

Scope of PCI DSS Requirements

The first step of PCI DSS is to accurately determine the scope of the environment. The scoping process includes identifying all system components that are located within or connected to the cardholder data environment. The cardholder data environment is comprised of people, processes, and technology that handle cardholder data or sensitive authentication data. System components include network devices (both wired and wireless), servers, computing devices, and applications. Virtualization components, such as virtual machines, virtual switches/routers, virtual appliances, virtual applications/desktops, and hypervisors, are also considered system components within PCI DSS.

Scoping must occur at least annually and prior to the annual assessment. Merchants and other entities