5 STEPS TO ACHIEVING PCI COMPLIANCE

Achieving PCI compliance can be a difficult, yet extremely important task for all businesses involved in data storage and protection. As cyber attacks and security breaches become more commonplace in today's society, **PCI compliance is vital as its purpose is to prevent such catastrophes.** In order to successfully achieve PCI compliance, here are five recommended **steps** to take:

## CONDUCT A FORMAL RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Many companies have implemented a formal assessment to find any possible **vulnerabilities** or **exploits** that could possibly lead to a **security breach.**

SEGMENT YOUR COMPANY'S NETWORK

Through **segmenting** and **isolating networks** that store, process or transmit data, you can **reduce the scope of PCI compliance** and the risk of a breach.

STORE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED
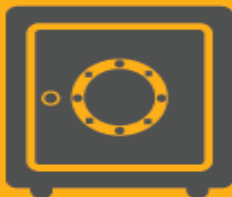
By **assessing** and **analyzing data** to see which is absolutely necessary and which can be outsourced, your business can **eliminate** many **potential issues in PCI compliance.**

ASSIGN A SPECIFIC TEAM/TEAM MEMBER TO FOCUS ON PCI COMPLIANCE

In assigning **ownership** to one member **or team**, those involved will feel much more **responsible** and thus will be more likely to be successful in **maintaining security** and **achieving compliance.**

EDUCATE AND TRAIN ALL EMPLOYEES

While companies are willing to invest in technology to address PCI requirements, it is also important to **teach** employees the **rules of compliance** in order to heighten **awareness** and **reduce** the risk of breaches.

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