



Overview of Case Study

How Valley Strong Credit Union gained visibility and control of application activity across 1,200 endpoints with Airlock Digital application control and allowlisting.

About Valley Strong Credit Union

Valley Strong Credit Union operates 31 branches in Kern, Kings, San Joaquin, Solano, and Tulare Counties, serving more than 360,000 individuals.



Challenge

Valley Strong Credit Union required real time visibility and control of applications to augment its existing endpoint detection and response (EDR) capabilities.



Approach

Valley Strong Credit Union's EDR provider recommended Airlock Digital application control and allowlisting, prompting the institution to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the solution.



Result

Deploying the Airlock Digital solution has enabled Valley Strong Credit Union to protect its business, people and customers against malware, ransomware and unwanted software executions.

The Airlock Digital solution does what it is supposed to do and blocks everything we do not specifically allow.

Spokesperson

Valley Strong Credit Union

The Airlock Digital Application Control and Allowlisting Solution

With the Airlock Digital application control and allowlisting solution, Valley Strong Credit Union has:

- improved its security posture by combining EDR and the Airlock Digital solution across 1,200 endpoints
- achieved full deny by default enforcement in production in less than 60 days
- implemented effective workflows for ongoing policy management and exception management, which maintains the organization's security posture and manages operational risk

About Airlock Digital

Airlock Digital is the global leader in application control and allowlisting, trusted by organizations worldwide to protect against ransomware, malware and other cyber threats.



The Customer

With approximately \$4 billion in assets, Valley Strong Credit Union is one of the largest financial institutions headquartered in the Central Valley. The organization is an equal housing lender.

The Challenge

As a financial services provider, Valley Strong Credit Union retains large volumes of sensitive customer data, including biometric, location, commercial and account access information.

To protect this data and consequently its customers and business, the organization has implemented a multilayered security architecture, including a recently-deployed endpoint detection and response (EDR) solution.

However, Valley Strong Credit Union found its incumbent allowlisting product was incompatible with its revamped security tech stack and had to be replaced.

Valley Strong Credit Union evaluated its requirements and determined it needed an allowlisting solution that:

- provided real-time visibility of applications running on all endpoints
- ensured every application running in its environment was secure and authorized
- enabled rapid and effective responses to requests for new applications to be allowlisted
- ran alongside its EDR solution without sacrificing endpoint performance.

The Approach

Valley Strong Credit Union's EDR provider recommended the institution look at Airlock Digital's application control and allowlisting solution as a potential replacement.

The credit union conducted a thorough evaluation of the solution before deciding in mid-2022 to deploy it across its 1,200 endpoints. The fact Valley Strong Credit Union could have Airlock Digital host its solution management server in the cloud, freeing its teams to focus on configuring and using the solution, aided the credit union's decision-making process.

"With the Airlock Digital application control and allowlisting solution, we could easily set our endpoints into audit mode," said a spokesperson for Valley Strong Credit Union. "We had visibility of anything we did not want to allow and could simply bulk-add our desired applications to our allowlist.

"With the number of untrusted executions falling quickly from thousands to just a few a day, we were able to move to enforcement mode across our endpoints within a couple of months."

Ninety-seven per cent of the cooperative's endpoints now run in enforcement mode, with all exceptions intentional.

The solution now complements and integrates with Valley Strong Credit Union's EDR solution to enable a more cohesive security architecture. "The Airlock Digital solution does what it is supposed to do and blocks everything we do not specifically allow," said the spokesperson.

The Result

Valley Strong Credit Union cybersecurity team's high workload and long list of priorities means ease of administration is a key priority. In aggregate, team members spend just 90 minutes per week working with the Airlock Digital solution.

Its user-friendliness meant team members needed only a few days to become proficient in its use, while responsive support ensures queries are responded to promptly and effectively.

The team also welcomes the real-time visibility of activity through the solution's dashboard, which expedites responses to application allowlisting requests, and helps ensure unwanted applications and files are stopped from running.

In addition, the solution's workflows help the team to triage, investigate blocks and make effective determinations about each application. Inclusion of the score from VirusTotal helps it make well-informed decisions.

Overall, Valley Strong Credit Union is extremely impressed with Airlock Digital. "The fact that the Airlock Digital solution is a highly effective first line of defense against files we don't want running is KPI enough for us!" concluded the spokesperson.

Learn more about Valley Strong Credit Union by visiting valleystrong.com