



Modern Armor for Modern Business

Inside the magazine: vCISOs, SD-WAN, and MDR that keep critical infrastructure, finance, gaming, and manufacturing safe in a threat landscape up 35% year-over-year.

Editor's Note

Ransomware shows no sign of slowing—attacks jumped **35% in Q1 2025 vs. Q4 2024**, with [70 active gangs now prowling leak sites](#). Meanwhile, global cyber-crime is on track to [drain \\$10.5 trillion in 2025](#)—a drag larger than the world's third-largest economy. Boards want assurances, regulators want proof, and lean security teams need partners who can deliver both.

The organizations in this issue show what that looks like in the wild:

- **Ho-Chunk, Inc.**, opened Nebraska's first casino and ran **18 months with zero outages**, thanks to a vCISO program that locks down every IoT sensor and gaming table.
- **Madera County, CA**, swapped ad-hoc tools for a Cisco + Arctic Wolf MDR/XDR stack that flags anomalies before they become headlines.
- **Siemer Milling**—est. 1882—modernized three mills and hardened OT/IT without missing a production run.
- **Centra Credit Union** cut WAN costs **30%** while layering zero-trust inspection onto every branch link.

Different sectors, one playbook: layered controls, real-time visibility, and partners who stay past go-live. As you turn the pages, look for ideas you can lift straight into your own roadmap—because in 2025, “good enough” security is already yesterday's news.

– **Dustin Patterson, Editor, C1 Insights**

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Impact Snapshot



0 outages in 18 months of casino operations at **Ho-Chunk, Inc.** after deploying C1's vCISO-led security stack.

"We have not had a single outage in a year and a half of operations."
– **Jerry Beavers, Corporate VP of IT, Ho-Chunk, Inc.**



Ransomware readiness for public sector.
Madera County shifted from ad-hoc fixes to a layered Cisco + Arctic Wolf MDR/XDR defense that now flags suspicious activity in real time.

"There are a lot of times when someone's doing something in our environment, and we get alerted to it so we can investigate."
– **Brian Rohde, Deputy CIO, Madera County**



Full-stack modernization across three mills at **Siemer Milling**—with documented runbooks and staff up-skilling baked in.

"C1's specialists not only implemented solutions but also helped us do our jobs better and be more productive."
– **Dedra Wagoner, Sr. Systems Analyst, Siemer Milling**



30% telecom savings & 45% first-year ROI at **Centra Credit Union** after replacing MPLS with Palo Alto SD-WAN and hardening every branch link.

"Troubleshooting went from hours per month to minutes per year."
– **Brent Parks, SVP Technology, Centra Credit Union**

Bottom line: From zero-outage casinos and county governments to credit-union WANs and 140-year-old manufacturers, C1 customers are proving that modern, layered security slashes downtime, cuts cost, and keeps auditors—and attackers—at bay.



Jackpot! Ho-Chunk, Inc. Races the Clock to Open Nebraska's First Casino, Securely

When Nebraska green-lit commercial gaming, **Ho-Chunk, Inc.**—the Winnebago Tribe's economic-development arm—set its sights on being *first* to raise the neon. The catch? A brand-new casino demanded rock-solid networking, bulletproof cybersecurity, and full regulatory sign-off **faster than suppliers could ship switches.**

"We were very concerned about getting all of our switches and all the networking we needed to open on time," admits Jerry Beavers, Corporate VP of IT. "And it was critical for us to open as quickly as possible because we wanted to be the first casino in Nebraska."



Watch the video: [*Ho-Chunk, Inc. Achieves Perfect Resiliency with C1 Technology*](#)



Two Fronts, One Partner

Ho-Chunk, Inc.'s revenues come from two very different worlds—high-stakes government contracting and now gaming. Both hinge on airtight security, so the company tapped long-time ally **C1** for a dual mission:

1. **Government contracts:** Stay compliant with **NIST 800-171** and prep for the **Cyber Maturity Model Certification (CMMC)** using C1's **Virtual CISO (vCISO)** service.
2. **Casino launch:** Design, procure, and monitor a new network that could scale—and survive would-be cyber thieves—on day one.

"C1 sends us alerts about everything that's happening in the cybersecurity environment. They keep us informed, help us prepare for audits and guide us through certification processes," Beavers says, crediting the vCISO with translating federal alphabet soup into action items his team can hit.



Chasing Hackers, Not Nigerian Princes

Today's attackers come armed with Ransomware-as-a-Service kits, not typo-peppered phishing emails. As Beavers quips, **"I miss the days when the English was broken and the punctuation was terrible, and it was obvious that you didn't inherit \$10 million from a Nigerian prince."** C1's round-the-clock monitoring closes every oddball entry point—right down to lobby aquariums and HVAC sensors—before crooks can cash out. **"C1 helps us monitor every possible entry point,"** he notes.

Hitting the Opening-Day Jackpot

With C1 juggling design specs and supply-chain hiccups, Ho-Chunk, Inc. hit its aggressive go-live date and **opened the first state-regulated casino in Nebraska**—a milestone that wooed investors and kicked off immediate expansion plans.

Even better, the gaming network hasn't slipped once: **"We have not had a single outage in a year and a half of operations,"** Beavers reports, crediting C1's equipment choices and 24/7 ingress monitoring for the flawless run. As construction crews now **double the casino's size**, C1 is already staging additional gear and shepherding Microsoft security licensing so the sequel stays just as smooth.

Compliance = Cash Flow

Government business remains a signification portion of Ho-Chunk, Inc.'s business, and the vCISO's steady hand keeps that pipeline open. **"Having the vCISO filled a very important niche that we needed in order to move our security practice forward with the certification model to maintain government contracts."** Fail those audits and **"we couldn't do business,"** Beavers adds.

Three Takeaways for Security-Minded Leaders

1. **vCISO beats DIY:** Expert guidance fast-tracks NIST and CMMC compliance without burying full-time staff in paperwork.
2. **Design for every oddity:** If a fish feeder can become an attack vector, so can your next IoT gadget—monitor all of it.
3. **Speed plus resiliency wins markets:** Opening first—and staying outage-free—turned Ho-Chunk, Inc.'s casino into a growth magnet.

Bottom line: Whether it's federal contracts or flashing slot machines, Ho-Chunk, Inc. proves you can meet impossible deadlines and deliver perfect resiliency when the right partner guards every link in the chain. Feeling lucky? C1's security stack might just be the ace up your sleeve.

How Madera County Built an Iron-Clad Cyber Fort with C1

When ransomware headlines started hitting county governments across the U.S., **Madera County, California** (population 156,255) decided “good enough” security wasn’t good enough anymore. **“I saw the cyber-crime landscape change and how these attackers were beginning to do real damage,”** recalls **Brian Rohde, Deputy Chief Information Officer**. **“With the emergence of ransomware targeting government agencies, we needed a technology partner who shared our vision of how to protect our county.”**

The Problem: Patchwork Protection

The county’s small IT team had been “addressing issues on an ad hoc basis” for years. Switches, firewalls, and endpoint tools came from multiple vendors and former partners who “failed to deliver a cohesive security strategy.” Rohde drew up plans for an overhaul of **“everything from the top of the stack to the bottom of the stack”** and launched a formal partner search.



The Pick: C1 + Cisco + Arctic Wolf

Cisco pointed the county toward **C1**. After a few small “test-drive” projects, the relationship clicked. **“C1 stood out to us because of their commitment to excellence in cybersecurity and their technical expertise that aligned with our goals,”** says Rohde. He notes how **C1 client executive Adam Eisenberg and sales engineer Abdul Sultani “went above and beyond the scoping and took the time to really understand who we are.”**

C1 helped inventory hardware and software gaps and recommended a toolset anchored in Cisco security plus **Arctic Wolf Managed Detection and Response (MDR) and Extended Detection and Response (XDR)**. The layered approach resonated: **“Cisco’s looking at Arctic Wolf and ingesting that telemetry, but Arctic Wolf also has their own monitoring mechanism. For me, that overlapping protection is peace of mind.”**

The Rollout: Measured Tests, Big Leaps

Rather than a “big-bang” cutover, C1 and county engineers worked through staged deployments:

- **Small wins first:** Pilot projects proved the partnership and validated configurations.
- **Suite deployment:** Cisco firewalls, endpoint controls, and identity services went live county-wide.
- **24 x 7 eyes:** Arctic Wolf’s MDR/XDR platform added continuous monitoring and triaged alerts to slash false positives.

Throughout, C1 stayed close. As Rohde puts it, **“C1 was instrumental in executing our well-crafted plans and elevating our cybersecurity standards.”**



The background of the page features a stylized illustration of a padlock on a circuit board. The padlock is a dark, textured metal color with a silver handle. It is positioned on a circuit board with glowing blue and purple lines. The background is a dark, blurred image of a city at night with blue and purple light trails.

The Payoff: A New Public-Sector Benchmark

While Madera County keeps specific metrics under wraps, leadership calls the results “impressive”:

- **A formal security framework** now guides every decision instead of ad hoc fixes.
- **Layered monitoring** spots and validates anomalies quickly: **“There are a lot of times when someone’s doing something in our environment, and we get alerted to it so we can investigate.”**
- **Staff readiness** is rising thanks to “regular training sessions and workshops” that embed security awareness into daily routines.

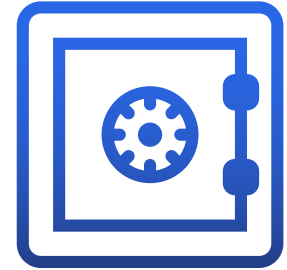
Rohde sums it up simply: **“We are confident that our strengthened defenses will protect our critical assets and sensitive data from ever-evolving cyber threats.”**

Three Prescriptions for Peer Agencies

1. **Start with vision, not products.** Madera scripted top-to-bottom goals before buying a single license.
2. **Test the relationship.** Small initial projects let the county verify C1’s chops—and culture—before a major investment.
3. **Overlap = peace of mind.** Dual telemetry from Cisco and Arctic Wolf gives redundancy that turns midnight worry into solid sleep.

Bottom line: For agencies battling shrinking budgets and growing threat lists, Madera County proves you can trade ad hoc fixes for a strategic, layered defense—when your partner “takes the time to really understand who you are.”

How 144-Year-Old Siemer Milling Kept the Wheat Rolling—and the Data Safe—With a C1 Makeover



Founded in 1882, family- and ESOP-owned **Siemer Milling** grinds premium wheat at three Midwest mills, most of them sourcing grain within a 100-mile radius. The operation is built on century-old know-how—but its IT to-do list was unmistakably up-to-date: new virtualization backbone, phone-system consolidation, network hardening, and tighter security, all running in parallel. **“We had multiple projects going on simultaneously, from upgrading our virtualized infrastructure backend to centralizing our phone systems.”** – Alan Waggoner, Information Systems and Security Manager

The Grind: Complexity on Three Sites

Cisco gear anchored the legacy stack, but Siemer realized yesterday’s gear couldn’t fuel tomorrow’s growth. **“We leverage Cisco equipment extensively, but with the changing landscape, we needed to reassess and ensure we were making the best choices for our future needs.”** – Alan Waggoner

And because every mill is its own mini-ecosystem, integration and uptime were non-negotiable. **“We needed a partner who could understand our specific needs and deliver solutions that truly fit,”** recalls Dedra Wagoner, Senior Systems Analyst.



The Secret Ingredient: C1’s Recipe for Rollouts

Enter **C1**, armed with design architects, a dedicated project manager, and documentation worthy of a master baker’s lab book.

“C1 wasn’t just about coding; it was about understanding our needs and delivering the right solutions.” – Dedra Wagoner

Every statement of work went through a sifter-fine review.

“The review process of the SOW was meticulous, ensuring we received exactly what we needed.” – Wagoner

C1’s team finished each project with formal hand-offs—no ghosting after go-live.

“C1 delivered the finished product with all relevant documentation and training, unlike other companies that just finish and leave.” – Wagoner



Freshly Milled Results

- **Centralized phone systems** across three mills—cutting telco costs while standardizing call flows.

“By centralizing our phone lines, we’ve reduced costs and increased efficiency across our sites.” – Waggoner

- A **modern virtualization backend** that’s both **robust and secure**, giving IT the horsepower for future analytics and automation.
- Boosted **employee productivity** thanks to hands-on knowledge transfer.

“C1’s specialists not only implemented solutions but also helped us do our jobs better and be more productive.” – Waggoner

And the partnership is personal.

“Pat McHugh [C1 CE] has been fantastic. It’s clear that finding the right solution for our business is more important to him than just making a sale.” – Waggoner .

Three Takeaways for Security-Minded Manufacturers

1. **Mix modernization with continuity.** Simultaneous upgrades can succeed when project managers keep every ingredient on schedule.
2. **Demand bake-in documentation.** Detailed runbooks and training lift security and uptime long after consultants leave the site.
3. **People > products.** A partner who prioritizes fit over quota turns complex rollouts into smooth, repeatable recipes.

Bottom line: Siemer Milling didn’t just swap switches; it kneaded a siloed stack into a secure, cost-savvy platform that’s ready for the next 140 years—proving that with the right partner, even the oldest mill can run like new.



30% Cost-Cut, 100% Peace-of-Mind: How Centra Credit Union Locked Down the WAN and Unleashed Collaboration

If you run **30 branches**, serve **180,000 members**, and safeguard more than **\$2 billion in assets**, every network hiccup feels like a board-room fire drill. Centra Credit Union knew the pain all too well: aging MPLS circuits, a 20-year-old voice platform, and manual fail-overs that kept the IT crew tied to pagers instead of projects. **"We had redundant systems and manual failovers that complicated everything,"** admits **Brent Parks, SVP of Technology**. The fix had to tighten security and free budget for new digital-banking features—fast.

A Zero-Trust WAN in Record Time

Centra teamed with long-time partner **C1** to replace every legacy circuit with **Palo Alto Networks SD-WAN**. The swap delivered encrypted, application-aware tunnels to every branch—and did something the CFO loved even more: **"Troubleshooting went from hours per month to minutes per year,"** Parks says. **Telecom spend dropped 30 percent.**

With secure broadband links in place, C1 helped Centra roll out Palo Alto Next-Generation Firewalls for consistent threat inspection at the edge and the core. Branch traffic now hair-pins through a single policy engine, closing gaps that old point products never saw coming.



Cloud Voice that Just Works

Security didn't stop at the router. C1 migrated employees from an aging Cisco PBX to **Microsoft Teams Phone**, folding voice, video, and chat into a single Azure-hardened platform. The cut-over was so smooth that, as Parks puts it, **"Teams is now at the center of how we work."** Desk phones disappeared, and hybrid employees connect through the same identity-controlled interface wherever they log in—no VPN gymnastics required.

ROI the Auditors Can Verify

- **30% telecom savings** by ditching MPLS for SD-WAN
- **45% first-year ROI** on the combined voice/network project
- **Minutes, not hours**, to diagnose branch issues thanks to centralized dashboards

Those numbers resonate when auditors show up—or when new service ideas hit the agenda.





Partnership that Pays Dividends

Centra credits C1's layered approach for the quick win. **"C1 provides valuable resources that are well worth it. They are quick to respond, with a vast team that can assist at any time,"** Parks says. From licensing advice to firewall fine-tuning, the same engineers stay on call long after the ribbon-cutting.

Three Security Takeaways for Peer Credit Unions

1. **Swap circuits, not controls.** An SD-WAN built on Palo Alto keeps zero-trust inspection intact even as you cut the MPLS cord.
2. **Unify identity everywhere.** Teams Phone rides Azure AD policies, so branch, call-center, and remote staff inherit the same MFA and conditional-access rules.
3. **Show the savings early.** That 30% cost cut turned skeptics into sponsors.

Bottom line: Centra didn't just modernize its network; it rolled compliance, cost savings, and member-experience gains into one tightly wrapped package. When security pays for itself—and then some—digital transformation stops being a wish and starts being a balance-sheet fact.

One team. One roadmap. One less thing keeping you up at night.

Get the full details about how these leading organizations are securing their networks:

- [Ho-Chunk, Inc.](#)
- [Madera County](#)
- [Siemer Milling](#)
- [Centra Credit Union](#)



See how C1's layered defenses turn headlines into peace of mind—without blowing up your budget or your calendar.

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