PCI DSS. This latest version is the culmination of two years of feedback and suggestions from its industry stakeholders and is designed to clarify and ease implementation of the foremost standard for cardholder account security. Version 1.2 is effective immediately and version 1.1 of the standard will sunset on Dec. 31, 2008. The updated standard and supporting documentation is available on the Council's Web site at [https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/security\\_standards/pci\\_dss.shtml](https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/security_standards/pci_dss.shtml).

The Council previously [announced](#) the summary of changes between version 1.1 and version 1.2 to ensure awareness of the coming latest changes to the standard. Version 1.2 includes clarifications and explanations of the requirements that improve flexibility to meet today's security challenges and ensure organization's can adequately comply with the standard. While version 1.2 does not introduce any new major requirements to the existing 12 in place since the Council's inception, the updates do change some practices, such as the sun-setting of implementations of Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) wireless security by June, 2010.

"This latest revision to the PCI DSS is welcome news for merchants and service providers as they grapple with the latest security threats to their payment transactions systems," said Diana Kelley, partner and analyst with SecurityCurve, a data security consultancy. "The clarifications and language revisions should go a long way in easing implementation questions and help to reduce compliance costs."

Since the Council's inception in Sept. 2006 and the release of version 1.1 of the PCI SSC, its Participating Organizations and Board of Advisors have been providing feedback on the standard, with global industry input into the revisions. This follows the established [lifecycle](#)

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[process](#) that will ensure that the PCI DSS standard is revised and updated on a two year cycle. Participating Organizations are given the opportunity to receive early drafts of all pending revisions to the Council's standards and provide a bulk of the feedback during this process. PCI DSS version 1.2 was the primary discussion topic at the Council's recently concluded and successful community meeting in Orlando, Fla., in which more than 500 attendees came together to begin the process of strengthening the standards even further.

"It is especially gratifying to know that version 1.2 of the PCI DSS is inclusive of global industry feedback," said Bob Russo, general manager, PCI Security Standards Council. "This ensures that we continue to offer merchants and service providers a pathway to protect cardholder account data that is sensible and achievable."

**For More Information:**

More information on the PCI Security Standards Council and becoming a Participating Organization please visit [pcisecuritystandards.org](http://pcisecuritystandards.org), or contact the PCI Security Standards Council at [participation@pcisecuritystandards.org](mailto:participation@pcisecuritystandards.org).

**About the PCI Security Standards Council**

The mission of the PCI Security Standards Council is to enhance payment account security by driving education and awareness of the PCI Data Security Standard and other standards that increase payment data security.

The PCI Security Standards Council was formed by the major payment card brands American Express, Discover Financial Services, JCB International, MasterCard Worldwide and Visa Inc. to provide a transparent forum in which all stakeholders can provide input into the ongoing development, enhancement and dissemination of the PCI Data Security Standard (DSS), PIN Entry Device (PED) Security Requirements and the Payment Application Data Security Standard (PA-DSS). Merchants, banks, processors and other vendors are encouraged to join as Participating Organizations.

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