



Tech-Savvy English Public School Streamlines Office 365 Security

Wellington College Adds Essentials to Its Barracuda Security Portfolio

WELLINGTON
COLLEGE



Profile

- Located in Crowthorne, England
- Founded in 1859
- 1,045 Students
- ~2,500 end users

Challenge

- Recovering lost OneNote data too time-consuming
- IT operating budgets low, needed very easy-to-use solution

Solution

Barracuda Essentials

Results

- Enabled rapid, real-time recovery of accidentally deleted data
- Saved approximately 30 hours per month of IT staff time
- Consolidated management of O365 security, backup, and archiving

About Wellington College

Wellington College was founded in 1859, and today the school is recognized as a leader in digital learning practices and technologies. Indeed, in 2015 the College was named a Microsoft Showcase School in recognition of its innovative and forward-thinking use of IT in the classroom. Students and staff make extensive use of Office 365, SharePoint, and OneNote in collaborative projects and lessons.

IT Director Tony Whelton is one of the driving forces behind Wellington's commitment to digital learning. And with only seven people on his team, one of his top criteria for choosing technology is simplicity. "Our top concern is always the well-being of the kids," says Whelton, "but with limited resources, anything we can do that helps streamline our work is critical. It's one of the reasons we've been so happy with Barracuda products. They truly are very simple and intuitive to manage, which means our team has more time to address immediate student concerns, and to test and implement new ways to enrich learning."

An Emerging Challenge

Anyone can make mistakes, but young people are especially prone to accidentally deleting critical data from their notebooks—and the pressure of preparing for exams can make it worse. At least, that's the conclusion Whelton reached when he noticed a large number of IT tickets coming in from students during the weeks leading up to finals.

"Recovering lost data on a single student's notebook can take hours of work," he says. "And that's not only a strain on our resources, it's also very stressful for the student, who just wants to get back to studying." In particular, Whelton and his team found that the built-in backup and recovery capabilities for OneNote did not meet their needs.

Evaluating Solutions

Whelton approached his security technology vendor at Xitenys, who had recommended Barracuda Essentials as a possible solution. "It's Barracuda, so we already know it's going to be easy to use," says Whelton. "And the combination of security, archiving, and backup across the whole of Office 365 means we'll save a lot time just by managing all that through a single pane of glass."

In the name of due diligence, other products were evaluated. "We scoured the market, but only Essentials delivered the key benefit we needed above all—fast, simple, granular restoration of backed-up data."

About Barracuda Email Protection Solutions

Barracuda Email Protection provides a comprehensive, elegantly simple portfolio of solutions that protect against today's most advanced email-borne threats. Barracuda is the first email security company to use artificial intelligence to spot socially engineered targeted attacks. Its solutions, which include gateway security, protection against spear-phishing attacks and user awareness training, are designed from the ground up to be highly usable. With one of the best support teams in the industry, Barracuda provides the most seamless experience along with enhanced security for your people, brand and business.

[Barracuda products] truly are very simple and intuitive to manage, which means our team has more time to address immediate student concerns.

Tony Whelton
IT Director
Wellington College

Installation and First Six Months

In December 2017, the Wellington IT team started using Barracuda Essentials. “Installing Essentials couldn’t have gone more smoothly,” says Whelton. “The technician from our vendor, Xitenys, got on a Webex meeting with a Barracuda engineer, and it went very quickly.”

Since then, the change has been remarkable. “We’re saving about 30 hours a month in IT staff time thanks to Essentials—which means it’s paying for itself very rapidly,” says Whelton. “At least seven times in the last term, students reported accidentally deleting data during a class, and we were able to restore that data in real time, before the class was over. That simply wasn’t possible before.”

Whelton also considers Essentials’ backup and recovery capabilities a critical hedge against ransomware attacks. “One teacher was abroad when ransomware encrypted their OneNote data, but with Essentials it was almost trivial to delete the corrupted data and restore it from backup.”

One teacher was abroad when ransomware encrypted their OneNote data, but with Essentials it was almost trivial to delete the corrupted data and restore it from backup.

Tony Whelton
IT Director
Wellington College

Conclusion

Wellington College is rightly proud of its reputation as a leader in using technology to enrich learning both inside and outside the classroom. And Whelton and his team are acutely aware that the embrace of technology brings with it a responsibility to keep students, staff, and the College as a whole secure against digital threats.

To fulfill that responsibility without straining limited IT monies and resources, Wellington College relies on Barracuda to provide advanced, powerful, easy-to-use solutions.

About Barracuda Networks, Inc.

Barracuda Networks 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 available as physical or virtual appliances, natively within public-cloud IaaS deployments, or as cloud-delivered services. 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.

Barracuda Networks and the Barracuda Networks logo are registered trademarks of Barracuda Networks, Inc. in the United States. All other names are the property of their respective owners.