

# A Clear Vision for Cyber Resilience

How Houston Eye Embraced  
a Zero Trust Strategy with Illumio



# Known as the energy capital of the world, Houston is more than a busy metropolis — it's a community of innovators, dreamers, and caregivers.

Beneath its skyscrapers, the people of Houston come together to lead advancements in medicine, technology, and culture.

Houston's vibrant cultural scene, diverse population, and friendly residents make it one of the most welcoming places in the country. From NASA's groundbreaking space programs to the thriving energy sector, Houston continues to innovate — just as Houston Eye does for its patients.

"Houston is a city that inspires us every day," says Kory Hornberger, the company's director of IT. "It's filled with people who work together to achieve great things. That's the spirit we bring to our mission of providing exceptional eye care and protecting what matters most."

Houston's story is deeply intertwined with medical innovation. Home to the Texas Medical Center (TMC), the largest medical complex in the world, Houston is a global hub for healthcare and biotech research. More than 60 institutions operate in this 2.1-square-mile district, driving breakthroughs that attract patients and professionals from every corner of the globe.

From groundbreaking heart transplants to pioneering cancer treatments, the city's contributions to medicine are unparalleled. The level of innovation goes beyond research labs and operating rooms. It's rooted in the people — the warm, welcoming Houstonians who call this city home.

Their spirit mirrors the ethos of Houston Eye, where care for patients goes hand in hand with safeguarding their most sensitive data.

## Houston's Medical Firsts

Houston has always been a city of trailblazers. Here are just a few groundbreaking medical achievements:

- 1968** One of the world's first heart transplants at Houston Methodist
- 1985** Texas first heart/lung transplant
- 1987** The nation's first successful single lung transplant
- 2002** First islet cell transplant in Texas
- 2005** The world's first multiorgan transplant in a patient with a ventricular assist device



## Fast Facts

**Founded:** 1971

**Mission:** a lifetime of quality eye care

**Locations:** 19 offices across Texas

**Specialties:** LASIK, cataract care, glaucoma treatment, and more

**Annual patients:** Over 1 million served each year





## A legacy of care and security

Since its founding in 1971, Houston Eye has grown from a single clinic into a trusted leader in ophthalmology. With 19 locations across Texas, the practice now houses more than 60 specialists; they cover every major subspecialty, from LASIK surgery to cataract care. Its mission? To ensure patients receive the best eye care, delivered with compassion and precision.

This commitment extends beyond treatments. It's one of the busiest healthcare providers in the region, serving over a million patients every year. That gives it a vital responsibility: protecting sensitive patient data from cyber threats. With 19 offices and over a thousand endpoints, Houston Eye's IT team's mission to secure patient information is as vital as the clinical care it provides.



“

It's not a matter of if but **when** someone gets in.

### THE CHALLENGE

## Safeguarding patient data

Cyberattacks on healthcare providers are rising. Houston Eye's team knew even its robust perimeter defenses weren't enough. It needed a solution to stop breaches in their tracks, containing threats before they could spread.

“It's not a matter of if but when someone gets in,” Hornberger says. “Our priority was clear: ensure patient data stays protected, even in the face of a breach.”

Its priorities were HIPAA compliance, securing electronic health records (EHR), and safeguarding its network — all while staying resilient. But with a compact IT team, it needed a solution that provided visibility and security without overwhelming its resources.





“

Illumio gives me  
**peace of mind.**  
If someone gets  
in, I know they  
can't get far.

## THE SOLUTION

### The Illumio Platform

In its search for stronger security, Houston Eye discovered Illumio — a microsegmentation solution built to contain breaches and stop attackers' lateral movement.

“The real game-changer for us was the visibility Illumio gave us,” Hornberger says. “We could see across our network and endpoints. And Illumio's intuitive dashboard made securing our entire environment simple.”

The Illumio platform allows Houston Eye to isolate critical systems like its EHR and practice management systems. Deployment was seamless: the IT team installed the solution in a day and completed labeling within weeks. With Illumio, it can enforce policies to contain breaches and protect sensitive assets.

“Illumio gives me peace of mind,” Hornberger adds. “If someone gets in, I know they can't get far.”





# Transformative Results

Since deploying Illumio, Houston Eye has achieved a stronger security posture with minimal disruption to operations. Key outcomes include:

## **Strengthened security.**

Lateral movement containment ensures patient data stays protected from ransomware, malware, and other threats.

## **Simplified operations.**

Easy deployment and streamlined workflows free up IT resources.

## **Regulatory assurance.**

Robust segmentation protects sensitive data and helps ensure HIPAA compliance.

## **Cyber resilience.**

Strengthened defenses to prevent, contain, and recover from cyber threats.

Breaches are inevitable.  
Disasters are optional.

Visit  
[illumio.com/illumio-platform](https://illumio.com/illumio-platform)

