Do You Store Credit Card Information?

If your business stores credit card information electronically in order to process recurring transactions or orders from repeat customers, you are subject to a rigorous set of requirements in the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS). These mandatory requirements are difficult and expensive to meet and sustain.

Of course, you have a legitimate need to access cardholder information in order to conduct business in the most efficient way possible. So how do you maintain access and still store information in a way that lowers risk and cost-effectively complies with PCI-DSS?

Your Two Options:

Businesses that need to store credit card information have essentially two options.

1. **Develop a Solution Internally:** In this scenario, you make the investments required to meet PCI-DSS so that you can continue storing credit card information on-site. These investments typically include network redesigns to segment credit card information from other applications, new hardware/software and revised business procedures that require regular staff time and attention. Not surprisingly, for many medium-sized businesses, these investments are expensive and time-consuming—even reaching into six figures. And as long as you maintain this information on-site, you are assuming more risk.

2. **Use a 3rd Party Hosted Solution:** This option, remote data storage, takes all credit card information (and other sensitive data if needed) and stores it off-site in a secure, hosted environment. By doing this, you transfer many of the compliance requirements to the 3rd party host, effectively lowering your risk and saving you much of the investment required to meet and sustain PCI-DSS. At the same time, your business can continue to initiate transactions for recurring or repeat payments without ever touching the data. It's the best of both worlds.

Wind River Financial Solutions:

Wind River Financial has researched, tested and implemented remote data storage solutions for numerous companies. We start by conducting a thorough assessment of your business model and transaction environment. Not only does this help Wind River select the right hosted solution for your business, but it allows us to identify other opportunities to reduce cost, lower risk and improve your customers' experience. We then develop and execute a detailed implementation plan to put your customized solution in place and guide you through the PCI-DSS process.

In short, our comprehensive approach provides you with a turnkey approach to a complex challenge—all while helping you reduce risk and improve the bottom line.