

How Bergen Catholic High School Easily Prioritised and Scaled Bandwidth Using Barracuda Solutions



**BERGEN CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
Developing leaders in mind, body & spirit.

Profile

- Located in Town of Oradell in Bergen County, New Jersey
- All boys catholic school, servicing grades 9-12
- 725 students and 80 staff members in one main building

Challenge

- Needed a solution that could better manage growing bandwidth requirements
- Needed a better way to prioritise internet traffic
- Needed better visibility into students online activities

Solution

- Barracuda CloudGen Firewall
- Barracuda Web Security Gateway

Results

- Scalable bandwidth capacity
- Quick and easy installation
- Visibility into browsing activity and network traffic
- Superior technical support
- Seamless integration with existing systems
- Zero engineering risk
- Great customer service with committed delivery

About Bergen Catholic High School

Bergen Catholic High School is a Roman Catholic high school located in the town of Oradell in Bergen County, New Jersey. The school serves 750 students and 80 employees in one building.

Currently, Bergen Catholic High School is a 2-to-1 school, which means that half of their students utilise Macbooks and iPads. The goal is to have the entire school using mobile Apple devices by 2017. However, in order to accomplish this, the school needed a solid IT infrastructure.

Plentiful Pain Points

The school was a Cisco shop and wanted to move its IT infrastructure to the cloud. To help their migration to the cloud they needed to expand their internet capacity. Unfortunately, their Cisco ASA Firewall and IronPort email and web filter were becoming choke points in the network.

First, the ASA Firewall did not allow more than 1 Gbps. "The Cisco Firewall that we had, which was put in barely two years ago, was only expandable to one gig. We couldn't do anything with our internet past that, so that was a real sore point for us," said Albert Spiegel, Laptop Program Coordinator for Bergen Catholic High School.

Second, Ironport caused the IT staff numerous headaches due to the solution being hard-to-manage. Spiegel and his team had little visibility into student's browsing habits, which they desperately needed in order to protect their full Apple integration in the future.

Unfortunately, when they tried to install Examsoft, a SaaS-based testing app, the entire network crashed. Bottom line: They needed something with a robust backbone for all e-learning initiatives.

Getting to the Cloud with Ease

Bergen Catholic High School needed to give students and faculty full access to the cloud, which meant they needed improved connectivity. The Barracuda CloudGen Firewall gave Bergen Catholic High School the ability to not only optimise connectivity, but also take advantage of the dynamic uplink balancing capabilities. They were able to deploy the 2 gig uplink on both their primary and failover links. Thanks to Barracuda, Spiegel now has peace of mind, and doesn't need to worry about upgrading his firewall on a continuous basis. "I know I don't have to go out and buy a firewall in three years if I want to update my bandwidth or if I want to do something in my infrastructure. Barracuda's Firewall is built to last."

About the Barracuda CloudGen Firewall

Barracuda CloudGen Firewalls feature advanced security capabilities, including integrated Intrusion Prevention (IPS), URL filtering and antivirus to identify and block evasion attempts that would trick traditional systems. Barracuda's security extends beyond a network to Barracuda's Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) cloud for both statistical and sandboxing analysis of zero-day and targeted threats that routinely bypass signature-based IPS and antivirus engines.

About the Barracuda Web Security Gateway

The Barracuda Web Security Gateway is a web content filtering solution that enables the connected business to benefit from new technologies and online tools, without being exposed to lost productivity, wasted bandwidth, and data loss. It enables highly granular, real-time visibility into online activity, letting administrators create and enforce effective content and access policies.

They were also able to utilise the app-based link selections of the Firewall to prioritise traffic. This is especially important since they rely on Google apps for email, Microsoft Office 365 for productivity, and educational applications such as Blackboard and ExamSoft.

Real-Time Visibility at Last!

The dashboard interface and reporting capabilities on both the CloudGen Firewall and Web Security Gateway are important features utilised by Bergen Catholic High School. The reporting gave them the ability to really understand the traffic that was flowing through their networks. Additionally, the Web Security Gateway's integrated reporting engine gave them insight into student browsing behavior that they did not have with IronPort.

"The whole user interface is much cleaner, which makes it easy for me to add a site or a block a site [using the Barracuda Web Security Gateway]. With both products I like that I can see everything in real time." He continued, "I can watch what is going on and I can narrow it down to a particular device. We found last year that there were students pushing a gigabyte of data at a time streaming video. We were able to find out right away who those kids were," said Spiegel.

Barracuda's makes the backend job easier, especially since it works the way it should.

Albert Spiegel

Laptop Program Coordinator
Bergen Catholic High School

Conclusion

Bergen Catholic High School found Barracuda Networks to be the right partner to provide them with the security solutions and support that they needed. They are happy with the attention they received from Barracuda customer service and have had a great experience. "Being able to have access to a Barracuda system engineer and being able to talk to them was something that we didn't get with these big companies like Cisco," Spiegel said.

About Barracuda Networks, Inc.

Barracuda 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 organisations 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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