



Top Midwest University Discovers Benefits of Cloud-Replicated Backup

Washburn University Chooses Barracuda for Cloud Replication, Fast Recovery, Cost Savings



Summary

- Based in Topeka, KS, USA
- 7,500+ students, 650+ faculty, and 1,100+ employees
- Founded in 1865

Challenges

- Outdated tape-based backup solution was vulnerable to disaster
- Managing tape-based backup consumed scarce IT staff time and resources
- Second campus was too close for secure redundant backup

Solution

- Barracuda Backup with Barracuda Cloud replication

Results

- Achieved secure, redundant backup
- Had significant cost savings over other potential solutions
- Significantly reduced IT administrative and management workload
- LiveBoot provides immediate re-launch of cloud server instances for fast disaster recovery

A New Solution

Jim Tagliareni joined Washburn University as Chief Information Officer in January 2017—and he knew right away that upgrading the school's backup solution would be among the first things he had to accomplish. The existing system was a tape-based backup product. The tapes were updated at the end of each day, and the tapes were stored in the same building as the university's data center.

Tagliareni knew that this was far from ideal. In 1966, the Washburn campus was devastated by a tornado, and he was concerned that if a similar disaster came again, the data center and backup tapes could easily be destroyed together.

In his previous job at another college, keeping redundant, off-site copies of backups had been a high priority. "In that position, I shopped around and did my research," says Tagliareni. "I was ready to go ahead and buy a redundant tape system. But I got a call from a Barracuda rep right about then. Long story short, I ended up purchasing Barracuda Backup."

Despite his earlier decision to use Barracuda Backup, at Washburn Tagliareni made sure to perform due diligence before selecting a new backup solution, evaluating a number of possibilities. One particularly intriguing idea he explored was to trade rack space with another university in a different region—effectively acting as each other's backup replication. "Mutual backup with another college was less costly than the co-location facilities I had looked at," says Tagliareni. "But then I spoke to Barracuda, and their offer was too good to pass up."

Barracuda Backup Benefits

Barracuda Backup met all Tagliareni's requirements—and the cost was considerably lower than the inter-college rack-trading arrangement he had been considering.

Besides the low cost, Tagliareni was especially impressed with the benefits of replicating his backed-up data to the Barracuda Cloud. First of all, Barracuda offered unlimited storage, making it easy for Washburn to keep seven years' worth of data, which exceeds all legal and regulatory requirements. Also, with Barracuda Backup, they didn't need to enlarge their data center, saving both cost and hassle.

About the Barracuda Backup

Barracuda Backup is a comprehensive cloud-integrated solution that protects physical, virtual, and SaaS environments. Barracuda Backup is simple to deploy, offers built-in offsite replication, and is easy to manage through our centralized cloud administration. Available as a physical or virtual appliance or as a cloud-to-cloud service, Barracuda Backup replaces multi-vendor, piecemeal solutions and gives you the flexibility to optimally leverage your existing infrastructure. It lets you replicate your backups to the Barracuda Cloud, to your AWS deployment, or to a second, offsite physical or virtual appliance.



Recovery speed was also a major concern for Tagliareni. He says, “One of the best things about Barracuda’s cloud replication is that all our servers are replicated completely. So in a disaster, we can re-launch virtual servers in the cloud and be back up and running in a matter of minutes. That means there’s no mad scramble to replace failed hardware and restore data and applications. That’s a huge benefit that really sets the Barracuda solution apart.”

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James Tagliareni
Chief Information Officer
Washburn University

Speedy Setup

According to Tagliareni, “fast deployment and ease of use are the beautiful part of Barracuda. It was just a few days from purchase to actively backing up data. The user interface is just so simple and intuitive—Barracuda is sort of the Apple of backup solutions.”

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Conclusion

Thanks to Jim Tagliareni and Barracuda, Washburn University is now protected against data loss—everything is securely stored both onsite in the virtual Backup appliance, and redundantly in the Barracuda Cloud. Even if a major natural disaster impacts both of Washburn’s campuses (they’re only four miles apart), Tagliareni can re-launch cloud server instances and get the University’s critical systems back on-line right away.

What’s more, the university saved considerable money by choosing Barracuda Backup. As Tagliareni puts it, “Barracuda Backup is not only the best backup solution out there. It’s also the most affordable.”

In fact, Tagliareni was so impressed with the benefits of cloud-based backup replication with Barracuda that he published an article about it on LinkedIn. (You can read it here: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/5-reasons-why-cloud-based-disaster-recovery-smart-tagliareni-cgcio>)

Tagliareni puts it best, when he says, “In two consecutive roles at two different colleges, I twice went through a thorough evaluation of potential backup solutions. And both times, I ended up choosing Barracuda Backup. I think that really tells you all you need to know.”

About Barracuda Networks

Barracuda (NYSE: CUDA) simplifies IT with cloud-enabled solutions that empower customers to protect their networks, applications and data regardless of where they reside. These powerful, easy-to-use and affordable solutions are trusted by more than 150,000 organizations worldwide and are delivered in appliance, virtual appliance, cloud and hybrid deployments. Barracuda’s customer-centric business model focuses on delivering high-value, subscription-based IT solutions that provide end-to-end network and data security. For additional information, please visit barracuda.com.

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