



CASE STUDY

Helping Sweden's fast-growing Sparc Group to manage cyber risk and IT complexity.

Customer leverages Barracuda Managed XDR to discover and mitigate multiple cyber-threats.

Customer

- Sparc Group is a Swedish provider of plumbing, electrical, telecommunications, computer and building security services
- The firm has acquired scores of entrepreneur-driven companies over the past three years to become a leader in its field, with annual revenues now exceeding \$200m

Challenges

- A fast-growing company with a rapidly expanding attack surface of people and endpoints
- A Zero Trust vision to secure a 1,000-employee, highly distributed and mobile workforce

Solutions



Barracuda
Email Protection™



Barracuda
CloudGen Access™



Barracuda
Application Protection™



Barracuda
XDR™

Coming soon:



Barracuda
SecureEdge™

Benefits

- Repelled email and web-based threats; avoiding significant business impact
- Helped group companies expand IT services to end-customers
- Supported Zero Trust vision



Two years can be a long time in cybersecurity. When Barracuda last [caught up](#) with Sparc Group CIO, Daniel Ekroth, the fast-growing company had just acquired 47 new businesses in the space of 17 months. Wind forward to today and the figure is almost double that, at well beyond 80 — while revenue has increased more than two-fold to \$200m+.

If anything, this has exacerbated existing challenges around managing cyber risk across a diverse, mobile-heavy workforce. Fortunately, the portfolio of Barracuda products Daniel has brought in is keeping the organization safe and true to its Zero Trust vision.

“We are moving in the right direction,” he says. “It’s a good philosophy for us to stick to. We are still believers, and so far we’re doing a decent job.”

Faster and smarter

The kind of rapid expansion that Sparc Group has seen over the past few years means a larger attack surface of more endpoint devices and humans, including external consultants. There are now over 1000 employees at the company. Daniel also believes the threat landscape has evolved over the past two years, as more malicious actors get hold of AI tooling.

“It’s still the usual suspects, but I think it’s getting faster, and threats might also have increased in volume,” he explains. “They are supported by the same technology, but are using it in a different way.”

Moving forward

When Daniel first arrived at Sparc, the organization set up [Two Stone IT](#) as a separate company within the group to handle both internal security for Sparc businesses and provide external IT services to end customers. The idea was to streamline cybersecurity by consolidating multiple point solutions onto Barracuda — across email, network and web security as well as extended detection and response (XDR). The solutions are:

[Barracuda Email Protection](#) for threat protection, detection and response as well as data security and compliance.

[Barracuda Application Protection](#) to mitigate web app threats including DDoS, malicious bots and API threats.

[Barracuda Managed XDR](#) that delivers proactive threat monitoring, threat hunting and detection and response from a mature 24/7/365 SOC — enabling customers to react rapidly to emerging threats before they can impact the organization.

Sparc Group also invested in [Barracuda CloudGen Access](#) for Zero Trust access to corporate apps and data, wherever employees and partners are located. However, Daniel is looking to replace this with SASE offering [Barracuda SecureEdge](#), which combines Zero Trust Network Access (ZTNA), Firewall-as-a-Service, web security, and fully integrated office connectivity with Secure SD-WAN.

“When you have so many companies coming in at such a pace, the local network is a bit lost,” he says of the reason for choosing SecureEdge. “Function-wise, using conditional access or IP whitelisting is a very attractive idea, because then you can onboard new companies at a much higher pace, and you get even more control.”

“Barracuda Managed XDR played a huge role in helping us act as fast as we could. For me it might even be the tip of the spear for Barracuda and the solutions it provides.”

Daniel Ekroth, CIO
Sparc Group



Doing the job

The existing Barracuda portfolio has performed well in keeping pace with the threat landscape and the increase in employees and businesses that Sparc Group has experienced over past two years. As a case in point, he mentions several attacks that were caught before any disaster recovery protocols had to be actioned. Barracuda Managed XDR was particularly impressive.

“Even though different parts of the ‘platform’ as a whole were working during those incidents, XDR is the only one that played a part in all of them,” Daniel explains. “It played a huge role in helping us act as fast as we could. For me it might even be the tip of the spear for Barracuda and the solutions it provides.”

The solution not only provides a useful early warning about incoming threats, but also offers a “fantastic way” to monitor an attack as it develops, so that defenders can get ahead if it, he adds.

“In terms of the platform as a whole, it’s keeping its promise. We are more than delighted.”

Daniel Ekroth, CIO
Sparc Group

Learn more:



Barracuda Email Protection™

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 Application Protection™

[Barracuda Application Protection](#) is a full-featured, cloud-delivered application security service — that includes web application, API, botnet protection and comprehensive protection against DDoS attacks that also ensures continuous application availability. Barracuda Application Protection can be deployed, configured, and commissioned in minutes. It provides out-of-the-box protection with the default security policies, and the intuitive interface makes it easy to set up custom policies.



The Zero Trust journey continues

Daniel has been delighted with the way all of Sparc Group's Barracuda products have performed since 2022. It provides peace of mind for the company itself as it continues on the Zero Trust journey, and a growth opportunity for its IT security-related businesses, which continue to grow with the acquisition of Finnish cloud provider XaaSIT.

"All of the solutions are doing their job. And we are, without any doubt, extending licenses and services to customers using them," he explains. "In terms of the platform as a whole, it's keeping its promise. We are more than delighted."

As for the future, Daniel and his team are looking forward to getting SecureEdge operational, and are focused on rolling out the Managed XDR solution for end customers.

"Most customers don't have that, and they can really use it in a good way regardless of what they are doing otherwise," he concludes. "So it's a great way to 'land and expand' with a new customer."

Learn more:



[Barracuda SecureEdge](#) secures your users, sites and things with an easy-to-deploy cloud-first platform that connects any device, application, and cloud/hybrid environment.



[Barracuda CloudGen Access](#) is an innovative ZTNA solution that provides secure access to applications and workloads from any device and location. CloudGen Access continuously verifies that only the right person, with the right device, and the right permissions can access company data or apps, or any infrastructure.



[Barracuda XDR](#) is an eXtended visibility, Detection and Response platform that is backed by a group of tenured security experts in our 24x7 Security Operations Center (SOC), providing proactive cybersecurity-as-a-service for our partners and customers.



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.