

PCI Compliance

The security of cardholder information is important to both your customers and your business. Credit card and check fraud costs consumers, merchants and financial institutions \$51 billion a year.¹

What Is PCI DSS?—Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard

To help guard against fraud, card companies have established the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Standards Council and the PCI Data Security Standard (DSS), which establishes and enforces security requirements for members, merchants and service providers.

One of the most significant PCI DSS requirements is that merchants may not store magnetic-stripe data after an authorization is obtained on a credit card. So magnetic-stripe data must be purged from your records, and from any system you use, after authorization.

If your business fails to comply with PCI DSS, you risk substantial fines—and even risk losing your ability to process credit card payments.

What You Can Do

Check your card acceptance system to ensure it is not using:

- Payment applications that store prohibited data
- Non-compliant service providers
- Any other element that may prevent compliance and violate the law

Generally, stand-alone dial-up terminals that communicate directly with networks do not store prohibited magnetic-stripe data after authorization. However, if you use payment processing software or have a third-party provider transmit cardholder data, you may want to take the following actions to make sure information is not stored:

- Contact your third-party vendor to ensure it is PCI compliant
- Engage an approved security assessor to determine your risk and validate compliance

Payment Solutions for Maximum Performance

Around the world every day, First Data makes payment transactions secure, fast and easy for merchants, financial institutions and their customers. We leverage our unparalleled product portfolio and expertise to deliver processing solutions that drive customer revenue and profitability. Whether the payment is by debit or credit, gift card, check or mobile phone, online or at the point of sale, First Data helps you maximize value for your business.

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¹2008, Javelin Strategy & Research Report