

2025

WHAT'S IN SCOPE FOR PCI DSS ASSESSMENT

Payment Card Assessments



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DEFINITION OF SCOPE

PER PCI DSS v4.0.1 - Definition of Scope:

PCI DSS requirements apply to:

- The cardholder data environment (CDE), which is comprised of:
- System components, people, and processes that store, process, or transmit cardholder data and/or sensitive authentication data, and,
- System components that may not store, process, or transmit CHD/SAD but have unrestricted connectivity to system components that store, process, or transmit CHD/SAD.

AND

- System components, people, and processes that could impact the security of cardholder data and/or sensitive authentication data.

EXAMPLES OF SYSTEM COMPONENTS

“System components” include network devices, servers, computing devices, virtual components, cloud components, and software.

Examples of system components include but are not limited to:

- Systems that store, process, or transmit account data (for example, payment terminals, authorization systems, clearing systems, payment middleware systems, payment back-office systems, shopping cart and store front systems, payment gateway/switch systems, fraud monitoring systems).
- Systems that provide security services (for example, authentication servers, access control servers, security information and event management (SIEM) systems, physical security systems (for example, badge access or CCTV), multi-factor authentication systems, anti-malware systems).
- Systems that facilitate segmentation (for example, internal network security controls).
- Systems that could impact the security of account data or the CDE (for example, name resolution, or e-commerce (web) redirection servers).
- Virtualization components such as virtual machines, virtual switches/routers, virtual appliances, virtual applications/desktops, and hypervisors.
- Cloud infrastructure and components, both external and on premises, and including instantiations of containers or images, virtual private clouds, cloud-based identity and access management, CDEs residing on premises or in the cloud, service meshes with containerized applications, and container orchestration tools. Network components, including but not limited to network security controls, switches, routers, VoIP network devices, wireless access points, network appliances, and other security appliances.
- Server types, including but not limited to web, application, database, authentication, mail, proxy, Network Time Protocol (NTP), and Domain Name System (DNS).
- End-user devices, such as computers, laptops, workstations, administrative workstations, tablets, and mobile devices.
- Printers, and multi-function devices that scan, print, and fax.
- Storage of account data in any format (for example, paper, data files, audio files, images, and video recordings).

EXAMPLES OF SYSTEM COMPONENTS CONTINUED

- Applications, software, and software components, server-less applications, including all purchased, subscribed (for example, Software- as-a-Service), bespoke and custom software, including internal and external (for example, Internet) applications.
- Tools, code repositories, and systems that implement software configuration management or for deployment of objects to the CDE or to systems that can impact the CDE

PCI DSS COMPLIANCE RESOURCES & TRAINING



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