

PCI Breach Trend Report

Data Breaches June 2015 – August 2015

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SUMMARY

During the months June to August, Security Risk Management (SRM) Ltd was contacted by a broad range of companies (**20**) legally required to seek assistance in securing data breaches. The largest number of cases (**45%**) came from SMEs, in particular specialist – usually online - retailers (**25%**).

The most common attack method was through Remote File Inclusion (RFI), a method of running malicious code on a victim's system, providing the intruder with unrestricted access and enabling them to steal sensitive information and execute malicious actions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PCI COMPLIANCE

PCI Compliance is a critical factor for all types of merchants ranging from small start-ups to big corporations. Any merchant that accepts credit card payments whether online or offline needs to consider (PCI DSS) PCI Data Security, as safeguarding customer's card data should be at the heart of the business. PCI DSS includes policies, security management, software design, procedures among other protective methods.

Compliance is an ongoing requirement for businesses and failure to adhere with it may not only result in loss of customer trust, it could lead to enforced investigations and fines. Ensuring compliance provides customers with peace of mind that data is secure.

Being compliant to the PCI DSS standard involves the adoption of a series of measures, including:

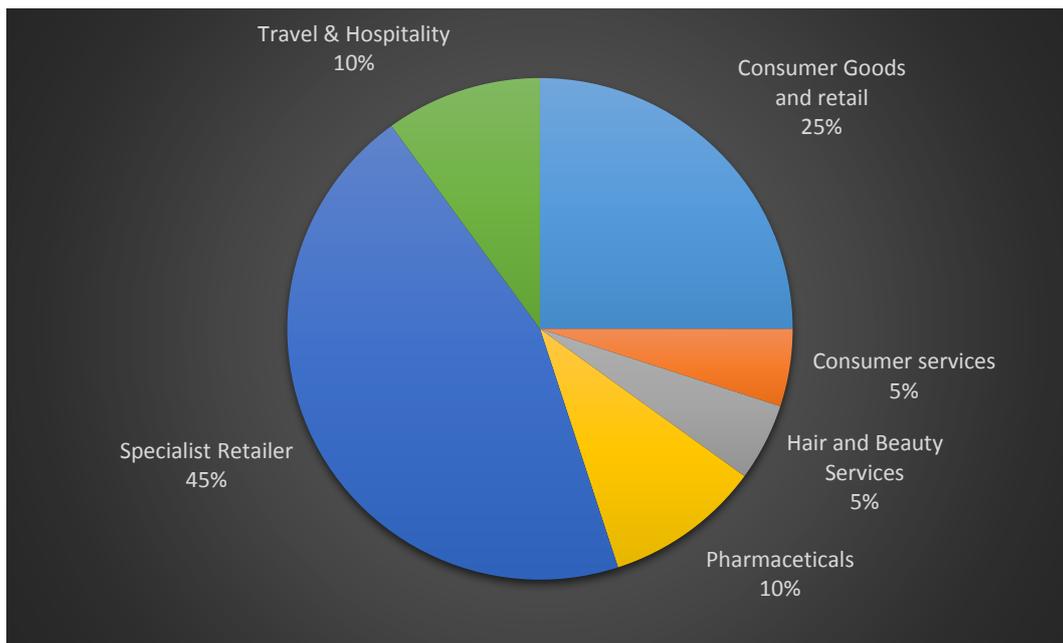
- A specific security management regime
- Protocols governing the design of software and its deployment
- Defined policies and procedures relating to the handling of card data, whether it be electronic or physical
- Regular technical verification checks, such as vulnerability scanning and technical testing

Although PCI-DSS compliance is a requirement and not a law in itself, there is a contractual obligation which can be enforced by PCI compliance fines and other restrictions which comes from the payment providers directly. Failure of compliance exposes you to face the prospect of fines of up to £50,000 per breach or being permanently banned from the card acceptance programme should a serious breach occur.

Ensuring you are compliant will significantly reduce your risk of a data breach, and will allow you and your customers to have peace of mind that data is secure. The responsibility for ensuring that card data is protected lies with the Merchant.

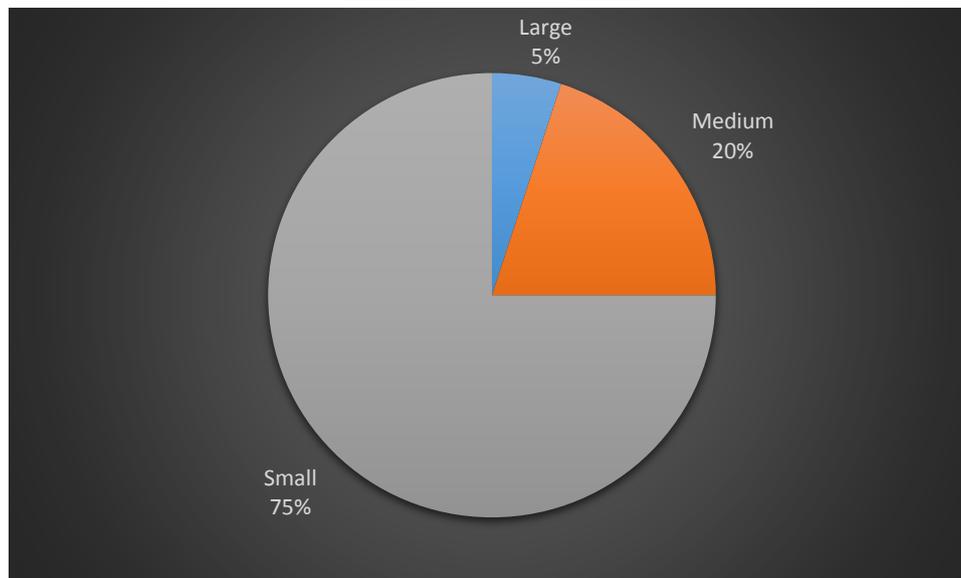
BUSINESSES TYPES AFFECTED JUNE 2015 – AUGUST 2015

The pie chart below shows the types of businesses affected in the period June 2015 – August 2015. SRM closely examined 23 Payment Card related Forensic Investigations (PCI-PFI).



The largest category was the specialist retailer (45%). In the majority of cases, these were small online businesses, selling niche products direct to the public. 25% were consumer goods retailers and 10% Travel and Hospitality.

Although SRM dealt with breaches across all size and types of businesses during the June 2015 – August 2015 period, the majority as you can see from the pie chart below (75%) were SMEs. In each case, significant fines were levied as a result of the breach, and each business was then compelled to demonstrate their compliance to the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard PCI DSS standard within 90 days.



SRM is one of only 7 companies accredited and operating within Europe as a PCI Forensic Investigator dealing with cases where payment card data has been illegally obtained. This provides us with a detailed view of the causes of data breaches, and our work involves the analysis and remediation of these attack methods.

About

SRM is an Information Security specialists covering the full scope of Payment Forensic Investigation, PCI DSS Consultancy, Governance, Risk and Compliance. We also provide information assurance, business continuity, operational risk management and computer & network forensics.

This broad portfolio allows SRM to provide a more efficient and effective service, making the most of consultants' skills and offering you better value for money. Having one service provider also improves project flow and delivery by minimising any potential disruption to operations: whereas having multiple service providers on site could result in a duplication of effort, investment inefficiencies and conflicts of interest.

SRM experts, drawn from the private sector, police service, armed forces and government agencies, offer an exceptional skill-set and depth of experience, all delivered to a first-class level of service.

SRM's existing clients, who range from small and medium size businesses to government departments, charities and other non-commercial institutions, trust SRM because we deliver what we promise.

To find out more and for general enquiries, please contact the PCI team on
03450 21 21 51.

SRM

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