



Calence, LLC Now Qualified to Perform PCI Onsite Audits for Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards Validation

Calence becomes a Qualified Data Security Company (QDSC) to support merchants and service providers who store, process or transmit cardholder data

PHOENIX – April 3, 2006 – Calence, LLC, a leader in building, managing and optimizing customized, client-centric networks, today announced that it has achieved Qualified Data Security Company (QDSC) status. QDSC status, issued by Visa USA, Inc., reflects Calence’s commitment to helping its clients protect sensitive information assets and corporate intelligence. Calence is now qualified to perform onsite Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standards validation audits for all Level 1 merchants and Levels 1 and 2 service providers. These audits are required by the security programs of major card brands, such as Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

“IT Infrastructure design and a merchant’s ability to protect credit card data are essential parts of Payment Card Industry compliance, especially with the increasing volumes of sensitive information being transmitted over networks,” said Paul Davis, vice president, Security Solutions at Calence. “Calence’s expertise in network architecture and security integration will provide our merchant clients with the highest level of network and security solutions that mitigate business risks. Merchants and service providers going through the PCI audit process will also benefit from Calence’s experience and knowledge in delivering business technology solutions for problem resolution and risk mitigation.”

Bankcard security is critical for all point of sale (PoS), Internet, phone, and mail transactions. Consumers want assurances that their account information is safe. The PCI Data Security Standard offers a single approach to safeguarding sensitive data for all card brands, and protects cardholder data by ensuring that merchants adhere to the highest information security standards. Bankcard programs prioritize and define levels of compliance validation based on a merchant and service provider’s volume of transactions, the potential risk, and exposure introduced into

the payment system by merchants and service providers. Level 1 merchants are those that process more than 6,000,000 bankcard transactions per year or any merchant that has suffered a hack or an attack that resulted in an account data compromise. Merchants with lower numbers of transactions are also provided with guidance and requirements for controlling and securing credit card data. Service providers are organizations that process, store, or transmit cardholder data on behalf of bankcard members, merchants, or other service providers. Level 1 service providers include VisaNet payment processors and gateways. Level 2 service providers are those that are not in Level 1 and store, process, or transmit more than 1,000,000 bankcard accounts/transactions annually.

Calence's status as a QDSC is an integral component of the company's information security services. Level 1 merchants and Level 1 and 2 service providers must perform annual PCI compliance validation using a QDSC, and will benefit from working with Calence to implement network architecture solutions that will reduce potential PCI compliance issues and ensure the security of their customers' data.

About Calence, LLC

As the largest pure-play network solutions provider in the U.S., Calence, LLC (www.calence.com) helps organizations plan, build, provision and operate their network, security and telecom infrastructures. Calence works with many of the world's most prominent organizations, leveraging network technologies to reduce cost, improve operations and increase productivity. Serving the Enterprise, Commercial, Education (K-12 and Higher Ed) and the Public Sector markets, Calence's areas of specialty include IP Communications, Network Security, Network Strategy and Infrastructure, and Management Services/Outsourcing.

Headquartered in Tempe, Ariz., Calence operates in more than 20 markets throughout the United States. Calence is a Cisco Gold Partner and is IP Communications Specialized (VoIP), Security Specialized, Wireless Specialized and a Cisco Advanced Technology Partner for IP Contact Centers, Rich Media Communications and Optical-Metro. Calence professionals have over 300 Cisco certifications and use a comprehensive methodology to optimize network organizational and infrastructure performance, as well as ensure customer satisfaction.

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