

Global textiles producer prevents costly downtime with SD-WAN solution.

New firewall capability stabilises multi-site connectivity, ensures uninterrupted production.



Counting the cost

As the third largest producer in the world of non-woven materials, Danish manufacturer Fibertex counts the cost when its factories grind to a halt due to network connectivity failure. After 15 minutes, they stop production. The subsequent downtime costs around 100,000kr for every hour lost.

“Connectivity at two of our largest production sites in Malaysia was a major problem for us. We were reliant on two very expensive MPLS lines and when one went down, the other line typically didn’t work. This meant problems connecting with our Danish HQ in Aalborg. We’ve got 14 factories in total with multiple lines on every site. But with the ERP system running from Denmark everything at our remote locations ran really slowly, which was very frustrating, and network latency was really high,” said Thomas Martens who serves as IT team lead & Senior IT Administrator.

“We work with medical materials so the quality and safety of our products is critical. If you have kids, it’s likely that you have used products made by Fibertex at some point. This means continuous, rigorous testing and monitoring to ensure that they meet the highest standards. Our customers expect nothing less. We need to track everything to maintain our stringent hygiene and cleaning standards. We simply cannot afford production downtime.”

The existing firewall solution also meant that troubleshooting was difficult, meaning that Martens and the team spent half a day, every day on network maintenance.

Investing in a software-defined future

“This couldn’t go on. We needed secure, uninterrupted network

Profile

- Danish manufacturer of non-woven textiles
- Headquarters in Aalborg, Denmark
- 22 global locations and 14 production facilities
- 1400 employees

Challenges

- Improve network stability at production facilities
- Reduce cost of expensive MPLS lines
- Simplify network command and control

Solutions

- Barracuda CloudGen Firewall / SD-WAN

Results

- Multiple sites are set up without any downtime or migration problems thanks to automated deployment
- 400,000kr saved on network costs
- Single management interface means the IT team can easily visualise and monitor performance saving significant time on maintenance.

connectivity at all of our locations, more bandwidth and low latency to keep everything running. Using multiple ISP links, load balancing and automatic fall back was also essential so we knew we were looking at implementing SD-WAN,” explained Martens.

He turned to trusted IT security partner Ezenta for advice and Senior Network Specialist Mikkel Planck suggested Barracuda’s offerings. “Barracuda quickly set up a proof of concept trial for its CloudGen Firewall. I was really impressed with what I saw. The set up only took two days. Barracuda installed three boxes directly on our sites in Denmark and Malaysia, in addition to a virtual firewall. We let the trial run and, one week in, there was a major line drop during testing. We were braced for the usual disruption, but everything continued to work without interruption. We tested other vendors at the time but nothing came close to Barracuda,” continued Martens.

Reaping the rewards

“We’ve installed Barracuda’s firewall solution at 14 of our 22 locations so far in Japan, America, Malaysia, Brazil and across Europe. Thanks to the proof of concept trial, deployment has been seamless. Setting up a new location takes just minutes, we can do this at the flick of a switch. The configuration stays the same we just set up a new box without any downtime or migration problems. It’s really easy to replace a unit and we can just choose the line with the lowest latency if we need to change lines for one of our sites.”

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has saved the business 400,000 Danish Kroner so far.”

Thomas Martens

IT team lead & Senior IT Administrator
Fibertex

“Barracuda CloudGen Firewall has transformed the way our team in Malaysia works. They have been really positive from the start and the fact that they no longer talk about it tells me that SD-WAN was the right decision.”

Thomas Martens

IT team lead & Senior IT Administrator
Fibertex

A single management interface means the team can easily visualise and monitor network performance and they now only spend a few hours each week on any maintenance. “We don’t even have to look every day. The old firewall meant we spent hours each day troubleshooting but now we have the time to spend on new projects like upgrading our infrastructure and carrying out a new SharePoint installation.”

“We were also highly impressed with the level of support from Alex and the Barracuda team. We felt like we were on our own before without much support from our previous vendor. We are now part of a really great partnership with Barracuda and Ezenta.”

Looking ahead

Data analytics is on the roadmap and Martens is looking at how Barracuda Firewall Insights can help the team better manage the network and SD-WAN connections.

Learn more about Barracuda CloudGen Firewall and SD-WAN

barracuda.com/products/cloudgenfirewall

barracuda.com/products/cloudgenfirewall/use_cases/sd-wan