CASE STUDY

Seamless cloud backup helps to manage risk for one of the Czech Republic's oldest universities.

Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup ensures Palacký

University Olomouc optimizes its use of Microsoft 365.

DATA PROTECTION

Customer

- Univerzita Palackeho v Olomouci (Palacký University Olomouc) was established in 1573 and is the second oldest university in the Czech Republic
- Based in the historic city of Olomouc, it now serves over 30,000 students

Challenges

- Need for a Microsoft 365 backup solution to restore data accidentally deleted by users or encrypted by ransomware
- An expensive and inflexible incumbent backup solution

Solution

Barracuda
Cloud-to-Cloud Backup™

Benefits

- Fast and simple to use — saving the IT team around an hour a week
- Cloud backup offers peace of mind that Microsoft 365 data is safe from ransomware actors
- Highly scalable, currently backing up over 100TB of data faster than before

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Microsoft 365 is an increasingly popular platform for the education sector. Handing off management of email and storage infrastructure allows institutions like Palacký University Olomouc to improve the staff and student experience, while freeing-up valuable IT time for other projects. But it's not a panacea. After migrating to the cloud productivity suite, Head of IT Infrastructure Department Petr Volak was keenly aware of Microsoft's limited data retention policy.

After little success with a previous third-party backup solution, he went with long-time partner Barracuda to offer over 30,000 users unlimited backup and data retention.

A journey to the cloud

Like many organizations, Palacký University originally migrated to Microsoft 365 to save money and resources spent on maintaining inflexible on-premises infrastructure. But with OneDrive and Exchange Online storing everything from student work to teaching materials and personal files, Petr understood that a third-party backup solution was needed to go beyond what Microsoft offered. His decision was confirmed not only by users regularly deleting content accidentally but also by historic ransomware breaches which had encrypted some of the university's stored files.

The education sector remains a top target for ransomware groups globally, as institutions are often seen by cyber-criminals as easy targets. Last year alone, hackers compromised an estimated 44 universities and colleges and 45 school districts operating 1,981 schools in the US — although the real figure is likely to be much higher.

Petr's previous backup solution from IBM failed on two counts. It was prohibitively expensive, and required an on-premises server to back up to, which added extra administrative work and overhead for the IT team. A happy Barracuda customer since 2006, the university arranged for a demo of Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup and liked what it saw.

"In that demo we saw the product was very simple from an administration point of view," says Petr. "We're still using Barracuda for our email gateway so it made sense to reach out to our partner. Never change a winning team."

Switching things on

Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup offers unlimited storage for Exchange Online, SharePoint Online, and OneDrive for Business data, and supports any customer retention policies for complete flexibility. It's simple to monitor and configure from a centralized cloud portal, with point-in-time retrieval, and both scheduled and on-demand backup options available. Data is deduplicated and compressed to maximize storage efficiency and minimize the backup window, while features like role-based access control, multi-factor authentication support and end-to-end encryption enhance security. Multiple external copies of backup files also add redundancy and security.

Deployment went smoothly for Palacký University. "Following the first full backup, the solution was ready to use within just two days and went live in August 2022," says Petr.

> "Before, we had to maintain a storage solution on-premises. Now we don't need to do anything except for a quick monthly check, or when someone wants to restore their files."
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> **Petr Volak, Head of IT Infrastructure Department**
> Palacký University Olomouc

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Fire and forget

Backups are set to run every day for the university, and always end within the day except for the start of term when there is more data to manage. Restores have all gone smoothly, and the time savings for Petr's three-man team amount to around an hour a week over the previous solution.

"It's a weapon you just fire and forget. It's simple and it just works in two or three clicks of a mouse, which is exactly what you want," he explains. "Before, we had to maintain a storage solution on-premises. Now we don't need to do anything except for a quick monthly check, or when someone wants to restore their files."

Although there have been no further ransomware compromises to date, Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup offers peace of mind that if the university does suffer an incident, it will have comprehensive, current backups to restore from which can't be accessed by threat actors. The solution also operates faster than the university's previous product, even though it is storing far more data — currently estimated at around 100TB, says Petr.

Palacký University is so impressed with the project that it is considering expanding the partnership with Barracuda to include a next-gen firewall product.

Learn more:

Barracuda **Cloud-to-Cloud Backup™**

Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup provides easy-to-use SaaS backup for your Microsoft 365 data, including Teams, Exchange Online, SharePoint and OneDrive, including OneNote, with unlimited storage and retention.

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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.