



## CASE STUDY

# Automating away security risk for award-winning consultancy Curtins

Barracuda Email Protection does the heavy lifting for small IT team, saving time and money

## Customer

- Curtins is a British engineering consultancy with a 65-year history
- The award-winning business has 14 offices and over 400 employees based across the UK & Ireland

## Challenges

- Increase in impersonation email threats
- The need to create a security-aware culture
- Overcoming the challenges of a small IT/security team
- Putting cybersecurity on the boardroom agenda

## Solutions

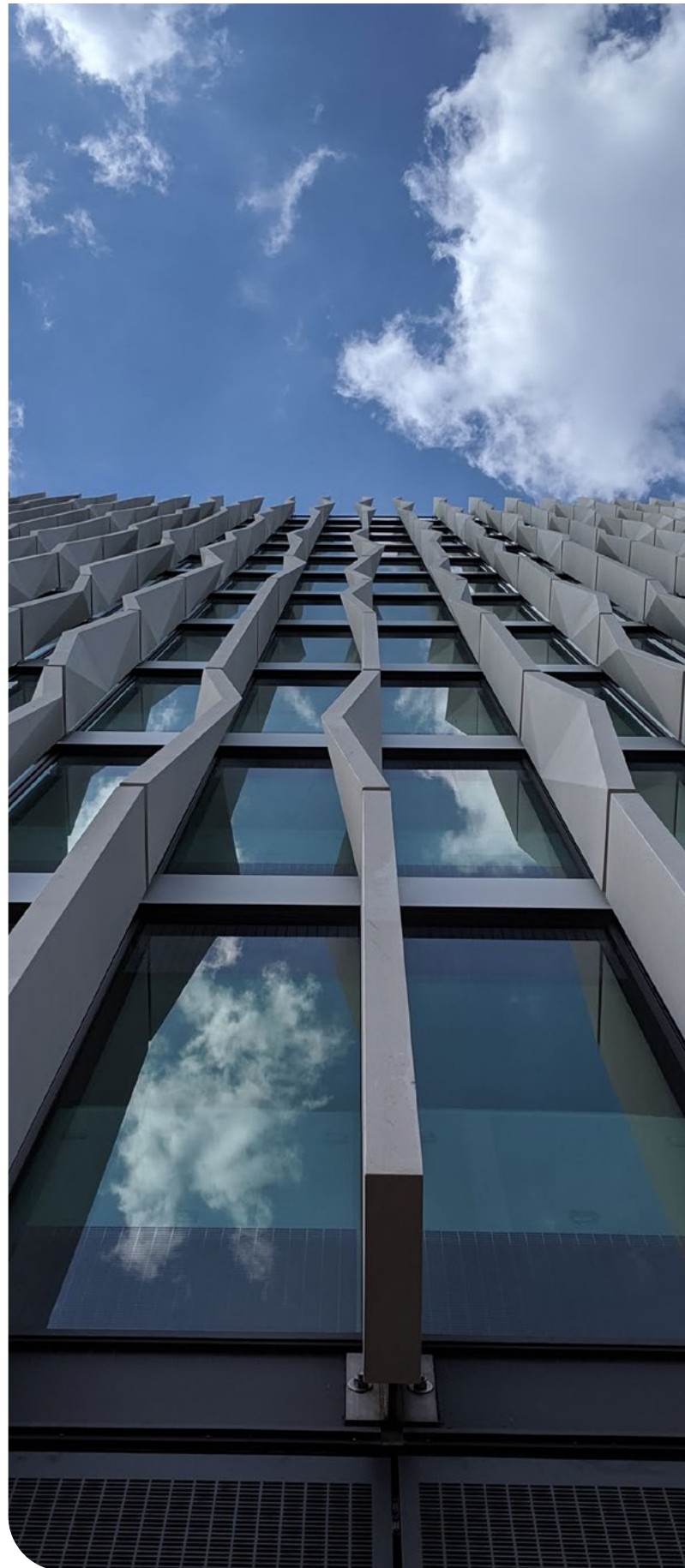


Barracuda

Email Protection™

## Benefits

- Security awareness training improves a key line of defense
- Barracuda data/insights help to articulate the value of security to the board
- Email Protection mitigates sophisticated email threats
- Time savings of 4-8 hours per week for IT team
- Continues to drive assurance for customers with Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation



No two organizations manage cyber risk in the same way. But one thing the most mature companies share is a boardroom-level understanding of and commitment to cybersecurity. That's the journey award-winning engineering consultancy Curtins has been on over the past three years with Barracuda.

When we last checked in, Curtins had recently deployed [Barracuda Email Protection](#) to great effect during the pandemic. Yet, as IT Director, David Price, states, cybersecurity didn't always have the high profile it has now in boardrooms.

"Where we sit today, I'm confident to say it's right up there, if not number one, within the business," he continues. "The fact that [senior leadership] are challenging me and talking about it proves that we're doing the right thing. We're doing our jobs correctly."

With a full-featured suite of Barracuda email and cloud backup and archiving products behind it, Curtins is well placed to continue on its growth journey.

## Back to the beginning

Curtins originally invested in Barracuda Email Protection in early 2022, shortly after David joined the company. At the time, the main drivers were low levels of security awareness across the organization and concerns over the volume of malicious emails being missed by Microsoft 365 filters.

Barracuda Email Protection is a comprehensive security platform that combines gateway filtering with post-delivery detection powered by a multimodal AI engine that analyzes text, images, URLs, documents, and QR codes to identify phishing, BEC, and impersonation threats. The solution includes advanced malware and ransomware protection and automates post-delivery incident through native m-SOAR capabilities, including email clawback, user notification, and policy updates. Integrated human risk management and security awareness training proactively address risky user behavior and deliver targeted training based on real-world threats.

Also includes secure cloud archiving to support granular retention policies and unlimited data backup with point-in-time recovery for Microsoft 365 data, ensuring business continuity.

## Saving time and money

David has been delighted with the performance of the product, in blocking sophisticated threats, empowering his team with time savings, and supporting his efforts to build an organization-wide security-first culture.

The firm has yet to have a major cybersecurity incident, even though impersonation attacks almost quadrupled at around the time that the former CEO retired. Barracuda was able to spot and block a full gamut of attacks—from business email compromise (BEC) to more sophisticated attempts to phish for log-ins, potentially in support of ransomware campaigns.

"These criminals can go online and see how much we turned over last year, and then they'll make an educated guess on how much can we potentially pay in one lump sum," David explains.

He's also been thrilled with the level of automation in the suite, which provides much needed peace of mind, as well as enhancing security organization wide.

"We're always looking to strengthen our security posture, and our collaboration with Barracuda ensures that we have the basics covered, allowing us to focus on other priorities." David adds, "The solutions consistently perform well for us—day in, day out—and when we need to take a closer look, we know it's easily done."

The post-delivery remediation in Email Protection works the same way, he says.

*"Barracuda has freed up our team to work on higher value, long-term projects designed to make things better and more efficient for our staff. And by improving the overall security posture, we've been able to lower our insurance premiums."*

**David Price, IT Director**  
Curtins





“We have a small team so the more that can be automated and take care of itself the better. It presents much smaller numbers to my service desk team,” David continues. “Saying ‘you need to look at these five or 10 emails is very different from saying, ‘look at these 5,000 emails.’ Having an extra pair of hands running in the background that just does the job without asking for support is fantastic.”

This kind of automation saves the firm anywhere from four to eight hours per week, says David.

“Because Barracuda is all connected and intelligent, the team can make an informed decision on whether something’s good or bad and close a ticket almost straightaway,” he adds. “Before they’d have to log into two or three separate solutions and trawl through logs, and before you know it, half an hour’s gone.”

“Barracuda has freed up our team to work on higher value, long-term projects designed to make things better and more efficient for our staff. And by improving the overall security posture, we’ve been able to lower our insurance premiums,” David adds.

## Committed to security

Thanks to Barracuda, the firm has also been able to achieve UK government-backed certification Cyber Essentials Plus over consecutive years, which is something that clients look for. And the reporting functionality in the product has played a big part in advancing the journey to greater boardroom engagement.

*“The Barracuda solutions just work for us—day in, day out—and when we need to dive in, we know it’s easily done.”*

**David Price, IT Director**  
Curtins

“Seeing the vast numbers of phishing emails on a daily basis, being able to track them and then report them, is something they value,” says David. “They like to see the trends and to know that we’ve got solutions in place to support what we’re seeing.”

The cloud backup and recovery functionality has also been useful in supporting staff productivity, by retaining data from Teams meetings and training sessions, as well as providing peace of mind in case threat actors try to encrypt corporate data stores. And the security awareness feature continues to help embed best practices into everything Curtins employees do.

“It’s that constant drip-feed effect of information in short snippets that we see as much more beneficial than forcing them to watch a 30-minute video,” David explains.



## A more secure future

The Curtins IT team continues to move forward, with plans to trial Barracuda's Entra ID backup capabilities, and is looking forward to exploring the BarracudaONE platform which centralizes all Barracuda solutions in a single pane of glass.

David is also committed to improving disaster recovery and business continuity at the firm by running regular incident response simulations.

"We test our fire alarms every week in each of our 14 offices, but the chances of one of them burning down is actually quite slim, thankfully. But the chance of us having a cyber incident in the business is actually quite high," he concludes.

"We were never testing our recovery processes, and that just didn't feel right. So our strategy this year is to work more on that."

The organization has already come so far in such a short space of time. And Barracuda is proud to be supporting the next stage of its journey.

## Learn more



Barracuda

**Email Protection™**

For organizations that want powerful email security without the complexity [Barracuda Email Protection](#) offers a comprehensive, easy-to-use solution. It uses AI to detect all email threat types including phishing, BEC, and impersonation, while also providing malware protection through sandboxing and global threat intelligence. Automated incident response and built-in user training help reduce risk with minimal overhead, making it ideal for resource-constrained teams.

# About Barracuda

Barracuda is a leading global cybersecurity company providing complete protection against complex threats for all sized businesses. Our AI-powered BarracudaONE platform secures email, data, applications, and networks with innovative solutions, managed XDR and a centralized dashboard to maximize protection and strengthen cyber resilience. Trusted by hundreds of thousands of IT professionals and managed service providers worldwide, Barracuda delivers powerful defenses that are easy to buy, deploy and use.