Media Contacts

Laura K. Johnson
PCI Security Standards Council
+1-781-876-6250
press@pcisecuritystandards.org
Twitter @PCISSC

PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL QUALIFIED INTEGRATORS AND RESELLERS PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

-QIR program to help support merchant payment security efforts-

WAKEFIELD, **Mass**., August 15, 2012, Year—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 Qualified Integrators and Resellers (QIR)™ Program. This new PCI SSC program will train and qualify integrators and resellers that sell, install and/or service payment applications on the secure installation and maintenance of PA-DSS validated payment applications to support merchant PCI DSS security efforts. Eligible organizations can now register for the QIR program by visiting the PCI SSC website. Training will be available beginning October 1, 2012.

Integrators and resellers play a key role in securing the payment ecosystem as merchants depend on these providers to install, configure, and maintain their PA-DSS validated applications in a way that facilitates their PCI DSS compliance. Industry reports point to errors being made during the implementation and maintenance process as a significant risk to the security of cardholder data. The QIR program provides integrators and resellers with highly specialized training to help address these risks, such as ensuring that remote access is used securely and that all vendor default accounts and values are disabled or removed before the customer uses the application.

Merchants will benefit from a global list of QIRs on the PCI SSC website, providing them with a trusted resource for selecting PCI approved implementation providers. The program also includes a feedback loop for merchants to evaluate a QIR's performance.

—more—

QIR customers will have the opportunity to submit a formal feedback form online, which the Council will review as part of its quality assurance process.

The QIR training curriculum is comprised of an eight-hour self-paced eLearning course made up of three modules covering:

- PCI DSS awareness overview and understanding industry participants
- QIR roles and responsibilities
- PA-DSS and key considerations for QIRs when applying expertise to installing and configuring the PA-DSS application
- Guidance for preparing and implementing a qualified installation

After taking the eLearning course, participants will be eligible to schedule the 90-minute exam at one of more than 4,000 Pearson VUE Testing Centers worldwide. Once a company has two employees complete the training and pass the exam, the company and QIRs will be listed on the PCI SSC website for merchants to use as a resource for choosing a PCI SSC approved provider. The training course and exam will be available October 1, 2012.

Interested candidates should review the following documents available in the PCI SSC Documents Library and then submit the application form on the website:

- Qualifications Requirements
- Program Guide

The Council will also host a webinar for those interested in learning more about the QIR program, followed by a live question and answer session with PCI SSC experts:

To register for the **Thursday, August 16, 2012** session, click here.
To register for the **Wednesday, August 29, 2012** session, click here.

"Although the merchant community continues to accept and adopt PCI, small merchants are increasingly being targeted as opportunities to steal card data," said PCI SSC Chair and Vice President of Global Data Security Policies and Process for American Express, Mike Mitchell. "This new and exciting PCI program will continue to close the gap from implementation, to ongoing compliance and in the assessment processes. Merchants

should start to feel better about having a "hard-hitting" partner in their fight to prevent fraud."

For more information on the QIR program, pricing, and participation requirements, please visit the training section of the PCI SSC website. Questions? Email us at training@pcisecuritystandards.org.

The QIR program will also be a topic of discussion at the upcoming PCI Community Meetings in Orlando, Florida on September 12-14, and in Dublin, Ireland on October 22-24. For more information or to register, please visit https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/communitymeeting/2012/

About the PCI Security Standards Council

The PCI Security Standards Council is an open global forum that is responsible for the development, management, education, and awareness of the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) and other standards that increase payment data security. Founded in 2006 by the major payment card brands American Express, Discover Financial Services, JCB International, MasterCard Worldwide and Visa Inc., the Council has over 600 Participating Organizations representing merchants, banks, processors and vendors worldwide. To learn more about playing a part in securing payment card data globally, please visit: http://pcisecuritystandards.org.

Connect with the PCI Council on LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/company/pci-security-standards-council
Join the conversation on Twitter: http://twitter.com/#!/PCISSC

###