

Gila River Tribal Government

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Preston Soke
Manager, Information Systems Security

INDUSTRY

State and Local Government

COUNTRY

United States

WEBSITE

www.gilariver.org

PRODUCT

ESET PROTECT Elite, ESET Premium
Support Ultimate, ESET Detection and
Response Advanced

THE CUSTOMER

Gila River Indian Community is a sovereign Tribal government in south-central Arizona. With a strong commitment to protecting its people, culture, and resources, the community oversees a broad range of public-sector services, infrastructure, and economic initiatives across its seven districts. As an organization that prioritizes data sovereignty and the protection of sensitive information, Gila River required a cybersecurity partner capable of delivering reliable, proactive protection aligned with the unique needs of Tribal government operations.



THE CHALLENGE

Gila River needed an endpoint security solution capable of protecting sensitive and sovereign data

while supporting a secure, modern IT environment. The organization's previous XDR provider struggled to stop potentially unwanted applications and malicious content before they reached endpoints, often detecting threats only after files had been downloaded or executed. This reactive approach left dormant malicious files on devices and reduced confidence that threats were being stopped early in the attack chain. These gaps created unnecessary risk and drove the need for a stronger prevention-first security strategy.

KEY BENEFITS

- Prevention-first technology that stops threats before they reach the endpoint.
- Collaborative partnership focused on data protection and sovereignty.
- Hands-on evaluation builds trust in real-world testing.
- Responsive technical support.



THE SOLUTION

Gila River conducted extensive hands-on testing before selecting a new endpoint security solution, recreating known threat scenarios from its previous environment to evaluate how effectively ESET could prevent attacks. ESET's "prevention-first approach" stood out from the organization's previous reactive security model, giving the IT team greater confidence that threats were being stopped early in the attack chain rather than after execution.

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Beyond stronger prevention, Gila River required a partner aligned with its focus on data sovereignty and protection, ensuring sensitive Tribal data remained fully safeguarded and governed in accordance with its security and compliance priorities.

"ESET gave us confidence that our data is protected from the moment a threat appears."

Gila River also placed strong emphasis on the quality of engagement and support throughout the evaluation process. The organization needed a cybersecurity partner that would be responsive, collaborative, and actively involved from initial testing through final decision-making.

"ESET didn't just sell us a product, they partnered with us throughout the entire evaluation. Having access to extended trials and responsive support made the decision easy."

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