

Peoples State Bank Fortifies Cybersecurity with Cyvatar

Desired Outcomes

- Proactive, automated endpoint security
- Stringent protection of client and employee data
- Enhanced compliance with industry regulations
- Improved operational efficiency and scalability
- Increased customer trust and retention

LOCATION:
Southwestern Wisconsin and
Northeastern Iowa.

INDUSTRY:
Financial Services

CYVATAR SOLUTIONS:
Secure Endpoint Management

Peoples State Bank Cybersecurity Needs

The Challenge: Simplifying Cybersecurity for a Community Bank

Peoples State Bank, a trusted financial institution, faced growing cybersecurity challenges while ensuring customer data remained secure. Prior to partnering with Cyvatar, the bank relied on an MSSP for 24/7 protection, but the rising costs and the burden of managing onsite devices created operational strain.

“As good as the MSSP was, we found it very difficult to keep up with the costs as well as managing the devices located at our site,” said Debra Schouweiler, Senior Vice President at Peoples State Bank.

The bank needed a cost-effective, reliable solution that could seamlessly integrate with its systems and provide comprehensive protection, without overwhelming its limited resources.

The Solution: Why Cyvatar Was the Right Fit

In November 2020, Peoples State Bank transitioned to Cyvatar’s Secure Endpoint Management (SEM) solution to protect 29 endpoints. The decision was influenced by a recommendation from the bank’s IT management partner. Cyvatar stood out for its ability to deliver robust cybersecurity while reducing operational complexity and costs.

“They were excellent and quite patient in dealing with a banker, not an IT person,” Debra shared.

Implementation: A Smooth Transition to Better Security

Cyvatar’s onboarding process was seamless, with personalized support tailored to Peoples State Bank’s needs. The implementation required some adjustments, such as disabling overlapping features within Webroot, but the overall experience was efficient and effective.

“We have also had a couple of issues with our core systems, but Cyvatar has gone in and fixed them right away, so it has not caused any problems,” Debra noted.

The Cyvatar team’s proactive approach ensured minimal disruption while enabling the bank to maintain its operations and focus on serving its customers.

The Results: Enhancing Security While Reducing Complexity

Peace of Mind

Cyvatar's continuous monitoring and proactive threat management have given Peoples State Bank confidence in its cybersecurity posture.

"I've liked that there have been a couple of core issues flagged. It lets me know that Cyvatar is doing its job," Debra said.

Cost Savings

Switching to Cyvatar has significantly reduced cybersecurity costs while eliminating the need for onsite devices.

"Financially, it's better than the MSSP, and the value is outstanding," Debra shared.

Streamlined Operations

The removal of physical security devices simplified the bank's IT operations, allowing the team to focus on customer service.

"I like not having to deal with onsite devices. It's simplified our operations," Debra noted.

Trust in the Team

Cyvatar's support team is known for its responsiveness, expertise, and dedication to delivering quick resolutions.

"They have all been wonderful. They are patient but very knowledgeable and get things done quickly," Debra emphasized.

Looking Ahead: Preparing for New Challenges

As Peoples State Bank evolves, the need to secure cloud-based platforms, like Office 365, is becoming a key focus. While working within a limited budget, Debra remains optimistic about Cyvatar's ability to provide guidance and solutions for these emerging challenges.

"A major concern for me is Office 365 and other cloud-based programs. I don't know what Cyvatar could do within my budget, but I trust them to help," she explained.

Why Cyvatar? A Recommendation for Community Banks

Debra highly recommends Cyvatar to other community banks, citing the affordability, effectiveness, and exceptional support of their solutions.

"I like the product, and the people are great. For certain, I would recommend Cyvatar to other banks," she said.

Her advice to other banks?

"Talk through your different pieces and needs and get everything set up in the beginning. I didn't set up my Linux-based devices, and I should have," Debra shared.

Conclusion

Peoples State Bank's partnership with Cyvatar demonstrates how even community banks with limited IT resources can achieve robust cybersecurity. By leveraging Cyvatar's Secure Endpoint Management, the bank has strengthened its defenses, reduced operational complexity, and gained peace of mind—all while staying within budget.

With Cyvatar as a trusted partner, Peoples State Bank is well-equipped to navigate the evolving cybersecurity landscape.

“

I like the product, and the people are great. For certain, I would recommend Cyvatar to other banks.

”

Debra Schouweiler
Senior Vice President
Peoples State Bank

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CYVATAR,
VISIT WWW.CYVATAR.AI

    @CYVATAR.AI