

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **PCI Pal® urges businesses to remove ‘tick box’ mentality to ensure year-round PCI DSS compliance**

**Verizon 2019 Payment Security Report highlights just over a third of organisations are maintaining year-round PCI DSS programs**

With just 36.7% of organisations actively maintaining PCI DSS programmes in 2018, [PCI Pal®](#), the secure payments provider to contact centres, is urging security and compliance bosses to embrace modern cloud strategies combined with rigorous updates and testing to make year-round PCI compliance an easier task to bear.

According to the latest Verizon Payment Security [Report](#), organisations are spending time and money creating data protection compliance programs (DPCPs), yet many are ineffective and fail to withstand the scrutiny of a professional security assessment.

Commenting on the report’s findings, Geoff Forsyth, CISO of PCI Pal said, “PCI DSS was initially seen as a ‘tick box’ exercise by many companies, when the reality is that a paper exercise to achieve compliance does not stand-up to the rigorous testing that third-party Qualified Security Assessors insist happens, as part of a compliance review.

“Compliance is hard to achieve and even more difficult to maintain. Hackers are only ever getting more sophisticated, constantly finding new techniques to compromise all but the most vigilant companies. Time and time again, companies that thought they were PCI compliant suffer a breach and subsequent analysis by forensic experts shows that those companies were never fully PCI compliant in the first place.

“Instead, PCI DSS compliance involves significant planning, reviews, revisions and testing to make sure it is achieved all year round, and not just seen as an annual exam that needs to be passed once a year. Embracing modern cloud strategies, with the latest technology and security systems, will help make this overall process far easier for all to achieve.”

The Verizon report indicates that only 20% of US companies that achieve compliance manage to retain it, whilst in Europe it's 48% and 69.6% for Asia-Pacific.

Concludes Geoff Forsyth, "It raises the question as to why 80% of US companies are having such problems maintaining compliance? The Verizon report highlights that once companies achieve initial compliance, the constant updating, patching and testing – as per PCI DSS Requirements 6 and 11 - appear to cause problems, resulting in compliance failures. Perhaps, adopting modern cloud strategies could be one answer; removing the need for organisations to rely on older, complex infrastructures or aging networks that create compliance barriers."

For more information on PCI Pal visit [www.pcipal.com](http://www.pcipal.com), call +44 207 030 3770 to arrange a demonstration or follow PCI Pal on [Twitter](#).

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### **About PCI Pal PLC**

PCI Pal is the specialist provider of secure payment solutions for contact centres and businesses taking Cardholder Not Present (CNP) payments. PCI Pal's globally accessible cloud platform empowers organisations to take payments securely without bringing their environments into scope of PCI DSS and other card payment data security rules and regulations.

With the entire product portfolio served from PCI Pal's cloud environment, integrations with existing telephony, payment, and desktop environments are simple and light-touch, ensuring no degradation of service while achieving security and compliance.

PCI Pal has offices in London, Ipswich (UK) and Charlotte NC (USA). For more information visit [www.pcipal.com](http://www.pcipal.com) or follow the team on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PCIPAL>

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