



PCI Compliance – A Credit Card Industry Update

What is PCI-DSS? It stands for Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard.

What's it all about? All merchants, from Wal-Mart down to the dry cleaner, all have to have updated software and annual questions answered.

* Merchants using credit card machines dialing out through phone lines have only to make sure they have rec'd their free upgrade in their machine and if they have pin pads, they now have to be Triple Encrypted, also know as Triple Des. Plus, answer about 12 questions provided by their credit card processor or from the PCI website at <https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/> and return them annually to their processor.

* Merchant using software, like Activant or Spruce will need to hire a ASV, approved security vendor, (normally provided by processor) to perform quarterly scans to test for fraud potential along with a 249 question survey due annually.

What's the cost? Merchants using credit card machines should not pay a monthly or annual fee for answering required questions, but many are... ***"Have you checked your statement lately?"***

PCI Questions are provided free from their website, and should a merchant be paying a fee, they should check their association's coop program. *"No fee's attached" so to say.*

Merchants using software could be paying hundreds of dollars for these services. If so, they should check their association's coop program. Scans are only \$14.99/mo.

Who is PCI and why do I need to comply? These measures put in place by all the card brands, Visa/MC/Discover/Amex and Diner Club, are who make up the PCI Council, and have put these questions and software security measures in place to make sure all member merchants accepting consumer credit cards are handling them in the same manner "world-wide". This all being done in effort to protect yours and my "card holder data" and keep it secure from any potential fraud lurking everywhere while raising merchant awareness of such fraud potential and how it may occur.

Note: Please keep in mind while the industry is raising your awareness, they are also placing the liability 100% on you, the merchant for potential fraud. Fines plus new card replacement cost at \$30 each from everyone stolen from your system. Plus, forensic investigation costs. It could add up past \$100,000 real quick and put some companies out of business.

If we're in PCI Compliance, are we still at risk? Yes, but the fines aren't part of the equation, but all the rest still exist.

Should you have further questions or concerns on you compliance status, call your processor if it's not TriSource.

TriSource is LAT's preferred credit card processor. Call Sam Nardi, Payment Consultant for the LAT, @ 847-219-6711 – and if you haven't already had him check your credit card billing to see how much they can save you – do so today!

TriSource IS our expert in this field. Good Luck, and stay in compliance. Security is a good thing - for us all.