thrivePCI

COURSE 03

Evidence That Explains the Work

Claims, supporting material and clear handoffs



Release 0.2.6+20 261 120T222 000Z | Draft for review

Learning objectives

01

State a specific activity claim

02

Correlate material to the relevant testing objective

03

Expose gaps and prepare a usable evidence index

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The activity claim

01

What happened, where and for which period?

02

Who performed the work?

03

What does the submitted material substantiate?

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A claim with traceable context

A filename needs an explanation
Context should be concise and specific

Field	Fictional preparation entry
Claim	Defined application accounts were reviewed
Coverage	Application, population source and review period
Evidence location	Decision record, relevant section
Open issue	Exception follow-up needs confirmation

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Assessment testing methods

01

Examine: evaluate relevant evidence

02

Observe: view an activity or condition

03

Interview: discuss performance and understanding

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Policy and operation evidence

A policy describes expectations
Operational records show what occurred
Testing may require several forms of support

Material	What it may help explain
Policy or procedure	Expected process and responsibility
Configuration record	A relevant configured condition
Activity record	Execution, decisions and follow-up
Interview or observation	Understanding or behavior under testing

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Common evidence mismatches

01

The wrong service or system

02

An unsupported period or population

03

A claim broader than the record

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A concise evidence index

Map the claim to exact material
Keep limitations and ownership visible

Index field	Purpose
Claim or testing objective	Explains why the material is relevant
Record and section	Directs the reviewer to the supporting content
Owner	Identifies who can explain the record
Limitation or gap	Keeps missing support explicit

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Practice scenario

01

A policy assigns a review

02

The uploaded spreadsheet contains names only

03

No decisions or follow-up appear in the supplied record

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Scenario debrief

A population list has a limited meaning
The owner needs a specific evidence question

Observation	Preparation response
Population list exists	Confirm source and coverage
Decisions are absent from supplied material	Request the authentic decision record
Reviewer or period is unclear	Ask the activity owner for substantiation
Historical support cannot be found	Record the limitation and follow the actual process

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Knowledge check

What does a completed platform task establish by itself?

A. Every testing procedure is satisfied

B. The underlying activity is compliant

C. The platform recorded its completion state

D. No further explanation can be requested

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Answer and explanation

01

C is the supported conclusion

02

The activity and evidence need their own evaluation

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Your evidence action brief

01

Choose one submission

02

State its claim and exact supporting location

03

Record unsupported elements for the preparation owner

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Sources and course boundary

PCI DSS v4.0.1: section 10, Testing Methods

Requirement-specific testing procedures govern the work

Claim and index formats are practitioner aids

Educational guidance. No compliance guarantee.

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Current standard and assessment timing

The phase-in has elapsed

Requirements and specified bullets previously phased in on March 31, 2025 are effective. Apply their entity, technology and other applicability conditions.

Use the current successors

6.4.1 6.4.2 | 8.3.10 8.3.10.1 | 10.7.1 10.7.2. The superseded requirements are N/A for current reporting; retain them only for historical context.

Keep timing and evidence distinct

An effective date does not create a recurring control interval or an evidence freshness limit. Use the applicable requirement and testing procedures to establish those obligations.

Source: PCI DSS v4.0.1; PCI SSC FAQs 1593 and 1176. Source checked November 21, 2026.

PCI DSS v4.0.1 / corpus 1.1.0+20261121T170000Z