



CASE STUDY

Making security work for French distributor with limited resources

Barracuda email, backup, managed XDR and firewall solutions minimize cyber risk for Sopartex

Customer Profile



sopartex
La pièce du professionnel

- Founded in 1954, Sopartex is a leading French distributor of mechanical, electrical and maintenance components for vehicles and machinery
- Headquartered near Paris, most of the company's employees are sales representatives working in the field

Challenges

- Protecting business-critical data and systems with limited IT resources
- Mitigating the risks posed by a large mobile workforce
- Ensuring business continuity and data protection compliance (GDPR)

Solutions

- Barracuda Email Protection
- Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup
- Barracuda Backup
- Barracuda CloudGen Firewall
- Barracuda Managed XDR

Benefits

- Around 3-5 hours saved per week in IT administration
- Several dozen phishing attempts blocked each month
- Greater peace of mind for management



For SMEs, reputation matters. Bonds of customer trust built up over many years can be easily broken if threat actors intervene. In a worst-case scenario, there are fewer resources to hand to aid recovery and win new business. Severe ransomware breaches can become an existential event.

Sopartex Information Systems Manager, Mohamed Daoues, knows these risks well. That's why the business has invested heavily in threat prevention, detection and response, as well as comprehensive backup systems. Crucially, this combination of capabilities from Barracuda has delivered robust protection without overburdening the firm's small IT team.

A fresh start with Barracuda

Sopartex is typical of many SMBs. Over the past seven decades, it has built an enviable reputation for providing customers with high-quality, value-for-money products, grounded in an encyclopaedic knowledge of local markets. Scores of field sales staff play a vital role in building and maintaining relationships with clients on a daily basis.

However, they also rely heavily on cloud-based technologies to do their jobs effectively. In total, the company supports around 70 devices. That's a sizeable attack surface for Mohamed to defend. Phishing attacks, business email compromise (BEC) attempts, ransomware, and Microsoft 365 account compromises kept him awake at night.

"A large proportion of our employees work remotely or on the road, which multiplies the points of access to the information system," he says. "My main challenges are securing remote connections, protecting mobile devices, managing cloud app access and preventing risks related to public Wi-Fi networks. These threats can directly impact the operations and reputation of an SME."

Unfortunately, Mohamed's previous security stack let the firm down on several fronts.

"Before Barracuda, our main challenge was effectively protecting our email and data without adding to IT management overheads," he says. "We have limited IT resources, which made it difficult to manage threats, ensure business continuity, and comply with data protection requirements."

The search was on to find a robust, but simple-to-manage solution set capable of protecting users wherever they are, without complicating their daily lives. The answer was Barracuda, which Mohamed says stood out for "ease of deployment, advanced protection, and centralized management."

A comprehensive solution

Sopartex invested in [Barracuda Email Protection](#), which includes gateway protection to block commodity attacks, as well as AI-powered capabilities to block more sophisticated threats. Intelligent automation helps to accelerate incident remediation for network defenders, and there's also simulation-based training to change employee behavior. Sopartex also deployed granular retention and search, and DMARC capabilities to prevent email spoofing.

[Cloud-to-Cloud Backup](#) offers unlimited storage, with fast, point-in-time recovery across Exchange Online, SharePoint Online, OneDrive for Business, Planner, Teams, and Entra ID. And a Data Inspector automatically scans OneDrive for Business and SharePoint data for sensitive information and malicious files.

Mohamed layered this email protection with [Barracuda CloudGen Firewall](#) to offer real-time network protection against a broad range of network threats, vulnerabilities, and exploits, including zero-day attacks. He complemented this with [Barracuda Managed XDR](#) to provide 24/7/365 detection and response for endpoints and servers, with the flexibility to extend coverage as his needs and environment evolve.

"The deployment was quick and without interruption for users," says Mohamed. "The Barracuda support team and integration partner assisted us effectively, which made adoption much easier."

"Barracuda stood out for ease of deployment, advanced protection, and centralized management."

Mohamed Daoues, Systems Manager
Sopartex



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Powerful security with minimal overheads

The beauty of this combination for an SMB like Sopartex is that it offers enterprise-grade protection, detection and response with minimal effort, and at a compelling price point.

“Ease of use and immediate protection were decisive,” says Mohamed. “We quickly gained visibility into threats and reduced risks without complicating daily management.”

He has been particularly impressed with the advanced phishing protection capabilities in Barracuda Email Protection, which analyze and block threats before they reach inboxes. And Cloud-to-Cloud Backup — which helps to provide the data availability that GDPR regulators demand.

“We particularly appreciate the centralized visibility and clear reports, which make it easy to track blocked threats,” Mohamed continues.

Managed XDR has enabled Sopartex to identify suspicious behavior more quickly, “significantly” reducing response time. And the firm’s CloudGen Firewall deployment has been a great fit for its hybrid/mobile working environment, offering protection for multi-site and VPN connections and centralized management of policies.

“For an SME, this means fewer interruptions and more business continuity,” says Mohamed.

The figures don’t lie. Since deploying Barracuda across its security stack, Sopartex has improved its security posture and saved the IT team up to five hours per week on administrative tasks. According to Mohamed, several dozen phishing attempts are stopped each month before reaching users. Entra ID Backup enhances identity protection, while BarracudaONE has been instrumental in delivering the centralized visibility that frees up Mohamed’s time for other tasks.

“They simplify monitoring and help improve our resilience,” he concludes.



Learn more

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.

Barracuda Managed XDR

[Barracuda Managed XDR](#) is a fully managed next-gen cybersecurity solution powered by Barracuda's 24/7/365 global SOC. It leverages advanced AI analytics and threat intelligence to detect and eliminate cyberthreats in real time across the attack lifecycle. This open XDR solution integrates seamlessly with the organization's existing technologies, enhancing operational efficiency and delivering true defense-in-depth.

Cloud-to-Cloud Backup

[Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup](#) is an easy-to-use, cloud-first SaaS product that protects your Microsoft 365 data, making deployment fast and daily management simple. It safeguards your business with encrypted, cloud-native backups, role-based access, and an intuitive interface that gets you up and running in minutes, it delivers secure, dependable protection that's simple to manage day-to-day.

Barracuda CloudGen Firewall

[Barracuda CloudGen Firewall](#) provides a comprehensive set of next-generation firewall technologies to ensure real-time network protection against a broad range of network threats, vulnerabilities, and exploits, including SQL injections, cross-site scripting, denial of service attacks, trojans, viruses, worms, spyware, and many more. Secure SD-WAN functionality integrated in Barracuda CloudGen Firewall lets you ensure that there is always enough bandwidth for business-critical applications.

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.