

Inside the World's Largest Cyber Defense Exercise: Lessons from Locked Shields 2025

With Joseph Carson, Advisory CISO da Segura®

Aug
2025

Locked Shields: The World's Largest Cyber Defense Exercise

How do you prepare for a cyberattack capable of shutting down an entire country?

That's the purpose of **Locked Shields**, the world's most advanced live-fire cyber defense exercise.

Segura® was proudly represented by:

- **Joseph Carson** – Advisory CISO & Chief Evangelist
- **Evandro Gonçalves** – Principal Solutions Architect & Presales Technical Lead
- **Yago Lissone** – Security Analyst

Joseph brought back first-hand insights to help organizations strengthen their resilience today.



4,000 experts from 41 countries and 9,000+ simulated cyberattacks



Participants managed legal decisions, crisis leadership, and public communications under pressure



Critical infrastructure under siege: energy, finance, and military communications



What is Locked Shields?

Held annually by NATO's **Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE)**, Locked Shields is the largest and most sophisticated cyber defense simulation in the world.

The 2025 scenario:

- Defending the fictional nation of Berylia under continuous cyberattack
- Critical infrastructure, government systems, and military networks targeted
- Blue Teams worked 48 hours straight to prevent catastrophic failures
- Political pressure, misinformation, and legal response challenges included

“In a world where cyber threats cross every border, Locked Shields proves that resilience in cyberspace is built together” – Mart Noorma, CCDCOE Director

Meet Joseph Carson

- Our New **Chief Security Evangelist & Advisory CISO**
- **Strategic purpose:** Bringing decades of cybersecurity experience to drive thought leadership and technical credibility in enterprise protection.
- Joseph supports innovation around identity and privileged access, strengthening our long-term roadmap.



Meet Joseph Carson

- 30+ years of experience in enterprise and critical infrastructure security
- Advisory CISO & Chief Evangelist at Segura®
- Author of Cybersecurity for Dummies (read by 50,000+ professionals)
- Certified CISSP and OSCP
- Advisor to governments and global enterprises
- Contributor to WSJ, Dark Reading, CSO Magazine

At Segura®, Joseph champions identity and privileged access protection, combining tech, process, and people-first strategies.



Interview with Joseph Carson: Role & Challenges and Simulation to Real-World Strategies

Q: What was your role in Locked Shields 2025?
Joseph Carson:

“I served on the Blue Team as a subject matter expert in credential protection. I focused on securing authentication systems, detecting abuse, and responding rapidly to any threats targeting user accounts.”

Q: What were the main challenges?

“Maintaining situational awareness during continuous, sophisticated attacks. Coordinating real-time responses to privilege escalation attempts while ensuring team communication under pressure was key.”

Q: How does this impact your cybersecurity strategy?

“Locked Shields reinforces the need for preparation, collaboration, and agility. It shaped my focus on incident readiness, credential hygiene, and cross-team communication.”

Q: How does Locked Shields enable international collaboration?

“It’s one of the most effective platforms for cybersecurity cooperation. Teams rely on shared knowledge, trust, and rapid information exchange — breaking down silos and promoting a collective defense mindset.”

Key Takeaways from 2025

Joseph Carson:

- Power of coordinated teamwork
- Importance of clearly defined roles in incident response
- Staying calm under extreme pressure
- Our defense against the Red Team was driven by preparation and collaboration
- Every round of Locked Shields deepens the value of continuous learning and collective defense

What Your Organization Should Prioritize

Locked Shields may be a simulation, but the risks it reveals are very real. **Privileged access** remains the #1 target for attackers.

Immediate actions:

- Review privileged accounts
- Eliminate unused credentials
- Enforce strong authentication and rotation policies

Even the best defenses fail without proper credential management.

➤ Segura®'s Vision for Cyber Resilience

At Segura®, we're proud to have Joseph Carson shaping our security vision.

With his battlefield-tested experience, we help organizations:

- Strengthen privileged access controls
- Improve credential hygiene
- Reduce detection and response times

With the right controls in place, your team can move beyond firefighting and focus on what truly matters.

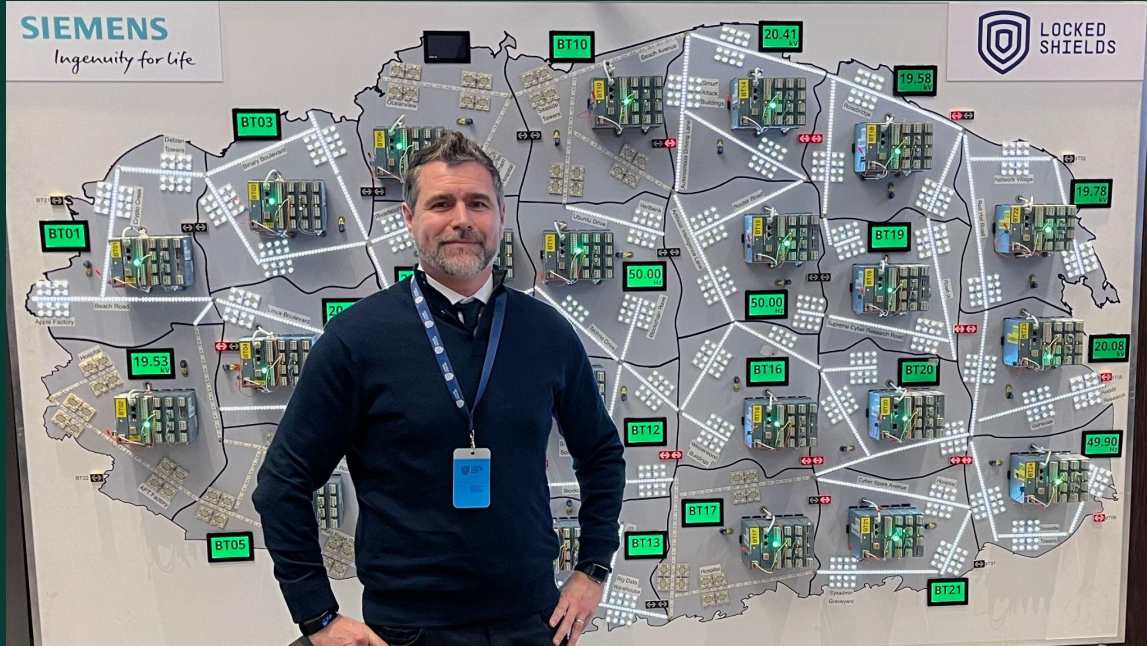
Ready to Take Action?

Review privileged accounts, eliminate unused credentials, and enforce strong authentication and rotation policies. As Locked Shields 2025 shows, even the most advanced defenses can falter if credential management is overlooked.

At Segura®, we are proud to have Joseph Carson helping shape our vision for a more secure future. His field-tested expertise directly informs how we help organizations strengthen privileged access controls, improve credential hygiene, and reduce the time it takes to detect and respond to advanced threats.

With the right controls in place, your team can move beyond constant firefighting and focus on bigger strategic initiatives, knowing your most critical accounts are protected. Our mission is to help organizations take these critical first steps while building toward long-term resilience. Because in the next crisis, every second will count.

Segura[®]'s Vision for Cyber Resilience



Segura is committed to real-world security readiness and stress testing at global scale.



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Analyst Relations

Segura® is a comprehensive identity security platform that gives your organization everything it needs to control privileged access and protect digital identities—quickly, easily, and securely. Globally recognized by Gartner, KuppingerCole, and Frost & Sullivan, Segura® stands out for its innovation, reliability, and exceptional customer experience.



Futureproof
Identity
Security

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