



CASE STUDY

Large construction materials & specialized testing company trusts Barracuda to secure Microsoft 365

Construction Science's ICT Manager chooses Barracuda based on prior experience

Customer

- Delivers a wide range of services including materials testing, geotechnical engineering, environmental consulting, and more
- Headquarters in Albion, Queensland, Australia
- Many locations and labs across Australia and New Zealand
- 1,000 employees

Challenges

- Needed to stand up entire IT infrastructure from scratch after being divested from parent company
- Wanted to secure Microsoft 365 deployment with powerful, easy-to-use solution
- Very small IT team needed to leverage automation for efficiency
- Majority of employees not very tech-savvy or security-aware
- Needed to comply with regulations regarding local data storage

Solutions



Barracuda
Email Protection™



Barracuda
Cloud-to-Cloud Backup™



Barracuda
Data Inspector™

Benefits

- Gained powerful, easy-to-manage security for Microsoft 365
- Ensured compliance with local data storage regulations
- Reduced risks associated with users exposing or exporting sensitive data
- Dramatically reduced IT overhead requirements for security



"In 2020 our company was divested by its parent company, and that's when I was brought on. The first order of business was to stand up an entirely new IT infrastructure from scratch. When it came to security and data protection for Microsoft 365, I knew I wanted to go with Barracuda, based on my previous five years' experience using their solutions."

That's Tobye Connors, ICT Manager for Construction Sciences, a large construction materials and specialized testing firm with offices across Australia and New Zealand. One reason why he told his technology vendor that he wanted [Barracuda Email Protection](#) was simply that he was familiar with it, and felt confident that he and his small IT team could quickly and easily get it deployed and configured.

Fully capable, platform-based protection

"We started off with the basic version of Barracuda Email Protection, which at the time included the email security gateway, advanced threat protection, cloud backup, and message archiving," says Tobye. "But based on my earlier experience with a different company, I knew that I wanted to add the premium capabilities, which we did as soon as we could get them approved."

With [impersonation and phishing protection](#) that uses machine learning to detect anomalies, [account takeover protection](#), automated [incident response](#), and [Data Inspector](#) to find improperly stored sensitive data—along with several other capabilities—Toby felt confident that he and his team had optimal protection for Microsoft 365.

"Whenever there's a malicious email that reaches us, it gets picked up very quickly," he says. "And then with automated incident response, it's a matter of just a few clicks to find every instance that's landed in anyone's inbox and eliminate it. Of course, speed is very important, since it gives the user less time to maybe get fooled into clicking on a bad link."

Ease of use a top benefit

"Obviously one thing that stands out about Barracuda is the extraordinary ease of use," says Tobye. "Everything is laid out very clearly, whatever you need is very easy to find. It's clear that Barracuda has put a lot of effort into creating an excellent user experience. Compared to other products I've used, the difference is night-and-day."

"And that's critical given the size of our team," he continues. "We've actually gotten smaller, there's only three of us now, managing IT for 1,000 users. So both the ease of use and the automated features like incident response mean that we're not wasting any time. I'd say that if we were using, for instance, Microsoft security and backup and so on, I'd probably have to hire another IT person to monitor and manage that."

In the same context, Tobye also mentions that much of Construction Sciences' staff is not very tech-savvy. "Mostly we're talking about technicians and engineers working in the field with very specialized skills, but not necessarily very good with computers," he says. "So knowing that all the emails are being monitored for malicious content, and that we're able to very quickly remediate things in case someone clicks on a bad link—which does happen—that really helps us keep on top of these guys."

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Toby Connors, ICT Manager
Construction Sciences



Protecting and restoring data

“[Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup](#) has proven itself very useful,” says Tobye. “We haven’t had to recover from ransomware, but often enough in OneDrive people will accidentally delete a folder or a file, or in some cases someone who’s been let go will deliberately delete content. But either way, it’s very easy to go into the UI and enter the date you want to restore to, and find the files to restore. The whole thing takes a few minutes.”

“Journaling with [Barracuda Cloud Archiving Service](#) is similarly useful,” he continues. “We’ve had a few times where we had to investigate activities by our staff members, whether for an HR issue or something else. And, just like with the rest of the solution, it’s very easy, we find what we need right away and can provide that for whoever’s doing the investigation.”

Finding and protecting mis-stored data

“Data Inspector is another capability we really appreciate. The first time we ran it, you know, it turned out that a lot of files were out there with things like financial info, contract details, that sort of thing,” says Tobye. “People just tend to keep those things handy, but that means they’re not secured properly. Rounding up those things and getting them secure is obviously important. And I like to check it every month, just to find any data that’s not stored securely according to policy.”

“We’ll be sticking with Barracuda Email Protection—and likely we’ll look into other Barracuda solutions too. The constant improvement, the helpful, dedicated support, the reliability. It all adds up to peace of mind for us.”

Toby Connors, ICT Manager
Construction Sciences

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.



Summing up

Toby intends to stick with Barracuda Email Protection for the long term. “Other vendors come to me and try to displace Barracuda, but there’s always a way they fall short,” he says. “Either they can’t guarantee to store all data within Australia as we’re required to do, or they don’t have the right mix of capabilities, or their solution just isn’t as elegant and easy to use. And often they’re a lot more expensive to boot.”

“So we’ll be sticking with Barracuda Email Protection—and likely we’ll look into other Barracuda solutions too. The constant improvement, the helpful, dedicated support, the reliability. It all adds up to peace of mind for us.”

Learn more:



Barracuda

Cloud-to-Cloud Backup™

[Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup](#) offers secure, easy-to-use SaaS backup for your Entra ID and Microsoft 365 data, including Teams, Exchange Online, SharePoint, and OneDrive including OneNote. Find and restore your important Microsoft 365 data quickly and easily even in the event of ransomware or other cyberthreats.



Barracuda

Data Inspector™

[Barracuda Data Inspector](#) automatically scans your OneDrive for Business and SharePoint data for sensitive information and malicious files.



About Barracuda

Barracuda is a leading cybersecurity company providing complete protection against complex threats. Our platform protects email, data, applications and networks with innovative solutions, and a managed XDR service, to strengthen cyber resilience. Hundreds of thousands of IT professionals and managed service providers worldwide trust us to protect and support them with solutions that are easy to buy, deploy and use. For more information, visit barracuda.com.