



SECURING THE COLTS

Jack Thompson's mission to protect data and trust

When most fans think of the Indianapolis Colts, they imagine thrilling touchdowns and game-day excitement. But behind the curtains, Jack Thompson works tirelessly to secure every facet of the organization. From protecting sensitive player data to ensuring fans' trust in digital transactions, Thompson has turned the Colts' cybersecurity posture into a proactive force that protects the organization's reputation and legacy. As the Director of Information Security, Risk, and Compliance for the Indianapolis Colts, Thompson combines his military-honed expertise with a deep commitment to the team he grew up rooting for.

Thompson's journey to this role is anything but conventional. "I started in the military doing all-source intelligence for the U.S. Army and later transitioned to cyber intelligence and operations in the Air Force," Thompson shared. This blend of investigative acumen and technical expertise laid the groundwork for his passion: identifying vulnerabilities and fortifying defenses against threats.

Afterward, Thompson worked in various industries, including healthcare, manufacturing, and logistics, before joining the Colts in September 2022. "When I saw the opportunity to work for my hometown team in a field I'm passionate about, it was a no-brainer," he said. "It's not every day you get to protect a brand you've loved your whole life."



Jack Thompson and Kyle Earnest work tirelessly to secure every facet of the Colts' data

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As one of the NFL's most recognized teams, the Colts face a unique set of cybersecurity challenges. Professional sports organizations must protect a wide range of sensitive data, from fan information and payment details to player health records and intellectual property. “The scope of what we secure is vast,” Thompson explained. “We’re protecting personal information for fans, payment card data for ticketing, and even our internal strategies. Cybersecurity at the Colts means we are protecting our information and therefore people’s lives.” Thompson notes that the team’s operations go beyond the field. The Colts’ stadium infrastructure is categorized as critical under federal guidelines, requiring a heightened focus on cybersecurity.

“We have to think about physical security, cybersecurity, and how the two intersect,” he said. “It’s a responsibility we take very seriously.”

When Thompson joined the Colts, the organization operated in a largely reactive cybersecurity posture. “We were using traditional tools like next-gen antivirus and endpoint detection and response, but it always felt like we were a step behind,” he said. That changed with the implementation of ThreatLocker®, a Zero Trust solution that Thompson first encountered at a cybersecurity conference. “The ThreatLocker proactive approach completely transformed our posture,” he said. “Instead of reacting to threats, we’re now in a position to prevent them from materializing.”

“As I listened to Danny Jenkins, CEO of ThreatLocker, on that stage, what caught my eye was his background in technology and being a practitioner. His passion for the product and his understanding of the challenges we face made the difference.” The ThreatLocker Application Allowlisting and user-friendly interface made it an ideal fit for the organization. “It simplified what

is often a complicated process,” Thompson said. “The tool allowed us to move quickly, with fewer false positives and less time spent on implementation. It’s been a game-changer.”

Thompson credits a large part of his success to the support of the Colts’ ownership and leadership. “Trust starts at the top,” he said. “The ownership understands the importance of cybersecurity and has given me the resources and freedom to build a strong program.” This support extends to the team’s broader culture, which values security and mental well-being. “The Colts have a dedicated foundation, Kicking the Stigma, that focuses on mental health awareness,” Thompson said. “It’s inspiring to work for an organization that prioritizes not just the safety of its data but also the well-being of its employees and community.” That culture of trust influences Thompson’s approach to fan data, as he believes fans benefit from the team’s behind-the-scenes efforts. “Our fans might not think about cybersecurity daily, but they can rest assured they are one of the best-protected fan bases in professional sports.”

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As the sports industry becomes increasingly digital and data-driven, cybersecurity will play an even more significant role in shaping its future. “The reliance on data for analytics and performance insights is growing weekly,” Thompson stated. “That means more technology and, by extension, more risks to manage.”

Thompson envisions a continued evolution for the Colts’ cybersecurity program. “We’re going through a digital and cultural transformation, and I’m committed to ensuring security is a central part of that,” he said. Despite the challenges, Thompson finds deep fulfillment in his role. “Being able to give back to the team I love while knowing we’re doing right by our fans and community is incredibly rewarding.” For Thompson, cybersecurity is his way of defending the legacy of a team that means so much to him and the Indianapolis community. As he looks to the future, his mission remains clear: to keep the Colts secure, resilient, and ready to win more championships. ■



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