PCI BASICS
FOR MERCHANTS

Never have a false
sense of security.

History of PCI: The Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC) was created by the major card brands (MasterCard Worldwide, Discover Financial Services, American Express, JCB International, and Visa Inc.). The PCI Council then created the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) to reduce payment card theft and electronic data loss.

WHAT IS THE PCI DSS?

The PCI DSS is a list of card-handling practices your merchants must follow to accept payment cards. This standard details how to securely handle, process, and store sensitive payment card data.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH PCI DSS?

All merchants that accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, AMEX, or JCB are required to comply with the PCI DSS.

PCI DSS compliance is mandated by all major card brands.

- Failure to comply with the PCI DSS may result in the revocation of the merchant's card processing ability.

- Your merchant processor may require reports on your compliance status to your PCI validation is current.

- You may be charged non-compliance fees by your merchant processor.

- PCI DSS compliant merchants stand a greater chance of withstanding attacks.

- In the event of a data breach, the merchant is subject to fines, penalties, and associated costs resulting from the breach if the merchant is not PCI DSS compliant. These fees frequently total over $100,000.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE IF YOUR PORTFOLIO IS PCI DSS COMPLIANT?

Data security is more important now than ever as hackers become more prevalent. In 2021, the number of data breaches tracked in the US rose 16.5% according to a study by the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC). Becoming PCI compliant is a great step in preventing these types of attacks.

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HOW TO GET COMPLIANT

Validation requirements are based on how you handle and process payment cards and the number of transactions you process annually. All merchants are required to complete a Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ). The required SAQ is dependent on how you store, handle, and process card data. Some additional requirements may include:

- External vulnerability scanning
- Internal vulnerability scanning
- Penetration testing
- Security policy implementation

HOW OFTEN IS PCI COMPLIANCE VALIDATION REQUIRED?

Becoming PCI Compliant is not a single event, but an ongoing process. You as a merchant are required to validate your PCI compliance on an annual basis. This includes resubmitting the SAQ and passing the required scans.

Although validation is only an annual requirement, you are required and expected to comply with the PCI requirements on a daily basis. This includes monitoring the environment to identify suspicious activity to prevent a data breach.
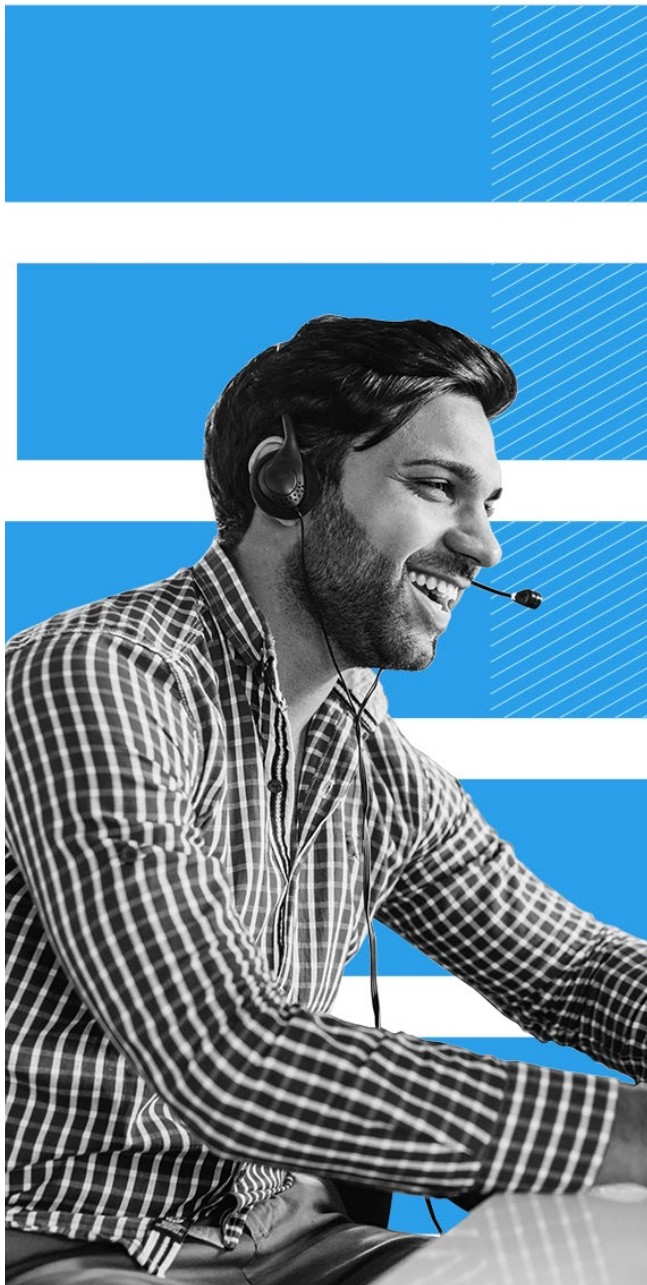
GETTING STARTED WITH PCI DSS COMPLIANCE

SecurityMetrics is a leading provider of merchant data security solutions and will help you understand how to become PCI compliant.

SecurityMetrics helps merchants:

- Understand PCI compliance

- Discover your PCI requirements

- Validate and report franchisee's PCI compliance to franchise HQ

SecurityMetrics provides:

- PCI SAQ

- External vulnerability scans

- Internal vulnerability scans

- Managed firewall

- Antivirus essentials

- Data security training

- Security policies and procedures

- Penetration testing

- Card Data Discovery

- Quality service guaranteed

ABOUT SECURITYMETRICS

We secure peace of mind for organizations that handle sensitive data. We hold our tools, training, and support to a higher, more thorough standard of performance and service, so you never have a false sense of security.

We are a PCI certified Approved Scanning Vendor (ASV), Qualified Security Assessor (QSA), Certified Forensic Investigator (PFI), and Managed Security provider with over 20 years of data security experience. From local shops to some of the world's largest brands, we help all businesses achieve data security through managed services and compliance mandates (PCI, HIPAA, GDPR, HITRUST). We have tested over 1 million systems for data security and compliance.

Get more details by visiting the SecurityMetrics PCI webpage:

Visit Webpage

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