

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Members Only Monthly Report (page 1 of 3)

Cybersecurity and Tribes

Insider's Insight

from TribalHub's Executive Officer, Mike Day



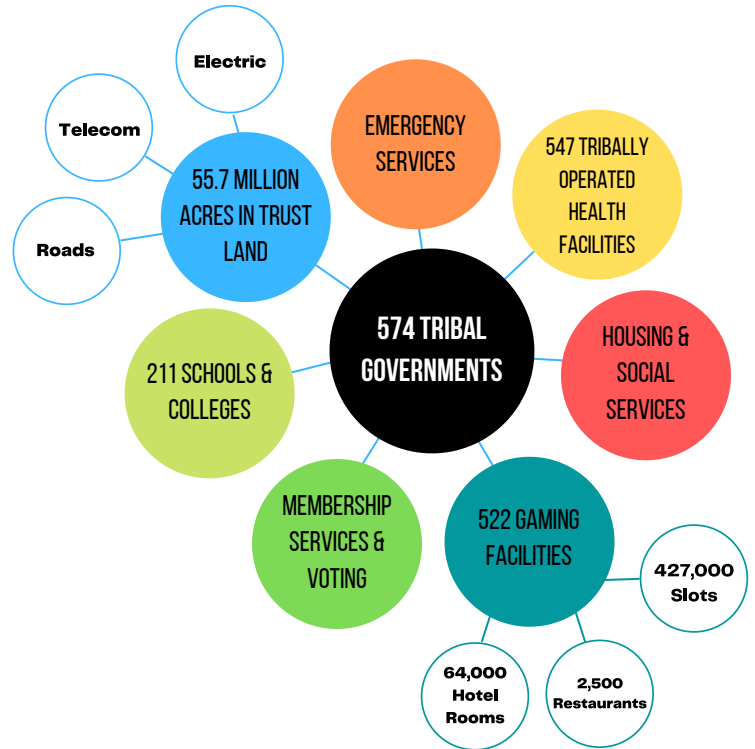
How do you make cyber security the priority it needs to be in your tribe or tribal enterprise BEFORE you face a costly cyber incident or ransomware attack? This is a question that needs to be top of mind as we continue to witness tribes, governments, and commercial industries across the nation struggling to recover from an increasing number of damaging cyber incidents.

We are making cyber security our topic of this month's Industry Insights Report, in hopes that more tribes will make security a higher priority and to provide an awareness that there are resources available to tribes and steps they can be taken now, to improve their security preparedness. Attempting to handle security completely alone has not proven to be a winning strategy for most tribes or tribal enterprises. Collaboration, information sharing, access to best practices and security resources are available to every tribe that seeks them.

As a prime example, TribalHub supports the recently launched Tribal-ISAC, which is the security information sharing and collaboration network for Native American and Alaska Native tribes and their enterprises across the United States (www.tribal-isac.org). This non-profit organization was created to support security preparedness for tribes and as a safe place to share security information and peer support, while protecting the sovereignty of tribes. You can join the Tribal-ISAC today if you are employed directly by a tribe or tribal enterprise, and we recommend this to every tribe. Access to more resources, timely information and relevant threat information will unquestionably give you and your tribe or tribal enterprise an edge in security preparedness that you cannot achieve alone. Meanwhile, the Tribal-ISAC is always seeking to establish, manage and improve secure and effective collaboration with other resources that tribes can benefit from including the Multi-State ISAC, CISA, DHS and the Center for Internet Security.

The tribes with the best security posture are most likely to be those that have begun to embrace collaboration and outsourcing over those that have chosen isolation or a reliance on a very limited number of their own internal resources. The Tribal-ISAC is an example of a great collaboration and info sharing, but additionally, more and more tribes are looking at outsourcing some part(s) of their security to third parties that specialize in the service and have the resources and expertise to better protect their tribe or tribal enterprise.

What Are Tribes Across The Nation Securing?



The point I am addressing here is that it is not taboo to consider outsourcing all or part of a tribe's cybersecurity program, rather it is a smart and rational business consideration that should be considered when (more) effective. If it is a cost effective solution, the only real question is who can provide the security services better?

Effective cyber security is difficult to achieve, maintain, enforce and manage. Tribal governments, tribal health and tribal gaming have been targets of cyber threats. We don't expect this to end any time soon. As we continually read news about massive commercial enterprises, State governments and even the United States government falling victim to cyber attacks, it makes us all wonder how we can have any hope in securing our own tribe or tribal enterprise with our comparably limited resources. The best advice that I can provide at this time is simply to not work in isolation. You are not best served or prepared by standing alone against cyber adversaries with more time and resources.

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Members Only Monthly Report (page 2 of 3)

Cybersecurity and Tribes

Hear From Your Peers:

CHAD DIXSON, MIS/Network Manager, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe & Current Tribal-ISAC member



The Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe is located in central Arizona and currently has less than 200 tribal members. They own approximately 1400 acres of land and two gaming facilities, Bucky's Casino and the Yavapai Casino. The Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe has separate IT departments for their government and gaming facilities, Mr. Dixon is the MIS/Network Manager for the

tribal government. Currently they outsource Managed Detection & Response (MDR) services because the resources (time) to parse through this information is too great on a daily basis.

The biggest challenge in 2021 from a security perspective for him has been having the time and resources to effectively complete projects which improve/bolster the overall security posture of his organization. In Mr. Dixon's opinion one thing that makes security a particularly large challenge for tribal organizations has been that many Tribal leaders are not educated, not experienced in corporate environments, and do not understand the necessity to spend/invest in security...more prevalent with smaller Tribes.

In his organization there are currently no resources/employees dedicated to only cyber security. Being a small Tribe with a small IT team, each IT staff member wears multiple hats...no one staff member is dedicated to cyber-security. Security spending ranks #2 behind payroll in terms of their overall budget and investment for 2021.

The Tribal-ISAC Steering Committee invites you to join the Tribal-ISAC:

"The Tribal-ISAC is a unique opportunity for the Tribal organizations to safely communicate with trusted resources about security related topics. The Analysts filter critical cyber events information down to deliver the most relevant news, threats and risks for the Tribal Communities. The Tribal-ISAC is a great value for anyone working in a Tribal organization trying to fight the cybersecurity issues alone. Sharing best practices and timely threat information safely amongst our peers will help us all fight the ever growing threat landscape together."



Lee Edberg, IT Cyber Security Manager, Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel & Tribal-ISAC Steering Committee

JAMES SCHAEFFER, IT Director, Shoalwater Bay Tribe



With over 400 tribal members and 1,100 acres of land the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe occupies a reservation on the north side of Willapa Bay (formerly Shoalwater Bay) on the Washington coast. Enterprises include the Shoalwater Bay Casino and the Shoalwater Bay Medical Center. The Shoalwater Bay Tribe has separate IT departments for their government and gaming facilities and their government IT department supports their health facility. Mr. Schaeffer oversees the tribal government and health facility.

They do not currently outsource any part of their security services. However he will be looking to add either a full time security person or utilize a Managed Security Service (like Arctic Wolf) for FY22. Right now one of his biggest challenges from a security perspective for him has been responding to threats (like Exchange exploits), ensuring their systems are fully protected and patched, and proactively monitoring systems for indicators of compromise.

We asked Mr. Schaeffer what makes security a particularly large challenge for tribal organizations and he said " It is challenging because we have a lack of time and expertise. Threat hunting is a full time job and even if/when we have the tools to detect/monitor/protect the organization, we don't have a dedicated person/service with the time to analyze the data and the expertise to interpret the results and/or mitigate the threat (when identified)."

In terms of your overall budget and investment for 2021 Security spending only covers the costs of support/maintenance contracts for Firewall, Anti-virus, and Anti-spam solutions. He is hopeful that will change in FY22.

NIKK GILBERT, CISSP, CISM, Chief Information



Security Officer, Cherokee Nation Businesses

Cherokee Nation Businesses (CNB) is the holding company that develops and manages the Cherokee Nation's diverse group of businesses, including many businesses that are 8(a), HUBZone and MBE certified. CNB generates revenue for the Cherokee Nation by creating jobs, providing world-class entertainment, promoting Cherokee culture and performing award-winning work for commercial and government clients.

CNB owns companies in the gaming, hospitality, information technology, health care, personnel services, distribution, manufacturing, telecommunications, environmental services and security and defense industries.

Mr. Gilbert's organization does not currently outsource any part of their security services. His biggest challenge for 2021 from a security perspective has been End Point protection and PAM. From his perspective one thing that makes security a particularly large challenge for tribal organizations is getting agreement across the various business units. Currently there are 4 employees who are dedicated to only cyber security within his organization. Security spending is ranked low in terms of their overall budget and investment for 2021.

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Members Only Monthly Report (page 3 of 3)

Cybersecurity and Tribes

Keeping Your Tribe Safe

On Behalf Of:



The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is excited to announce the launch of the Tribal Emergency Communications Program (TECP) webpage now available on CISA.gov for tribal communities seeking to develop and strengthen their emergency communications infrastructure.

OUR MISSION:

The CISA TECP supports Native American and Alaska Native tribes through consultative engagement, outreach, advocacy, technical assistance, and inter- and intra-agency coordination to ensure strengthened public safety operable and interoperable communications. Each tribe is the critical part of the public safety community's nationwide infrastructure and CISA strives to tailor solutions based on the unique needs of each tribe.

CISA OFFERS ASSISTANCE WITH:

- Land Mobile Radio (LMR)
- Wireless Broadband and Landline Communications
- Alerts, Warnings, and Notifications Technology
- Priority Telecommunications Services
- cCommunications Infrastructure Assessment and Testing
- Planning and Process Documentation
- Coordination and Agreement Support
- Exercise Planning and Execution
- Infrastructure Security
- Communications Unit Training and Support
- Operational, Engineering, and Tactical Communications Support

Visit cisa.gov/tribal-emergency-communications-program or contact cisatribalaffairs@cisa.gov to learn more about CISA's service offerings available at no cost to your tribe!

Ways To Utilize Your TribalHub Membership:

Nearly 30 TribalHub member tribes have already joined the Tribal-ISAC. Click [here](#) to learn why your peers are working to improve their tribe's security posture.

To learn more about how you can join the Tribal-ISAC reach out to tiffany@tribalhub.com or visit tribalisac.org today.



Are you taking full advantage of your TribalHub Membership?



Contact your Membership Representative, Tiffany at tiffany@tribalhub.com for a FREE DEMO on how to best utilize all the benefits and discounts available through your TribalHub membership!

Click [HERE](#) to check out this podcast feature by **Jennifer Lyn Walker, The Cybersecurity Evangelist**, who sat down for a great discussion with two of the Steering Committee Members from Tribal-ISAC.

- **Bill Travitz** - Director, Office of Information Technology, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- **Lee Edberg** - IT Cybersecurity Manager for Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Both gentlemen bring great experience and insight to Tribal-ISAC and its members. You will learn a lot about the Tribal-ISAC and why it's so important for your tribe to join.

The Tribal-ISAC is open to membership for Native American and Alaskan Native tribal government, operations, and enterprises.



The Cybersecurity Evangelist
with Jennifer Lyn Walker

