



Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

School District Expels Spam & Viruses with Barracuda Spam Firewall 300

Spam Fails the Test

Spam is a nuisance for any organization that relies on email as an integral form of business communication – including educational organizations. IT personnel at school districts nationwide are being called upon to find ways to eliminate spam from administrators' inboxes. Unlike large corporations and businesses, local school districts, such as the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District in Los Gatos, Calif., often face budget constraints that limit IT spending and personnel, making the fight against spam even more challenging.

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District provides email service to more than 400 administrators, teachers and staff using Microsoft Exchange Server. The district IT department – a staff of two employees – found that the server was collapsing at least once every month, making it necessary for this small staff to work overtime to determine what was causing the problem.

"We were receiving around 60,000 emails each day and about 50,000 to 55,000 of the emails were addressed to nonexistent users," said Dan Cochran, director of information technology for Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District.

Assignment: Find the Best Solution

Cochran and his colleague, Charles Gallegos, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District IT manager, attempted several different methods to alleviate the server overload and get rid of the spam. Due to budget constraints, the high prices of many commercial spam and virus software solutions as well as third party email filtering services made these solutions outside the district's price range. Both Cochran and Gallegos tried open source shareware solutions as well as manual blacklist updates to try to fix the problem, but these solutions only added to their own workload.

Barracuda Networks Makes the Grade

Through their research on the Internet and by monitoring various chat rooms and forums, Cochran discovered Barracuda Networks and was pleased to discover that he could try the Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 at no charge using a trial server set up offsite. Within 24 hours after having the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District's email filtered through the remote trial site, Cochran said he saw an immediate change

and was beginning to get a clearer picture of what was occurring on the district email server.

"We discovered that 99 percent of the spam was caused by Trojan viruses that were filtering through always-on computers from unsuspecting users," Cochran said.

The Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 can thwart devious spam operations through denial-of-service (DOS) and directory harvest attack (DHA) protection.

Gallegos added that the success of the remote Barracuda Networks trial solution made the decision to purchase a Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 an easy one.

"We went from close to 60,000 spam emails to about 500 legitimate emails in one day of using the trial. It was unbelievable," Gallegos said. "The Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 was the best value solution because it also offers virus protection. It has been worth every nickel."

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– Charles Gallegos,
IT Manager



Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 Fast Facts:

- Services 2,000 users or 4 million messages per day
- Compatible with all email servers
- Administration managed from easy-to-use Web GUI
- Ideal solution for educational organizations

About the Barracuda Spam Firewall

The Barracuda Spam Firewall is available in five models and supports from 1,000 to 30,000 active users with no per user licensing fees. The Barracuda Spam Firewall can be installed in front of the email server in typically less than five minutes and is automatically updated hourly to block new forms of spam and viruses. Its architecture leverages open source spam and virus solutions in conjunction with ten defense layers: denial of service and security protection, IP block list, rate control, virus check with archive decompression, proprietary virus check, user specified rules, spam fingerprint check, intention analysis, spam rule-based scoring, and Bayesian analysis. This architecture minimizes the processing of each email, which yields the performance required to process millions of messages per day. Unlike software solutions, the Barracuda Spam Firewall reduces the load placed on the email server by off-loading both spam and virus filtering. Barracuda Networks also offers the Energize Update subscription service to automatically update the Barracuda Spam Firewall with the latest spam rules and virus definitions.

About Barracuda Networks, Inc.

Barracuda Networks, Inc. is the worldwide leader in anti-spam appliance solutions. Winner of the 2004 Network Computing Editor's Choice Award and Well-Connected Award, the Barracuda Spam Firewall provides spam and virus protection for over 12,000 organizations worldwide including Caltrans, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and Washington State University. Barracuda Networks, a privately held corporation, is headquartered in Cupertino, California with offices and distributors in over 35 countries. For more information, please visit www.barracudanetworks.com.



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