

A FEISTY FIRST QUARTER

The first quarter of the year witnessed a flurry of activities on both the global and local terrace locally, the banking and electronic card payment sectors suddenly became a beehive of activities following the recent directive from the CBN that all players along the electronic card payment value chain must be PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) compliant. The apex bank had also gone a step further to prescribe various penalties to be applied to non-compliant organisations. Hence, PCI DSS has now become a buzzword within and outside the financial

As a firm, the first quarter has seen us continue to serve and proffer value base services to our esteemed clients. As, arguably, the only firm that had commenced a PCI DSS project before the CBN DIRECTIVES for a large nation-wide financial institution in Nigeria, we are certainly blazing the trail in this area.

PCI DSS

The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) is a worldwide information security standard defined by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC). The standard was created to help payment card industry organizations that process card payments prevent credit card fraud through increased controls around data and its exposure to compromise. The standard applies to all organisations that hold, process, or transmit cardholder information from any of the card brands: American Express, VISA, MasterCard etc. Validation of compliance can be performed either internally or externally, depending on the volume of card transactions the organization is handling, but regardless of the size of the organization, compliance must be assessed annually. Organisations handling large volumes of transactions must have their compliance assessed by an independent assessor known as a Qualified Security Assessor (QSA).

LOCAL CONTENT BILL

Outside the Financial Industry, the Oil & Gas sector is grappling with comprehending the implications of the Local Content Bill. The local content bill signed into law last year continues to attract positive remarks and opinions from various quarters of the country. The act, which was designed and enacted to facilitate significant local input in the oil and gas industry, provides several allowances for ensuring that this objective becomes a reality. The local content bill has far reaching implications for the issues of technological advancement, manpower development and long term cost effectiveness with a strong potential for transforming the industry from a major importer of goods and services to an industry that sources a significant proportion of its inputs locally to support operations thereby empowering Nigerians. The multiplier effect of the bill will, without a doubt, be enormous if properly implemented.



All Over
Africa
Digital Jewels made its debut across Africa with a team of Consultants traveling across seven African countries on a COBIT Implementation initiative.

In the Spotlight:

PCIDSS & THE CENTRAL SWITCH

PCI DSS and the NIBSS's (Nigerian Inter-Bank Settlement System Central Switches) were the focus this quarter in our monthly IVC breakfast forums. Participants at these forums have undoubtedly found it to be a platform where pertinent industry and best practise related issues are brought to the front burner for objective critique and assessment. In February, we had Stelios Tigkas QSA (Quality Security Assessor) senior consultant from FortConsult, our partner from Denmark as guest speaker. The February forum, tagged "Attaining PCI DSS Compliance: A pragmatic Roadmap", turned out to be a most interactive one as several grey areas on PCI DSS as well as compliance FAQs were addressed insightfully and with a straight forward pragmatic approach.



In March 2011, we had the Managing Director of NIBSS (Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement Systems), Mr. Paul Lawal making a strong and convincing case for the Central Switch. Mr. Lawal delivered on the topic – "The Central Switch: E-payment - Enabler or Inhibitor" This forum expectedly turned out to be an explosive session as several issues on the role, positioning and implementation of the Central Switch were brought forward for Mr. Lawal to tackle.



DJ Cares

Our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative has been remodeled and repackaged to take on more and achieve more. We have consciously and carefully determined different strata of the society to focus on for this year and in the years to come. Programs for this year have been tailored to target Senior Secondary School students, University undergraduates and young professionals The programs which will take the form of career counseling will provide an educative and enlightening platform, particularly for young professionals nursing a career in Information Technology and Project Management.

Gaining Proficiency in IT Governance

Three of our Senior Consultants passed their CGEIT examination and are already processing their certification.



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2011 Training Calendar

The training calendar is available for download on our website.

Trainings for 2nd quarter

We continued in our value adding capacity building as we organized trainings for IT professionals, specialists and executives.

Not only did we create the enabling environment for desired outcomes, we also exceeded their expectations as evidenced in their feedback.

Over the next few months we will be offering:

Management_of_Risk, Cobit 4.1 Foundation, ITIL v3 Foundation, Managing Projects the Prince2 way, PM MasterClass, PMP Fast Track, IT Governance MasterClass, TOGAF.

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