Understand Your Why

PCI Compliance & Sustainability

Payment Card Assessments, LLC

Is a Career in PCI Compliance Right For You?

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Who This Guide is For

This guidebook is for emerging PCI Compliance Analysts and Assessors who seek to pivot from where they are to PCI DSS Compliance OR grow their career within the PCI DSS Compliance space.

Disclaimer: (because we need to have one)

The intent of this guide is to help you decide if PCI Compliance is where you want to grow your career in the Governance, Risk, and Compliance space.

This guide is self-reflective in nature. There are no wrong answers, only your answers.

This guide is not a promise of a job or a guaranteed salary.

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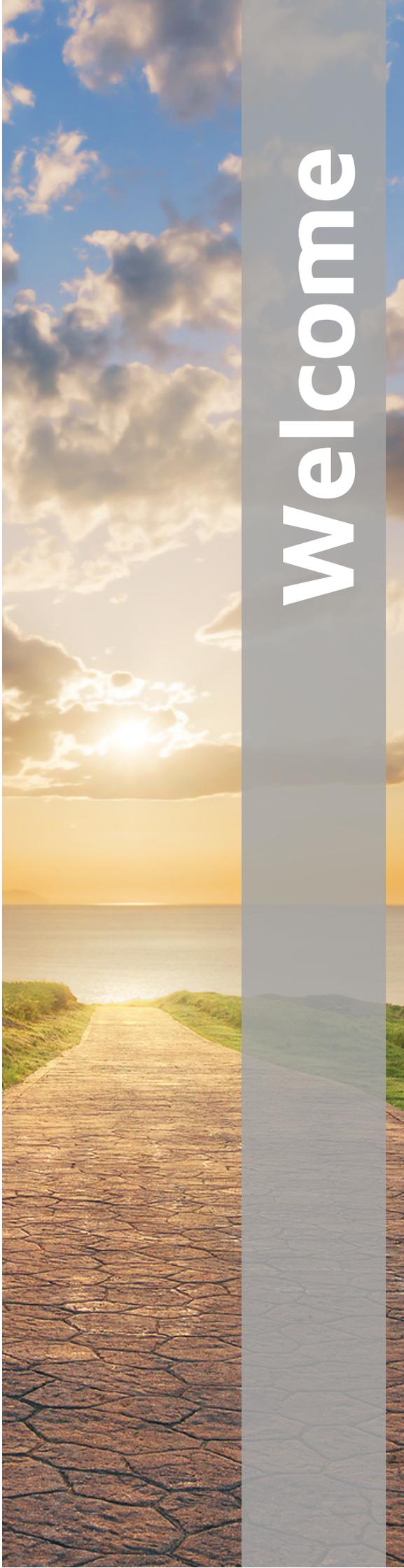
Welcome

A journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step

After receiving a few hundred emails about pivoting into the PCI DSS Compliance space, we realized a workshop + guidebook were in order to help as many people as we could.

This guidebook is self-reflective in nature, so there are no wrong answers. Only your answers.

We encourage you to make the time to be intentional about your goals, aspirations, and career path.

So let's get started, shall we?

Here's to your success,

Peggy & Lisa

START WITH WHY

The Choice to Change

It's important to know WHY you want to pivot into this field of opportunity.

It's important to understand what's motivating you.

Is it more money?

Is it career stability?

Is it from a desire to help improve payment security?

Set aside some quiet time to read through and answer these self-reflective questions.

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

1. Why do you want a career in PCI Compliance?

2. What aspects of PCI Compliance are you drawn to?

3. What skills do you bring to the PCI Compliance arena?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

4. Describe your most recent goal achieved. Was it something you set for yourself?

5. Describe a work project where you took the initiative to start and finish it.

6. Describe your communications skills. Are you able to articulate complex issues in easy to understand terms?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

7. If you had to purchase your services and skills for the year, would you be happy with your purchase?

8. Is your current employer satisfied with the quality of your services and your job performance?

9. What do you think you need to learn to be successful in PCI Compliance?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

10. What is your definition of success? What does success look like to you?

11. How will achieving your definition of success make you feel?

12. Based on your current skill set, what PCI Compliance roles are you interested in?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

13. What are your top 3 companies that you're interested in working for?

14. What areas of PCI compliance are your strengths?

15. What areas of PCI Compliance are your weaknesses?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

16. How would you rate your project management skills? Are you better at planning, budgeting, executing the plan?

17. How would you rate your technical skills? Is there an area of IT Security that you gravitate towards? If so, what is it?

18. How would you rate your ability to influence C-Suite executives?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

19. How well do you handle stress?

20. What are your hobbies? How do you relax and recharge?

21. How would you rate your ability to influence cybersecurity or technical teams?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

22. What's your level of education?

- ☐ High school
- ☐ AA / AS Degree
- ☐ BA / BS Degree
- ☐ MA / MS / MBA Degree
- ☐ Ph.D.

23. List any and all certifications you've acheived and if you maintain CPEs.

24. How comfortable are you with hard conversations? Describe a recent difficult conversation you had at work or with a colleague. How did you come to a resolution?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

25. Which role appeals to you more - being a PCI-P, an ISA, or a QSA - and why?

26. What types of daily activities do you think you'll be doing in the role that appeals to you the most?

27. How do you handle failure? What steps would you take to turn failure into success?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

28. Describe your perfect day. Who's with you? What are you doing? Where do you live? Where are you working? Be as descriptive as possible.

29. Where do you want to be in your career in a year? 2 years? 5 years?

30. If my current career could talk, what would it say?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

31. What have you been ignoring about your current career? What do you need to correct?

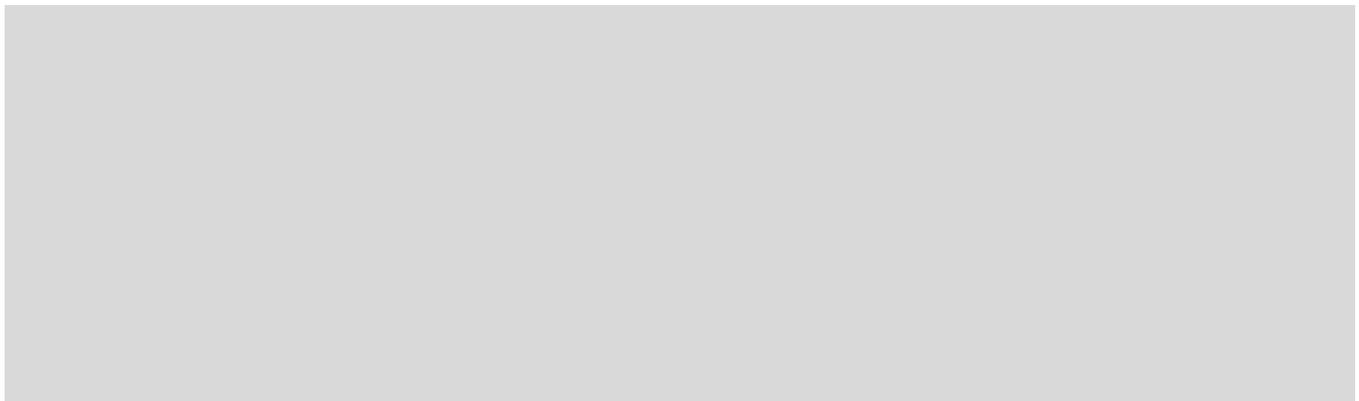32. What skills do you believe you need to master to attain the success you desire?

33. Who's accountable and responsible for your career success?

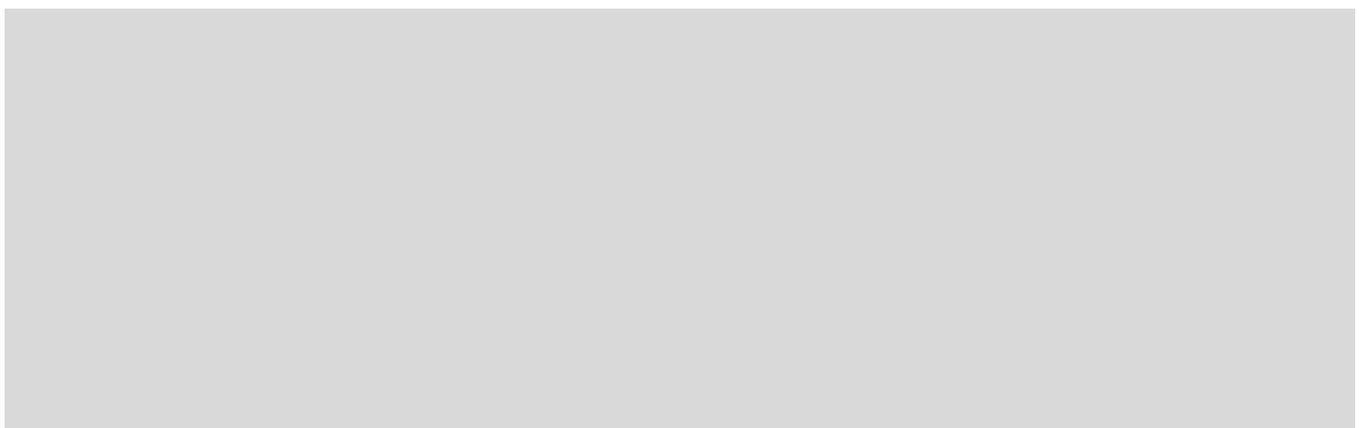# Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

34. What are 3 bad habits you continue to tolerate or do that are undermining your expected results?

35. How has your comfort zone played a role in your performance or attitude?

36. How do you define excellence?

Personal Self-Assessment Questionnaire

37. On another sheet of paper, put together your own career plan that will take you from where you are to where you want to be. Be as descriptive as possible with each step.

Additional Resources

PCA's 5 Hour 1:1 Coaching Block

PCA's 10 Hour 1:1 Coaching Block

PCI SSC PCI-P

PCI SSC PCI-ISA

PCI SSC PCI-AQSA & QSA

Personal Development Books We Recommend:

1. Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill
2. The Four Agreements by don Miguel Ruiz
3. The Tao of Pooh by Benjamin Hoff
4. The Road Less Stupid by Keith Cunningham