



**HEIMDAL™**  
SECURITY

# **DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

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CASE STUDY

**2018**

**Country:** Ireland**Year founded:** 1899**Industry:** Local Government**Number of employees:** around 900

## Introduction

Located in Ireland's northern province of Ulster, Donegal County has a population of over 159,000 inhabitants whose well-being is administered by the Donegal County Council. By far the largest county in the jurisdiction, it has a rich history spanning centuries. Its claim to fame is that it was once home to one of Ireland's most powerful ruling families, the O'Donnell dynasty.

Nowadays, Donegal County is an important socio-economic and administrative region. With public service centers located in all the major cities across the area, its Council oversees the functioning of five main branches: roads, housing, environment, motor tax, and planning.

This implies the handling of large amounts of sensitive data, which has led the Donegal County Council to focus more and more on security with each passing year.

## Donegal County Council at a glance

The five essential organizational departments managed by the Donegal County Council are indispensable to the smooth functioning of each citizen's day to day life. Its 37 elected representatives are accompanied in this task by hundreds of vital employees.

The civil servants working for the Donegal County Council administration require state of the art cybersecurity solutions to ensure the online safety of the sensitive data they handle. Here is where Heimdal Security steps in.

## The Donegal County Council Security Challenge

Offering cybersecurity for local government organizations comes with its own set of prerequisites and complexities. The most important aspect to consider here is that administrative establishments deal with multiple layers of sensitive data of the authority itself, as well as the population it manages.

In the case of the Donegal County Council, the main challenge we were faced with was merging malware infection prevention with the patching of security-critical applications under one user-friendly roof. Our mutual focus was thus not only on mitigating threats but closing vulnerabilities as well.

## The Heimdal™ Security Solution

Donegal County Council evaluated multiple solutions to boost its IT security. After considering several options, the Council went for Heimdal™ Security's Thor Foresight Enterprise. While the DarkLayer GUARD DNS security module and the X-Ploit Resilience automatic software updater satisfied its cybersecurity needs, the Unified Threat Dashboard provided an adequate amount of user accessibility.

*Thor Foresight Enterprise was installed on all the endpoints used in the Donegal County Council. The installation was simple: it only entailed downloading an MSI file from the Thor Foresight Enterprise dashboard and rolling it out via GPO.*

*The main reason we went for Heimdal is that it offered another layer of security (patch management and traffic monitoring/blocking at the network interface level) for us to counteract the very real and numerous threats of ransomware that are out there at the moment.*

**- Sean Dunion**

Donegal County Council's IT Project Manager



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