SECURITY ADVISORY

tips on how to safeguard your pos system

Potential vulnerabilities

If you are not currently complying with PCI guidelines, then your system may be susceptible to security threats. Should any of the following apply to your current system configuration, your POS system may be vulnerable to damaging and costly malware:

- Ability to browse the internet from the POS computer
- Generic, default, or weak passwords
- Incorrect firewall configuration or no firewall at all
- Routers without vulnerability patch updates
- Failure to install the latest security updates for your operating system and antivirus software
- Flat networks
- Open communication ports
- Passwords stored in email or other documents on the PC
- Insecure remote access

IMPORTANT

Ransomware, a type of malware that demands a payment or ransom in order to remove a restriction on your computer, is currently making the rounds.

One variant is encrypting data and then charging to unlock it. The malware is delivered by clicking an email link or downloading an item that is wrapped in the malware.

As a reminder, it is best practice to restrict users from opening emails or browsing the internet from your POS computer and/or POS network.

If your system becomes infected, please contact the Squirrel Solution Center at 1.800.288.8160 to begin an emergency recovery process. Please note that this is a billable service.

Network security

PCI DSS COMPLIANCE

It is ultimately your responsibility under contractual agreements with your acquirer to maintain compliance with all PCI DSS requirements, which includes using PA-DSS validated payment applications and ensuring your networks are secured. One without the other can provide hackers with the ability to perpetrate continuous attacks to obtain passwords and other sensitive information.

Please contact your processor or acquirer for the documentation required for merchant PCI DSS compliance (e.g. Self Attestation Questionnaire, quarterly penetration scans depending on your transaction volumes).

MANAGED SECURITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Companies like Netsurion (www.netsurion.com) can help you secure your networks and achieve compliance. Netsurion is a leader in network security management and works directly with you to implement a secure POS network and generate the necessary filings for your acquiring bank. You can also contact your payment processor for a recommendation on an alternative managed security service provider.

ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE

Squirrel recommends that you have the latest antivirus software, NOD32 from ESET, on your POS system. This antivirus software is available from Squirrel, so please contact our sales team at 1.800.388.6824 to learn more.

For more information

Please refer to the PCI Security Standards Council (www.pcisecuritystandards.org) for the definitive PCI DSS requirements and to understand your data security obligations.