Leading UK trade association in the driver's seat with comprehensive cloud email protection and backup.

Cyber-attacks on the automotive industry have shifted into top gear over recent years. According to one estimate, they may cost the sector as much as $24 billion by 2023. The COVID-19 pandemic did nothing to halt threat actors: carmakers including Honda, KIA and a Toyota subsidiary have all suffered ransomware-related disruption during the crisis. Cyber-criminals are out for whatever they can get: whether it is monetisable customer data and trade secrets or a straightforward ransom in return for decryption keys.

In the UK, these manufacturers are represented by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), a trade association in regular communication with government and industry stakeholders over critical issues ranging from sustainability plans to Brexit. That puts it at risk of targeted attacks and more automated commodity threats, both of which could impact the bottom line and reputation.

The SMMT's Head of IT, Vinny Phul, and IT Systems Manager, Geoff Major, are well aware of these risks, which is why they've always treated email, the number one threat vector, as a security priority. After switching to Barracuda Email Security Gateway four years ago when its existing provider pulled out of the market, SMMT had a more urgent decision to make in 2020.

"We knew we wanted to move to Office 365 because we were on Exchange 2010, which was coming to the end of support. But the pandemic in 2020 accelerated our decision," says Vinny. "That meant Geoff had to pick up some new skills very quickly as our plans were brought forward much faster."

But with cloud migration came potentially new risks, driving the need for a new security platform capable of plugging any gaps in protection and functionality left by Microsoft. After several

Profile

- The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) is the voice of the UK motor industry

- One of the largest and most influential trade associations in the UK

- Three distinct bodies: SMMT, The Motor Ombudsman and Industry Forum

Challenges

- Excessive amount of hours spent checking quarantined emails

- Phishing emails exposing users to cyber risks

- Inefficient remediation processes for malicious emails

Solution

- Barracuda Total Email Protection including Cloud-to-Cloud Backup

Results

- Many hours saved weekly on examining quarantined emails and remediation

- Highly effective blocking of malicious and phishing emails

- Cloud backup provides peace-of-mind where Office 365 fails

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years as a satisfied Barracuda Networks customer, the switch to Total Email Protection was a no-brainer.

Why Barracuda?

The SMMT IT team is tasked with securing three organisations: the SMMT, Industry Forum, and The Motor Ombudsman. That means two sites and around 160 users. As the official voice of over 800 automotive companies in the UK, the organisation has a heavy responsibility to those members to ensure its cybersecurity processes and policies are well designed, enforced and accredited to the highest standards.

One demonstration of Barracuda's Total Email Protection was enough to convince Geoff and Vinny that it was the right choice for SMMT. Geoff was particularly impressed by the intelligent anti-phishing capabilities, seamless incident response, and cloud-to-cloud backup. An attractive price point for the package sealed the deal.

Barracuda Total Email Protection includes layered analytics engines and CPU-emulation sandboxing to further spot and block suspicious emails. Also included in Barracuda Total Email Protection is Barracuda Sentinel, which uses artificial intelligence to stop threats that bypass traditional filters. For mitigating data leaks there's also data loss protection and email encryption. The platform also contains PhishLine for running highly effective security awareness training programs, and Forensics and Incident Response to help customers reduce the impact of attacks and recover quickly.

SMMT enlisted IT partner Axia to help and was up and running with no major bumps in the road.

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Vinny Phul
Head of IT
SMMT

A winning formula

Total Email Protection has already proven itself many times over for Vinny and his team. The AI based threat detection capabilities boasted by Sentinel have been particularly

well received. The zero-administration tool works away in the background stopping the threats that gateways can't— including account takeover attempts and attacks launched from compromised accounts.

"I was particularly impressed by Sentinel because our users often complained about phishing," says Geoff. "Now we just don't get them at all."

He has also been impressed by the platform's incident response capabilities.

"You see a scam email coming in and with a few clicks can arrange for that to be removed from everyone's inboxes and a notification sent out. It's a brilliant feature," Geoff says. "In the past this would have required me sending all those users an email telling them to delete it. Now it's so much quicker and more effective. It saves us time and it means fewer calls from users."

In fact, Total Email Protection works so well that the SMMT IT team doesn't even need to quarantine suspicious emails any longer, saving them even more time to focus on higher value tasks.

"Previously we may have had hundreds of these emails to go through each day in case there was one genuine one that had snuck through. It was the first job of the morning," explains Geoff. "The way we've got it configured now is brilliant. It's saved us hours each week."

Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup more than met their needs. "It took only minutes to set up", Vinny explained, " and having a true Office 365 backup gives us additional peace of mind against the ransomware threat." And, Vinny said " Cloud-to-Cloud Backup makes it very easy to find lost files for our day-to-day needs."

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Geoff Major
IT Systems Manager
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motor industry at a crucial stage of its evolution.

A strong first line of defense

SMMT continues to explore new ways to maximise its use of Total Email Protection. To this end there are plans to extend backup capabilities to additional Office 365 solutions such as SharePoint, when they come online at the organisation. Another key area is security awareness.

"PhishLine is a great idea and interested in implementing it, but we haven't kicked things off yet due to the pandemic," concludes Vinny. "We're definitely going to have to look at it later this year because of the threat to home workers from ransomware. It's where things are headed."

With yet another layer of defense in place, this time from its own users, SMMT will have the peace of mind to do what it does best—offer outstanding guidance and support for the

Learn more about Barracuda Total Email Protection

barracuda.com/products/totalemailprotection