

## Media Contacts

Laura K. Johnson
PCI Security Standards Council
+1-781-876-6250
<a href="mailto:press@pcisecuritystandards.org">press@pcisecuritystandards.org</a>

## PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES PCI FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR (PFI) PROGRAM

—Centralized resource simplifies selection process for organizations requiring forensic investigation services—

WAKEFIELD, Mass., December 10th, 2010 — 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 Transaction Security \(PTS\) requirements](#) and the [Payment Application Data Security Standard \(PA-DSS\)](#) today announced availability of the [PCI Forensic Investigator \(PFI\) program](#) that aligns industry requirements for identifying and approving forensic investigators to ensure the consistency and quality of these services to compromised entities. With a consolidated [list of approved PCI Forensic Investigators](#), organizations requiring forensic investigative services can now consult a single resource recognized by each payment card brand.

In the event that cardholder data is compromised, the merchant, service provider, financial institution or other entity responsible for the data may be required by payment card brands to engage a forensic investigator to determine how and where the payment card data was obtained by unauthorized third parties. Prior to the PFI program, requirements regarding eligibility, selection and performance of forensic investigators have been determined and maintained separately by each payment card brand, making the process complex for affected parties, especially where multiple acquirers, issuers and/or payment card brands were involved.

Now through one centrally managed resource, the Council will simplify and expedite procedures for approving and engaging forensic investigators by:

- Aligning payment card brand requirements for forensic investigators
- Maintaining one list of approved forensic investigators for compromised entities to choose from, sanctioned by all payment card brands,

—more—

- Providing guidance on how investigations are to be conducted and reported

Under the PFI program affected organizations can work with one approved forensic investigator to produce a single report that will be accepted by all payment card brands.

The PCI PFI program replaces existing requirements and lists managed individually by payment card brands, to be retired on February 28, 2011. At that time, affected payment card brands will require that compromised entities engage only those approved by the Council as PCI Forensic Investigators. Each of the payment card brands will continue to develop, manage and enforce their individual programs regarding when and how forensic investigations may be required.

The list of approved PCI Forensic Investigators can be found [here](#).

“With the PCI PFI program, we’re making it easier for those requiring forensic investigative services to meet industry requirements and address security vulnerabilities within their organizations as quickly as possible,” said Bob Russo, general manager, PCI Security Standards Council.

The PCI SSC has also created a quality assurance process as part of the PFI program to actively evaluate the level of service being provided to the community by PCI Forensic Investigators. This process allows for feedback from both the payment card brands and for entities making use of PFI services.

**For More Information:**

For more information on the PFI program, please contact [pfi@pcisecuritystandards.org](mailto:pfi@pcisecuritystandards.org).

To learn more about the PCI Security Standards Council and how to become a Participating Organization, please visit [www.pcisecuritystandards.org](http://www.pcisecuritystandards.org) or contact the PCI SSC Secretariat at [secretariat@pcisecuritystandards.org](mailto:secretariat@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 Transaction Security (PTS) 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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