
Protecting 6,500 fans and 7,100 devices at the Super Bowl – North America's biggest annual public event.

Hard Rock Stadium remains at the cutting edge of technology in sports and entertainment. To host the Super Bowl LIV, tight cybersecurity meant preparing for the unexpected at this high-profile, fast-paced occasion.



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Atos

« The security of our fans and their physical and online environments is of the utmost importance to us. With Atos, we recognized an opportunity to secure Hard Rock Stadium in new and critical ways, creating a defense strategy that protects our operational and informational technology. »

Kim Rometo

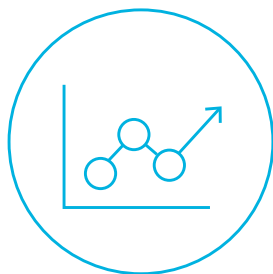
Vice President, Chief Information Officer, Miami Dolphins and Hard Rock Stadium

The context

Located in Miami Gardens in Florida, Hard Rock Stadium is home to the Miami Dolphins and was the venue for the 2020 National Football League (NFL) Super Bowl final.

Following a cybersecurity audit and penetration testing by the US Department of Homeland Security, the Stadium's CIO wanted to implement a new cybersecurity strategy ahead of Super Bowl LIV. Already a strategic partner of the Dolphins, Atos was commissioned to eliminate any vulnerabilities, ensure compliance and maintain tight security for the game.

With just three months to go, the task was to cyber-proof the Stadium's distributed communications network and all connected technologies. These included around 7,000 operational technology (OT) and information technology (IT) devices such as point-of-sale terminals, scoreboards, televisions, visual broadcasting equipment, field microphones and servers.



The results

The challenge

As the cyber landscape evolves and threats become more aggressive and sophisticated, large stadia present unique cybersecurity challenges.

While nearly 70,000 fans would be enjoying the game, behind the scenes, the Stadium's large and diverse technology infrastructure had to be protected from any kind of failure or penetration. It was vital to ensure not only the security of all devices in the stands, but also to detect and respond to any breaches to the network.

It was impossible to replicate such a large and dynamic event in advance; the team would need to expect the unexpected and plan for every contingency. Attacks could come from anywhere, either from an online threat actor outside the stadium or an endpoint inside, such as a card-swiping machine.

The solution

Atos applied its Major Events cybersecurity methodology proven over multiple Olympic Games to enhance Hard Rock Stadium's cyber defenses.

Working closely with the Stadium CIO and security officers, the team conducted cybersecurity assessments and pre-event tests to close any gaps and protect the entire critical infrastructure, from scoreboards and videos to surveillance and entry systems.

Atos devised a multi-layered cybersecurity architecture for maximum security; and to reduce the attack surface within the stadium, worked with specialist partner Forescout Technologies to implement eyeSegment, a network segmentation solution. This was delivered at scale from the cloud, accelerating deployment and creating a flexible and future-proof solution. Atos' Security Operations Center utilized more than 20 real-time monitoring techniques to provide advanced detection and response before and during the game.

Hard Rock Stadium's cybersecurity status advanced to a new level, thwarting hundreds of potential attacks on its most important game of the year.

Around 700 security events were managed and neutralized, with zero impact on the Super Bowl LIV. This included protecting 400 new OT devices that connected to the network for the halftime show and monitoring more than 1,200 point-of-sale devices for any malicious patterns. Telecast, video and scoring systems were all safeguarded, ensuring a high-quality experience for fans and spectators.

This is a cybersecurity first for the NFL and a complete end-to-end solution for managing and defending high volumes of diverse connected IT and OT assets. It offers a fully compliant replicable approach for more events at Hard Rock Stadium, and for other large sporting events at other venues.

About Hard Rock Stadium

First opened in 1987 as the Joe Robbie Stadium, Hard Rock Stadium is in the city of Miami Gardens, north of Miami, Florida. As well as being home to the Miami Dolphins, it plays host to the Miami Hurricanes football team during their regular season. The Stadium is also the setting for the Orange Bowl, an annual college football bowl game, and the Miami Open tennis tournament.

Super Bowl LIV was an American football game played on 2 February 2020 to determine the champion of the NFL for the 2019 season. The American Football Conference champion Kansas City Chiefs defeated the National Football Conference champion San Francisco 49ers 31-20.

For more information: atos.net/en/industries/media

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