

# Cybersecurity Excellence

## Summit Healthcare



**Summit Healthcare** is a rural hospital located in Show Low, Arizona—and the only major medical facility in over 100 miles.

Like for many rural hospitals, a cyberattack that could take down the hospital is a worst-case scenario for the region and its patients.

**Jay Larson**, the hospital's CIO, notes what rural hospitals like Summit are up against when it comes to cybersecurity



We have the same cyber attackers that everyone else does. We can't be shielded just because we're small."



**Jay Larson**  
Summit Healthcare's CIO

### Summit's cybersecurity journey



Before participating in Microsoft's [\*\*Cybersecurity for Rural Hospitals Program\*\*](#), Summit Healthcare's cybersecurity was robust but left room for some improvements in key areas. The Summit team worked with our partner FSi Strategies to streamline and enhance two critical elements of its security posture.



Cybersecurity Category	From	To
Incident Response Plan	IT-facing	All organizational stakeholders involved
Identity Management	No systematic cybersecurity measures	Adopted Entra P2 license for staff; robust Privileged Identity Management (PIM) system with Just-In-Time access capabilities

The improvements to Summit Healthcare’s security posture in Incident Response and Identity Management illustrated the value in integrating systems. A holistic audit of Summit’s identity management systems culminated in the hospital’s adoption of the Entra P2 license for administrative staff, introducing a robust Privileged Identity Management (PIM) system with Just-In-Time access capabilities. This upgrade significantly tightened control over access management, dramatically reducing the risk of unauthorized access.

Moreover, Summit’s implementation of Azure Arc improved how the hospital manages and governs its digital estates, expanding visibility and control over its resources.



**Jay Larson**  
Summit Healthcare’s CIO

Summit Healthcare’s advancements significantly improved their defenses against cyber threats. They streamlined IT operations and bolstered the organization’s overall security management capabilities—signaling a proactive, adaptive approach to cybersecurity.

## Looking Ahead



Summit’s transition not only reflects their commitment to maintaining a robust security framework but also showcases its strategic foresight in integrating technological solutions to stay ahead in a dynamic healthcare landscape.

Summit Healthcare is not only better protecting its infrastructure and data against malicious cyber actors—it also supports better patient care.