CASE STUDY

A long-running partnership delivers email security protection and peace of mind for award-winning tuition provider.

EMAIL PROTECTION

Customer

- Explore Learning is an award-winning maths and English tuition provider
- It has provided private tuition for children aged 4-14 for over 20 years
- The firm delivers in-center and online tuition across 96 physical and 10 virtual sites

Challenges

- Additional backup and security needed for Microsoft 365 platform
- Small IT team
- Large volume of spam and phishing emails

Solution

Barracuda
Email Protection™

Benefits

- Powerful, automated security saves small IT team time
- Blocks known and advanced threats
- Powerful backup enables optimized use of Microsoft 365

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In a world of continuous tech innovation and fast-evolving threats, the importance of longevity and trust in IT vendor-customer partnerships can't be overstated. It's why Explore Learning IT Director, Matt Evans, tries to build relationships with suppliers which are about "more than just a service." It's also why the award-winning tuition provider has been a happy Barracuda customer for over a decade.

"My project remit back in 2011-12 was to get some filtering to cover our emails. I looked at a variety of products and Barracuda's was the one that ticked all the boxes," says Matt. "It gave us the functionality we needed at a very competitive price. The proof-of-concept went very well and that was that."

A journey to the cloud

Like many organizations operating in the education sector, Explore Learning is a popular target for opportunistic cyber-criminals. It has also evolved its IT infrastructure over the years and was an early adopter of Microsoft 365 back in 2015. Barracuda was once again the natural choice to provide cloud-based protection and backup, offering something "much simpler than doing it through Microsoft," says Matt.

From that place of mutual trust, the relationship has continued to mature. Over recent years, Explore Learning has tested several Barracuda offerings in beta, and more recently transitioned from using point products to the centralized Barracuda Email Protection suite.

"We've always worked closely together to deliver what we need from a business perspective," Matt continues. "Our account manager has always been very open about what the product roadmap is and I've always been keen to get us to a position of a whole suite to encompass everything from email to Microsoft 365 protection."

Total platform-based protection

Barracuda Email Protection offers a comprehensive range of security and backup capabilities delivered seamlessly from the cloud. This includes protection from phishing and commodity spam attacks, as well as AI-based security for more targeted spear-phishing and business email compromise (BEC) defense. It also features domain fraud protection, DNS filtering, data loss prevention (DLP) and encryption, alongside incident response and forensics capabilities. Cloud archiving and cloud backup are there to deliver highly granular, flexible and easy-to-use capabilities for peace of mind and compliance support.

> "It's been very easy for us to manage and control. And with quite a small IT team, knowing we have that layer of security we can control all our filtering through is so much easier."

Matt Evans
IT Director
Explore Learning

Throughout Explore Learning's journey to the cloud, and adoption of Barracuda Email Protection, deployment and ongoing management have been child's play.

"Everything has worked straight out of the box," says Matt. "It's been very easy for us to manage and control. Especially with quite a small IT team, knowing we have that layer of security we can control all our filtering through is so much easier."

Putting the pieces into place

Over the past year, Matt has been impressed with the AI-powered Impersonation Protection module for more advanced threat detection, and the rapid response and remediation capabilities in Incident Response. The latter proved its worth during a proof-of-concept trial when the firm was faced with a live internal phishing attack.

"It brought to the fore the need for us to have something more automated like this. It found the threat straightaway and cleared it," he explains "I'm very confident now that we have the right tools in place. But the biggest risk is still our staff, and now they're bringing in more devices that we have less control over, having these capabilities is more important than ever."

The final piece of the puzzle for Matt and his team will be to switch from a third-party phishing awareness tool to Barracuda Security Awareness Training. In the meantime, Cloud-to-Cloud Backup has provided the assurance Explore Learning needed to transition more pupil work into OneDrive, optimizing the firm's use of Microsoft 365.

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"If you don't have to interact with a product very often then it's clear it's doing what it should be doing. From the point of implementation, Barracuda Email Protection just worked. We've never had to understand it with a developer's knowledge base to use it properly," Matt says.

"That's been a massive help for us as a company. It sits in the background, does what we want it to, and as a small team I know we don't have to worry that there's suddenly going to be any problems, because I've got that security blanket."

After over a decade with Barracuda, Matt believes Explore Learning is in "a really good place."

"Barracuda has been a key partner for us for a long time and we're not looking to change that," he concludes.

Learn more:

For organizations that want to protect their businesses, brands, and people against the most advanced email-borne threats, Barracuda Email Protection is a comprehensive, easy-to-use solution that delivers gateway defense, API-based impersonation and phishing protection, incident response, data protection, and compliance capabilities.

Barracuda
Email Protection™

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About Barracuda

At Barracuda we strive to make the world a safer place. We believe every business deserves access to cloud-first, enterprise-grade security solutions that are easy to buy, deploy, and use. We protect email, networks, data, and applications with innovative solutions that grow and adapt with our customers' journey. More than 200,000 organizations worldwide trust Barracuda to protect them — in ways they may not even know they are at risk — so they can focus on taking their business to the next level. For more information, visit barracuda.com.