



## CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

# School District Controls Web Content and Stops Spyware with Barracuda Networks

Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410 eliminates nearly 20,000 spyware infections found throughout the district network

## Kingsville Independent School District

Kingsville Independent School District, located in the southern Texas city of Kingsville, was established in 1909. The school district consists of 12 facilities which include an administrative building, maintenance and transportation facility, family-involvement center, and nine school campuses.

As with many other school districts, Kingsville ISD puts a large emphasis on providing their students, faculty, and other employees with the best technology possible including quick and reliable Internet access. In the last 10 years, with help from E-Rate funding, the district has gone from dial-up Internet connections to implementing GigaMAN fiber optic and T1 connections to accommodate 2,600 workstations - including desktop and laptop computers - and 25 servers across the district. Additionally, 97 percent of Kingsville ISD employees have Internet access and the majority of students are spending increasingly more time on computers for classroom-related tasks.

## Increasing spyware infections cost district time and money

Along with faster Internet connections, an increased number of workstations, and more students with access to the Internet came additional challenges for the Kingsville ISD Instructional Technology Department. The IT Department was not only dealing with the increasing need for aggressive Web content filtering to block access to inappropriate Web sites, but it was spending a large amount of time and money trying to combat and clean up after the stampede of spyware and adware inadvertently downloaded on workstations throughout the district.

As these security and content filtering issues continued to increase it became evident to Kingsville ISD Instructional Technologist Tim Etzler that a new Web content filtering and spyware solution was necessary.

"We were using a Web content security solution marketed specifically for school networks, and it just wasn't cutting it," said Etzler.

According to Etzler the solution the district was using was difficult to manage and lacked comprehensive spyware protection. In addition, it was difficult for the district to deal with handling load capacity requirements and the increasing annual licensing fees were becoming a budgetary issue for the department.

Kingsville ISD needed a powerful, easy to use, and affordable spyware and Web content filtering solution. The team determined that the ideal solution would be appliance-based, and one that would not require the amount of time or money required for installing and maintaining software on each individual workstation in all 12 facilities in the district.

## Barracuda Spyware Firewall corrals spyware and content filtering

With this in mind, the IT department consulted surrounding school districts as well as a networking specialist located in Corpus Christi, Texas.

"Our network specialist highly recommended using the Barracuda Spyware Firewall to resolve our network security and Web filtering issues," said Etzler. "He installed an evaluation unit which we tested and observed for two weeks. After this trial period we were confident that the Barracuda Spyware Firewall would be the answer to our network issues."

*"I have been recommending it to everyone. The Barracuda Spyware Firewall has saved us an enormous amount of time, money, and headaches."*

– Tim Etzler,  
Kingsville ISD  
Instructional Technologist



## Barracuda Spyware Firewall Fast Facts:

- Completely eliminates spyware and other forms of malware
- Millions of URLs in 57 categories for comprehensive content filtering
- Customizable branding
- No per-user licensing fees
- Ideal solution for school districts and other educational organizations



## About the Barracuda Spyware Firewall

Available in five models, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall combines preventative, reactive and proactive measures to form a complete anti-spyware and content filtering solution for businesses of all sizes.

Unlike the widely available desktop software solutions, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall is easily installed and does not require the additional time, money or resources necessary for downloading and maintaining software on each individual PC.

The comprehensive feature set enables the Barracuda Spyware Firewall to block spyware downloads, prevent viruses, stop access to spyware Web sites and filter Web content. In addition, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall can identify spyware-infected desktops, alert the administrator and enable users to remove spyware from infected Windows computers with the Barracuda Spyware Removal Tool.

Hourly Energize Updates are made automatically by Barracuda Central so that the Barracuda Spyware Firewall can block the ever-changing virus and spyware variants.

Along with the Barracuda Spyware Firewall's powerful anti-spyware and content filtering technology, its aggressive price point and lack of per-user licensing fees were very compelling to Kingsville ISD, which works within a strict budget.

After the initial evaluation period, Kingsville ISD purchased the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410 for the IT department and the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 310 for its Business Technology Department.

While the district worked with to finish upgrading the Internet connections for all facilities, the IT department temporarily installed the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410 at the district's high school, which had a direct T1 connection to the ISP. This temporary installation gave the IT department time to work with the Barracuda Spyware Firewall's Web GUI and to customize the appliance to its specifications in a small user environment.

After the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410 was installed at the high school, Etzler's team witnessed immediate benefits, including a considerable decrease in bandwidth usage.

"Prior to the Barracuda Spyware Firewall installation, the high school would average 190kbps on a daily basis," said Etzler. "After the appliance was installed we started averaging 130kbps daily."

Etzler believes the content filtering functionality made a difference in bandwidth usage, but he contributes the major bandwidth decrease to the powerful spyware protection capabilities.

"We couldn't wait for the day we could roll out the Barracuda Spyware Firewall to all 12 facilities," said Etzler. "Once we did, I was shocked by the amount of spyware files on our network."

Within the first few days after the Barracuda Spyware Firewall was implemented on the entire network, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall identified over 20,000 spyware files on computers throughout the district. Once identified, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall's comprehensive reporting features helped the IT department to identify and eliminate spyware infections.

"The daily spyware infection reports allow us to clean specific workstations," said Etzler. "I can jump on the infected computer via remote access and easily find and remove the spyware. This saves countless hours and stress."

In addition to comprehensive filtering functionality and strong reporting tools, the IT department benefits from easy administration and customization features.

"We have found that making adjustments to the Barracuda Spyware Firewall, such as whitelisting and blacklisting URLs, is simple through the Web GUI," said Etzler. "I have even redesigned the URL block notification page wording to reflect our district's branding and it now 'dings' five times to alert the teacher if a student is trying to visit a restricted Web site."

Overall, the Kingsville ISD IT department has been pleased with the performance of the Barracuda Spyware Firewall.

"I have been recommending it to everyone," said Etzler. "The Barracuda Spyware Firewall has saved us an enormous amount of time, money, and headaches."

### About Barracuda Networks, Inc.

Barracuda Networks is the leading provider of enterprise-class spam firewall solutions for comprehensive email protection. Its flagship products, the Barracuda Spam Firewall and Barracuda Spam Firewall – Outbound, provide spam and virus protection for over 30,000 customers around the world, including Adaptec, Caltrans, CBS, Georgia Institute of Technology, IBM, Knight Ridder, NASA, Pizza Hut, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and the U.S. Treasury Department. In addition, Barracuda Networks offers the Barracuda Spyware Firewall for complete network protection against spyware, malware and viruses and the Barracuda IM Firewall, the only all in one gateway solution for IM traffic management and security. Barracuda Networks is a privately held company with headquarters in Mountain View, California. Barracuda Networks has offices in eight international locations and distributors in over 43 countries.



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