Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC)
Proactive Protection in a High-Stake Industry

Why This Gaming Organization Didn't Leave Cybersecurity to Chance

In early 2021, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) and its Enterprises had a fully staffed Information Technology team, including dedicated cybersecurity professionals. They utilized industry-leading security tools, maintained regulatory compliance, and actively educated employees on cybersecurity best practices.

Still, they recognized there was more they could do. While well-prepared to respond to threats, they wanted to move beyond a reactive posture and adopt a more proactive, preventative approach.

That's where Bulletproof came in.

ABOUT SMSC

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Gaming Enterprise encompasses Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and Little Six Casino, both located just 25 minutes southwest of Minneapolis–St. Paul in Prior Lake, Minnesota. Together with its government and other business entities, the SMSC is the largest employer in Scott County.

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel stands as the premier gaming destination in the Midwest and the largest casino in Minnesota.

THE IDEA

By November 2021, reports of malware attacks were becoming alarmingly frequent. These threats were no longer confined to specific industries—gaming and tribal organizations were increasingly being affected.

It was clear: no organization could afford to assume they weren't a target. Cyberattacks had become a universal risk, demanding constant vigilance. In response, the SMSC and its Enterprises began exploring alternative approaches to strengthen their cyber defenses. This launched a discovery process led by the IT Cybersecurity team, focused on evaluating the feasibility of a proactively monitored Zero Trust architecture to protect the entire organization.

> "If you're not investing in protecting your revenue and reputation, you're risking everything."

Lee Edberg
Director, Cyber Security,
Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel

THE SOLUTION

The team chose Bulletproof to be their partner. In addition to Bulletproof's extensive security experience in the gaming industry, three major requirements for the relationship were:

• The use of Microsoft Defender in the solution
• Managed Detection & Response (MDR) services
• A cybersecurity education program

It was important to the SMSC that Bulletproof support their existing IT security resources. They wanted to have a collaborative working relationship with the team at Bulletproof. Bulletproof satisfied the requirements, so the team got to work on a solution.

The solution involved both process transition and technology upgrades. Working together, the SMSC IT team and the Bulletproof team were able to achieve optimal results in a few short months.

Controls and automation were put in place that enabled the system to alert and react to potential threats quickly and effectively. Security Operations Center (SOC) services, including MDR, provided by Bulletproof enabled the team at the SMSC to focus more time on enterprise operations without losing control and attention to potential cyber threats.

THE RESULT

After the new processes and systems were fully deployed, tests were conducted to ensure the solution delivered on the expected functionality and capabilities. The Bulletproof architected solution and MDR services were confirmed as to their ability to identify suspicious behavior, like phishing emails with malicious links. It also has the ability to quickly identify any activated malicious software and act quickly on those.

In that case, the SOC quickly triages the incident and begins to contain the threat. The SOC then escalates communication to the local team to remediate the impacts to the local environment, ensuring minimal downtime for the user and protection of the overall environment.

The new solution provides confidence to the SMSC team that suspicious behavior and emerging threats can be identified and isolated quickly to reduce the risk of an enterprise-wide impact.

MANAGED DETECTION & RESPONSE (MDR)

A Cybersecurity service that provides organizations with a team of experts who monitor your endpoints, networks, and cloud environments, and respond to cyberthreats 24/7.

WHY BULLETPROOF

With locations across North America and around the globe, Bulletproof, a GLI company, has decades of IT, security, and compliance expertise.

Bulletproof leverages its extensive industry experience to mitigate risk and improve client processes, systems, and business infrastructure.

Named 2024 Microsoft Security Excellence Awards Winner for Security Trailblazer and Microsoft's global Security Partner of the Year in 2021 winner for delivering excellence and innovative end-to-end security solutions. Bulletproof is also a member of the Microsoft Intelligent Security Association (MISA).

Member of
Microsoft Intelligent
Security Association

Microsoft Security | Microsoft Security Excellence Awards Security Trailblazer Winner 2024

Microsoft Partner | 2021 Partner of the Year Security Award
Microsoft

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