

2025  
ASIA-PACIFIC  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING

# A Maturity Framework for PCI DSS Compliance:

Quantifying Risks for Asia-Pacific  
Payment Security



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Hacker, Mathematics Geek, CRQ Researcher

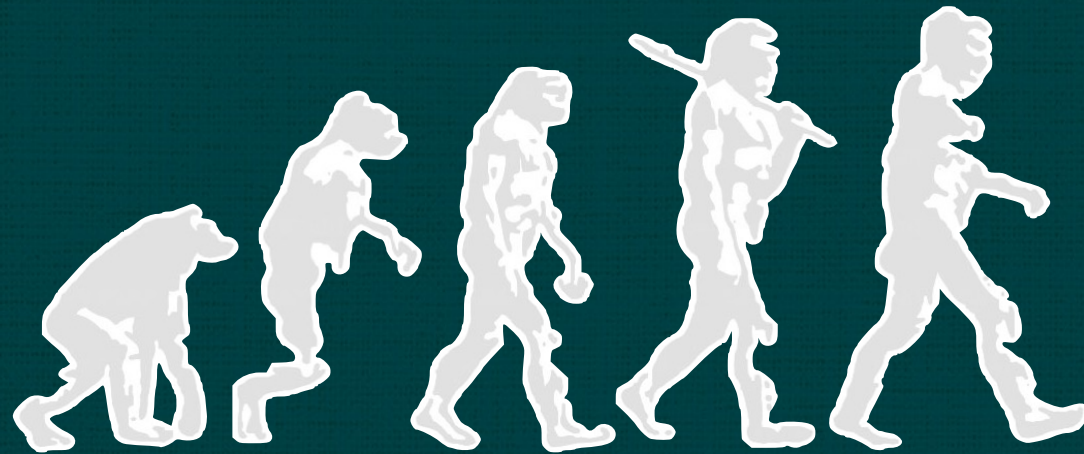
Founder and CEO

Zeron

ZERON

# The PCI DSS Evolution.

How has PCI DSS Evolved over the years and what's the future?



## Understand Guidelines

Grasp the PCI DSS framework and its requirements.

## Identify Gaps

Recognise areas where current practices fall short of standards.

## Implement Improvements

Take actions to address identified gaps and enhance security.



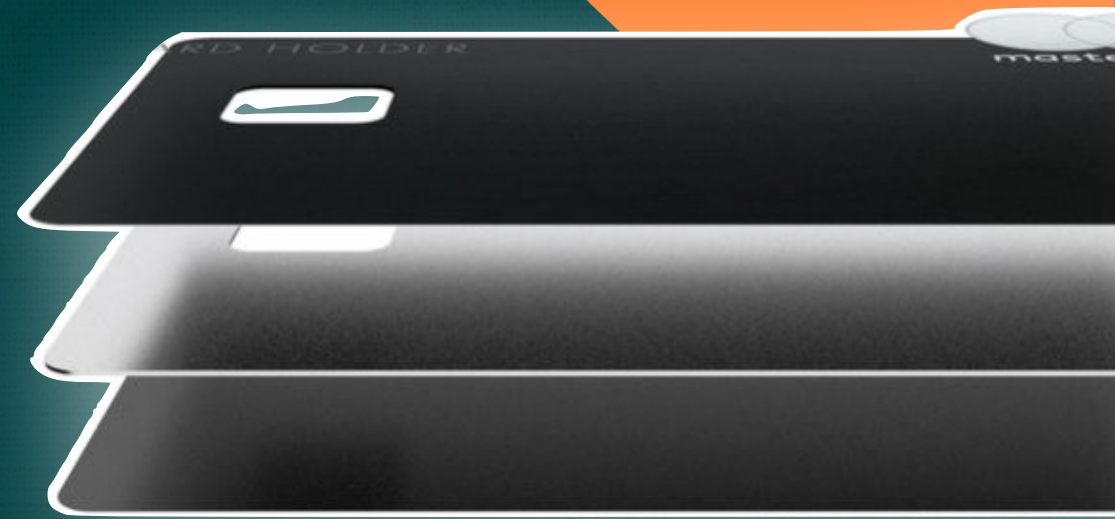
## Measure & Track Security Posture

Continuously monitor and update security measures to stay compliant.

Introducing

# An Enhanced Maturity Framework for PCI DSS v4.0.1 Compliance

A data-efficient, rigorous framework for objective and repeatable compliance evaluation.



# Methodology.

1.

**Define** scope and collect data (CDE, regional risks).

2.

**Assess** maturity across 12 PCI DSS requirements.

3.

**Identify** and map risks to TEL impacts.

4.

**Quantify** risks using MCMC simulations.

5.

**Prioritise** controls to close gaps.

6.

**Monitor** and reassess dynamically.

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*Dona always ignores quality potato menus.*

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# Maturity Levels

$$S_t = (\sum_{i=1}^{12} w_i * C_i / 12) * 100, C_i \in 0,1,2,3,4$$

Levels	Range	Maturity Metric
Initial	0-20	Ad-hoc, minimal compliance
Developing	21-40	Basic, inconsistent controls
Defined	41-60	Standardised, documented process
Managed	61-80	Proactive Monitoring, minor gaps
Optimised	81-100	Fully compliant, advanced technology.

# Scoring Metrics

Req.	Numerator	Denominator	Ratio
1	Firewalls/IDS entry points	Total entry points	% Coverage
2	Hardened systems	Total CDE systems	% Coverage
3	Encrypted/masked systems	Systems storing data	% Coverage
4	Secure channels (TLS 1.2+)	Total channels	% Coverage
5	Anti-malware systems	Total CDE systems	% Coverage
6	Patched systems ( $\leq 30$ days)	Total systems	% Coverage
7	RBAC users/systems	Total users/systems	% Coverage
8	MFA users	Total users	% Coverage
9	Controlled locations	Total locations	% Coverage
10	Monitored systems	Total CDE systems	% Coverage
11	Tested systems	Total CDE systems	% Coverage
12	$(\text{Training \%} + \text{Policy \%}) / 2$	100%	% Average

# Scoring Weights

Req.	Description	Default Weight	UPI Fraud Weight	Cross-Border Weight	SME Weight	Rationale
1	Network security controls	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	Essential for CDE protection; consistent importance across contexts.
2	Secure system configurations	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	Critical for system hardening; steady weight due to universal need.
3	Protect stored account data	0.10	0.15	0.12	0.10	Higher in UPI fraud context due to phishing risks; slightly elevated for cross-border data protection.
4	Secure data transmission	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.10	Increased for cross-border due to PDPA/DPDP compliance needs.
5	Anti-malware protection	0.10	0.15	0.10	0.10	Higher in UPI fraud context to address phishing and malware threats.
6	Secure system development	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.15	Elevated for SMEs due to reliance on patching and cloud solutions.
7	Restrict data access	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.08	Moderate importance; slightly lower in UPI and SME contexts to balance weights.
8	User authentication	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.08	Increased for cross-border to ensure secure access across jurisdictions.
9	Physical access controls	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	Lower weight due to less direct impact on digital risks; consistent across contexts.
10	Monitor network access	0.10	0.15	0.10	0.10	Higher in UPI fraud context for real-time fraud detection.
11	Regular security testing	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.15	Elevated for SMEs to address vulnerability management constraints.
12	Security policies	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.07	Lower weight as foundational; slightly higher for SMEs to emphasize training.

# Case Study I

## Organisational Context

A small e-commerce startup in Mumbai processes 20,000 UPI transactions monthly (average value \$20), generating \$1M annual revenue with 30 employees. The startup faces frequent UPI fraud (e.g., phishing attacks), leading to 150 fraud incidents last year, costing \$80K in losses and \$30K in customer reimbursements. Weak encryption and lack of monitoring exacerbate vulnerabilities, risking customer trust and regulatory penalties under India's DPDP Act.

Req.	Description	Weight (UPI Fraud)	Before Ratio	Before C <sub>i</sub>	After Ratio	After C <sub>i</sub>
1	Network security controls	0.10	20% (10/50 entry points)	1	20% (10/50 entry points)	1
2	Secure system configurations	0.10	0% (0/100 systems)	0	20% (20/100 systems)	1
3	Protect stored account data	0.15	0% (0/20 systems)	0	75% (15/20 systems)	3
4	Secure data transmission	0.10	25% (5/20 channels)	1	25% (5/20 channels)	1
5	Anti-malware protection	0.15	0% (0/100 systems)	0	70% (70/100 systems)	3
6	Secure system development	0.08	0% (0/100 systems)	0	10% (10/100 systems)	1
7	Restrict data access	0.08	0% (0/30 users)	0	0% (0/30 users)	0
8	User authentication	0.10	0% (0/30 users)	0	0% (0/30 users)	0
9	Physical access controls	0.07	33% (1/3 locations)	1	33% (1/3 locations)	1
10	Monitor network access	0.15	0% (0/100 systems)	0	60% (60/100 systems)	3
11	Regular security testing	0.07	0% (0/100 systems)	0	0% (0/100 systems)	0
12	Security policies	0.05	20% ((20% training + 20% policies)/2)	1	70% ((80% training + 60% policies)/2)	3

## Before Maturity Score and Level

$$S_t = \frac{0.32}{12} \times 100 \approx 8(\text{Initial})$$

## After Maturity Score and Level

$$S_t = \frac{1.35}{12} \times 100 \approx 28(\text{Developing})$$

# Case Study II

## Organisational Context

A Singapore payment processor with 15,000 cross-border transactions monthly (Singapore-Malaysia, \$50 average value, \$3M annual revenue, 80 employees) faces \$200K fine risk and \$80K churn due to inconsistent encryption and authentication. Interventions: TLS 1.3, MFA, policies/training (\$50K total cost).

Req.	Description	Weight (Cross-Border)	Before Ratio	Before C <sub>i</sub>	After Ratio	After C <sub>i</sub>
1	Network security controls	0.10	60% (30/50 entry points)	2	60% (30/50 entry points)	2
2	Secure system configurations	0.10	20% (20/100 systems)	1	20% (20/100 systems)	1
3	Protect stored account data	0.12	25% (5/20 systems)	1	25% (5/20 systems)	1
4	Secure data transmission	0.15	33% (10/30 channels)	1	93% (28/30 channels)	4
5	Anti-malware protection	0.10	30% (30/100 systems)	1	30% (30/100 systems)	1
6	Secure system development	0.08	0% (0/100 systems)	0	10% (10/100 systems)	1
7	Restrict data access	0.10	62.5% (50/80 users)	2	62.5% (50/80 users)	2
8	User authentication	0.15	25% (20/80 users)	1	93.75% (75/80 users)	4
9	Physical access controls	0.07	40% (2/5 locations)	1	40% (2/5 locations)	1
10	Monitor network access	0.10	20% (20/100 systems)	1	20% (20/100 systems)	1
11	Regular security testing	0.08	0% (0/100 systems)	0	0% (0/100 systems)	0
12	Security policies	0.05	30% ((30% training + 30% policies)/2)	1	85% ((90% training + 80% policies)/2)	4

## Before Maturity Score and Level

$$S_t = \frac{0.96}{12} \times 100 = 20(\text{Initial})$$

## After Maturity Score and Level

$$S_t = \frac{2.17}{12} \times 100 \approx 45(\text{Defined})$$

## MATURITY

Your maturity level at present is in Defined Stage

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## PCI SCORE

52.3

### MOST MATURED CONTROL

## Anti-malware systems

The Anti-Malware Systems show optimised maturity level with a score of 92%

### LEAST MATURED CONTROL

## User Authentication

With 7% score, the user authentication control shows initial level of maturity

### ACTION PLANS

1. Implement IAM 60%
2. Employee Training 20%
3. Encrypt Systems 90%

Network security controls

DEFINED



27TH JULY 2025

Restrict Data Access

OPTIMISED



26TH JULY 2025

# Thank You

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