

Special Ops Security is Approved as a MasterCard Site Data Protection Scanning Vendor

NEWPORT BEACH, California—August 4, 2005—Special Ops Security, a company that delivers tactical and strategic solutions that optimize the people, processes and technology that protect customer data, announced today that they have successfully completed the MasterCard Site Data Protection (SDP) scanning vendor testing process. As an SDP approved scanning vendor, Special Ops Security is allowed to help online merchants evaluate the security of their Web sites that store MasterCard account data, and achieve compliance with the *Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard*.

Special Ops Security achieved approved status on May 31, 2005, by proving their ability to detect, identify and report vulnerabilities common to flawed web site architectures and configurations. These vulnerabilities, if not patched in actual merchant Web sites, could potentially lead to an unauthorized intrusion. By proactively identifying and providing the opportunity to remedy such vulnerabilities, SDP-approved scanning solutions offer a means for reducing risk of intrusion and data compromise.

The SDP Scanning Vendor Approval Process is an expansion of MasterCard's Site Data Protection Program™, a comprehensive, proactive and cost-effective program designed to help protect the online and physical infrastructures of its customer financial institutions, merchants and other payment processors holding MasterCard account information.

"The high standards set forth by MasterCard in its approval process makes its well-respected Site Data Protection Program a model for other industries," said Erik Pace Birkholz, president and founder of Special Ops Security. "We worked hard on obtaining approval and were delighted when Special Ops Security was approved on its very first attempt."

"The Site Data Protection Vendor Approval Process reflects our ongoing commitment to helping our customers and online merchants evaluate and improve the security of their online and physical sites in a timely and affordable manner. The end result we are striving for – improved overall channel security – is a win-win for all parties involved," said Stephen Orfei, senior vice president and head of the MasterCard e-Commerce Center of Excellence.

The Scanning Vendor Approval Program requires a two-step process. The first step is to complete an online application form, which can be found at the SDP Web site. The application provides MasterCard with an overview of the applying organization, along with a detailed assertion by the security vendor that their solution is compliant with or exceeds the requirements set forth in the PCI Data Security Standard. After applying for compliance testing, the second step is for vendors to undergo a rigorous evaluation cycle that spans across a wide range of Web servers, firewalls, and operating systems – an environment controlled and managed by MasterCard.

About MasterCard SDP

The MasterCard Site Data Protection Program is a proactive, cost-effective, global solution offered by MasterCard through its acquiring members. The program provides acquiring customers with the ability to deploy security compliance programs, assisting online merchants and Member Service Providers to better protect against hacker intrusions and account data compromises. The program takes a proactive approach to security by identifying common possible vulnerabilities in a merchant web site and makes recommendations for short-and long-term security improvements. The solution addresses the security issues that online merchants and their acquiring banks face in the virtual world, and concerns arising from these issues, such as Internet fraud, chargebacks, brand image damage, consumer information safety and privacy and the cost of replacing stolen account numbers.

About Special Ops Security

Headquartered in Orange County, California, Special Ops Security, Inc. is a privately held company that meets the growing demand for specialized information security knowledge by blending consulting, training and technology into a new, hybrid educational solution for our customers. We are committed to delivering tactical and strategic solutions that optimize the people, processes and technology that protect customer data. For more information visit our web site at www.SpecialOpsSecurity.com or contact us toll-free at 888-R-U-OWNED.

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