

Technical Cooperation ep2
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To whom it may concern,

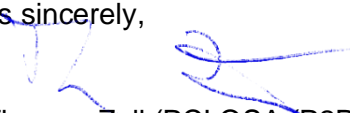
PCI requirements relevant for the ep2 component secret

The ep2 protocol defines a “component secret”, which allows the host to authenticate POIs, which are sending transactions. The following statements can be made:

- The “component secret” is not a cryptographic key since no cryptographic operations are performed with it. It can therefore be considered a password.
- The loading of the “component secret” could be considered a sensitive service according to [PTS] DTR B5, which means that there should be protection in place during loading, but it is not in scope of requirement B9 (Key Management). Also, key strengths equivalents defined in Appendix E do not have to be fulfilled with regards to the length of the secret.
- No current PCI standard requires that POIs are to use authentication, with one exception: [P2PE] requirement 4B-1.4. Outside of a P2PE solution POI authentication is entirely optional.
- Authenticating via component secret can be used to fulfil [P2PE] requirement 4B-1.4, since the use of cryptographic keys is not mandatory (“may occur”).

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned for any further details.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Thomas Zell (PCI QSA (P2PE), PA-QSA (P2PE))
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References:

- [PTS] Payment Card Industry (PCI) PIN Transaction Security (PTS) Point of Interaction (POI) Modular Derived Test Requirements, Version 6.0, June 2020
- [P2PE] Payment Card Industry (PCI) Point-to-Point Encryption Security Requirements and Testing Procedures, Version 3.0, December 2019

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