



## CASE STUDY

# Transforming Cybersecurity for The City of Phoenix

## The Challenge

As the fifth largest city in the U.S., the City of Phoenix faced a growing cybersecurity crisis. Its CISO, Shannon Lawson, and Deputy CISO, Mitchell Kohlbecker, grappled with an ever-expanding and inefficient cybersecurity tool footprint while advanced threat actors continued evading detection. The city's legacy security systems simply couldn't keep up with complex cloud environments, expanding attack surfaces, and a shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals.

When the city was alerted to active targeting by a sophisticated nation-state threat actor, Lawson knew they needed a transformative solution. Their existing tools failed to detect novel, never-before-seen threats, and the sheer volume of alerts overwhelmed their lean security operations center (SOC) team.

## The Solution

Seeking a more effective and efficient cybersecurity approach, the City of Phoenix partnered with MixMode, a pioneer in self-learning AI for security. MixMode's next-generation SOC platform, powered by advanced AI, delivered real-time visibility into all threats and anomalies - both known and novel.

Within 24 hours of deployment, without human intervention, MixMode provided the city with critical insights into active attacks and network vulnerabilities that had gone undetected by their other security tools. Impressed by MixMode's rapid time-to-value, the city quickly expanded the deployment to monitor internal and east-west threats, helping identify potential insider risks.



*"MixMode was deployed remotely in under an hour and detected threats on day one that other platforms and their human operators had missed," said Shannon Lawson, CISO of the City of Phoenix. "MixMode's AI platform is now the core intelligence layer for our Security Operations Center."*



City of Phoenix

## The Results

- Immediate detection of novel threats from foreign adversaries that legacy tools missed
- Intelligent correlation of alerts and events across disparate data sources
- Increased SOC team productivity and effectiveness with fewer resources
- Consolidation of multiple expensive legacy tools, fully funding the MixMode deployment

In addition to 24/7 threat detection and response, MixMode provided the city with executive-level reports on the potential impact of impending threats. This raised awareness across other city departments, utilities, and critical infrastructure entities, prompting them to adopt The MixMode Platform.

The City of Phoenix now leverages a shared services model with a centralized SOC powered by MixMode, enabling individual departments to benefit from enhanced cybersecurity without the burden of managing resources and technology.

### Conclusion

By partnering with MixMode, the City of Phoenix transformed its cybersecurity capabilities, gaining real-time visibility into advanced threats, consolidating its tool footprint, and empowering its SOC team to work more effectively. This modernization allowed the city to proactively defend against evolving cyber risks while optimizing its cybersecurity investments.

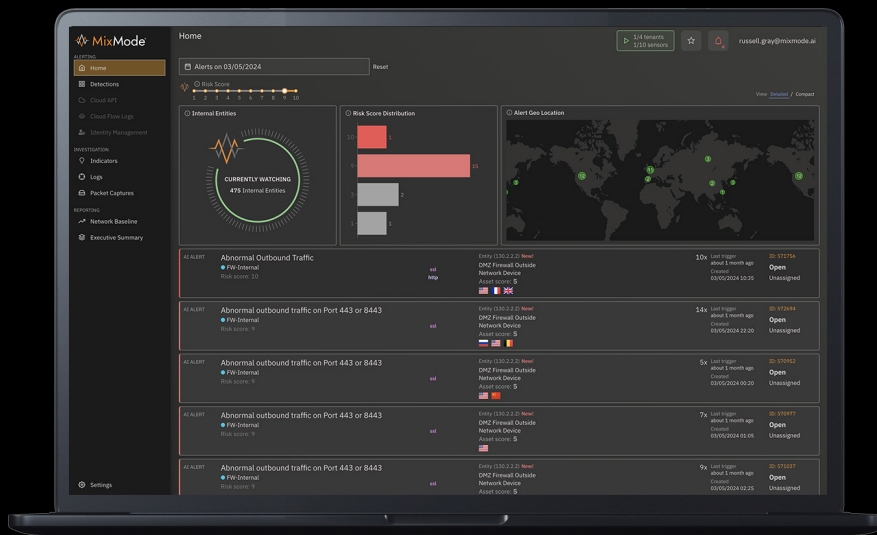
This rapid time-to-value and MixMode’s ability to detect novel threats have made it the foundation of the city’s evolving cybersecurity strategy.

*“The MixMode platform was live and delivering insights other platforms had missed within 24 hours.”*



**Mitchell Kohlbecker**  
Deputy CISO,  
City of Phoenix

## Advanced Threat Detection Prioritized for **YOUR** Environment



About MixMode: MixMode is the leader in AI-driven dynamical threat detection solutions, delivering a patented, self-learning platform designed to detect both known and unknown threats across cloud, hybrid, or on-prem environments. Large enterprises with big data environments, including global entities in financial services, public utilities, and government sectors, trust MixMode to protect their most critical assets. Backed by PSG and Entrada Ventures, the company is headquartered in Santa Barbara, CA. Learn more at [www.mixmode.ai](http://www.mixmode.ai).