



*Jimmy Persson, Development and Security Manager at The Swedish Local Fibre Alliance (Svenska stadsnätöföreningen) tests the association's own IT system every night using Softjoy's cloud-based solution. He is now encouraging association members, who provide 55 percent of Sweden's fiber network, to do the same.*

## **Softjoy's cloud solution makes Swedish urban fiber networks cyber-secure**

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The global political uncertainty over the past year has made organizations and companies rethink their cyber security. And it is not only Russia's aggression in Ukraine that has increased the threat to Sweden - the situation with China is also giving cause for concern. Earlier this year The Swedish Local Fibre Alliance based in Stockholm was given an important assignment by the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority - namely to assist 170 Swedish city network operators in 200 municipalities to develop their preparedness for crises and war.

Jimmy Persson is the association's Development and Security Manager.

"The invasion of Ukraine has made us understand how important a working internet is in times of crisis. Without the Internet society stops. The Internet is also needed in battle, which is why Russia has attacked mobile and fiber networks, infrastructure and Ukraine's energy grid. But cyber-security threats in the form of espionage and sabotage are an ever-present threat to Swedish interests, even without a conflict breaking out. That's why it is so important that our members, who collectively account for 55 percent of all the fiber in Sweden, are fully aware of their cyber security measures", says Jimmy.

Since the beginning of the year The Swedish Local Fibre Alliance has worked closely with incubator company Softjoy, the developer of Let's-Secure EU - a cloud service that provides clients with an immediate insight into their cyber vulnerability. In any large and complex organization there can be several hundred or even more than a thousand issues, which Softjoy's service reports rank by degree of severity.

"Softjoy's solution automatically tests the quality of your cyber security on a daily basis if required, which is something organizations normally hire consultants to do once a year. And it's not just web pages that can be checked, but intranets, operating pages and services connected to the internet", says Jimmy.

The Swedish Local Fibre Alliance conducts a security test every night because, as Jimmy says, the security situation can change extremely quickly. As soon as something is detected, Jimmy receives a report in his inbox in which any issues are color-coded green, yellow or red. A more detailed technical report is also generated for him to send to the person responsible for remedying the issue.

"The reports I receive are easy to understand because of the rankings and colors. I like that they are a useful tool for following up issues. It's so easy to see if a consultant has actually fixed the issue or not. It's very motivating", says Jimmy.

The Swedish Local Fibre Alliance is now encouraging all its members living in Sweden's municipalities to use the Softjoy cloud service - and the response so far has been very positive. The goal is to create a framework agreement with Softjoy.

"We are incredibly proud of the trust The Swedish Local Fibre Alliance has shown in us, and we hope to help as many members as possible strengthen their cyber security. As they represent more than half of Sweden's Internet infrastructure, it is almost impossible to understate the socially critical infrastructure they are collectively responsible for. We know our smart and affordable solution can quickly identify issues that have previously been overlooked", says Mattias Nilsson, Co-Founder of Softjoy.

So, what insights has Let's-Secure EU given Jimmy about The Swedish Local Fibre Alliance's own IT security?

"Well, I discovered that our website had several flaws, and that our server was too old. That's another advantage of Let's-Secure EU - it not only helps with patching and fixing but it's also a great tool for determining when hardware and entire environments need to be changed", he says.