Reducing Spend and Increasing Security with a vCISO

Gila River Hotels & Casinos

GILA RIVER
HOTELS & CASINOS

Gila River Hotels & Casinos operates three Arizona casinos owned by the Gila River Indian Community: Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte and Vee Quiva. All three casinos offer a combination of slots, table games, bingo, poker and hotels, and are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Highlights

Challenges

- Rapid organizational growth requiring enhanced security measures.
- Limited resources and expertise for developing a tailored security strategy.
- Compliance with regulatory requirements such as PCI DSS and GLI standards.
- High costs and time constraints associated with hiring a full-time CISO.

Challenges

Develop/implement a tailored security strategy to meet regulatory requirements and enhance overall security posture.

For Gila River Hotels & Casinos, the protection of their guests, infrastructure, data and revenue is paramount.

As an organization that has grown exponentially over the years, including changes in infrastructure, staff and technology; ensuring that their overall security posture allows them to adhere to compliance mandates and is able to address today's and adapt to tomorrow's mounting security threats, was at the forefront of their IT endeavors.

However, Gila River lacked the resources and expertise to dedicate to the development and implementation of a tailored security strategy that complies with their regulatory requirements. They turned to US Signal, a longstanding partner of over 20 years, to help address their security needs.

"We needed a resource with the breadth and depth of experience to help Gila River evolve our overall security posture, adopt more effective security policies, and provide ongoing training to my IT Teams," said Chris Bolton, Chief Information Officer at Gila River Hotels & Casinos. "However, bringing on a full-time Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) would require additional budget and time spent onboarding a new employee, ultimately prolonging the completion dates of many of our security initiatives. With US Signal's new virtual CISO (vCISO) offering, we were able to address our security needs immediately, without the constraints and prohibitive costs associated with a traditional CISO hire."

Solution

- Conducted security assessments and gap analysis.
- Defined and implemented a risk-based security strategy.
- Developed security policies, procedures, and configuration standards.
- Instituted vulnerability and breach detection programs with active monitoring.
- Launched a security awareness training program.
- Provided strategic IT roadmaps to guide future initiatives.

Results

- Significant cost savings by avoiding full-time CISO hire.
- Improved overall security posture and reduced risk.
- Enhanced resource allocation, enabling IT teams to focus on other priorities.
- Streamlined security reporting for non-technical leadership.
- Ongoing access to expert security guidance and best practices.

Solutions

The custom-tailored journey began with the goal of building a successful information security program that was the right fit for Gila River's needs. One that ensures the appropriate mechanisms were in place to help identify and prevent the compromise of information security and availability of Gila River's data.

Rather than reinventing the wheel, OneNeck security experts leveraged Gila River's existing mapped assessments, including their Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) and Gaming Laboratory International (GLI) audits, to help identify any security gaps, outline remediation steps and ultimately build a security framework Gila River can leverage on their own.

Specific achievements include:
- Performed an organizational and technical security assessment with gap analysis
- Defined a risk-based security strategy
- Developed and documented security policies, procedures and configuration standards
- Developed strategic IT roadmaps
- Instituted a vulnerability management program
- Instituted a comprehensive breach detection program with active monitoring
- Introduced a security awareness program

Results

The significant cost savings by eliminating the need to hire additional headcount was substantial.

In addition, by leveraging US Signal's vCISO offering, Gila River was able to take advantage of the following benefits:

Improved Security
Gila River maintains the confidentiality, integrity and availability of their data on and off network, and continues to reduce risk by leveraging US Signal's vCISO for continual security improvements.

Reallocation of Time and Resources
With US Signal's vCISO shouldering the strategic security responsibilities, Gila River's IT resources are free to focus on other strategic initiatives.

Streamlined Reporting
Access to clear and concise reporting that details where Gila River stands from a security/framework perspective has made it easier to articulate their security status to non-technical senior leadership members.

Security Expertise
US Signal's vCISO serves as an expert advisor in the development, implementation and maintenance of an information security infrastructure that ensures that security and privacy best practice control objectives are achieved.

"US Signal's vCISO offering has provided us with tremendous value from day one. We have been able to vastly improve our existing information security program and boost our overall security posture. I am confident that we have best practices and standards in place and are well maintained in areas of privacy, data handling, incident response and more."
-Chris Bolton.

Digital Infrastructure Solutions Built for Your Business

US Signal, established in 2001, is a premier national digital infrastructure company that operates a fully owned fiber network to deliver a wide range of advanced digital solutions. Our offerings include robust cloud services, secure colocation facilities, high-performance connectivity, comprehensive hardware resale, and managed IT services, empowering businesses to enhance their operational efficiency through tailored network, data center, data protection, and cybersecurity solutions.