

Newly promoted Leeds United hits the ground running with Office 365 backup and email protection.



Being promoted to the English Premier League (EPL), one of the world's most exciting and well-known football competitions is a dream for any club and its supporters. But for Leeds United FC's Data Security Manager, Graham Peck, it was a mixed blessing.

"With the added exposure comes an increased risk of breaches, so we started looking at where our security gaps were," he says.

Premier League football clubs are in many ways similar to medium to large-sized enterprises, with annual revenue in the tens or hundreds of millions of pounds. This makes them an attractive target for business email compromise (BEC), ransomware, and theft of data on players, financials, and other sensitive information. As one of two in a small IT team prepared for a shift to Office 365, Peck needed a security and backup provider he could trust.

Building on 365

Like many IT security managers, Peck realized that his organization needed more than the native protection offered by Microsoft, especially in the context of a new era of mass remote working.

"Microsoft gives you a basic set of tools to protect your environment when it's hosted in the cloud, but they identify that in most cases it's better to build on their infrastructure with third-party products," he says. "Having more robust security products focused on these areas made it easier for the business to manage cyber-risk and limit data loss."

Profile

- An English Premier League (EPL) football club with a 100+ year history

Challenges

- Keeping advanced Office 365 threats at bay
- A small IT team
- Greater exposure to cyber risk as a result of promotion to EPL

Solution

- Barracuda Essentials for Office 365

Results

- A high degree of automation and a single pane of glass benefits the IT team
- OneDrive and email back-ups are highly cost-effective
- ATP protects the club from advanced threats

Peck wasn't just looking for any provider. He needed a security partner to provide visibility, control, and protection from advanced threats in a way that the IT team could manage with ease.

“Having more robust security products focused on these areas made it easier for the business to manage cyber-risk and limit data loss”.

Graham Peck

Data Security Manager
Leeds United Football Club

A winning partnership

As Leeds United already used Barracuda Networks for its email security and email archival, extending this relationship to its Office 365 environment, as well as the addition of the Phishline product range for training staff “just made sense,” Peck says.

“The process was fairly straight forward and nothing was too much of a hassle. We reviewed several solutions and found the best fit with input from the technical team,” he adds.

[Barracuda Essentials for Office 365](#) is a comprehensive email security suite that tracks every inbound and outbound email to stop spam, malware, and data leaks. Its Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) function features a CPU-emulation sandbox to detect zero-day attacks and ransomware, while Sentinel includes the latest AI technology to offer real-time protection against sophisticated phishing and BEC emails. Cloud-to-cloud backup capabilities support compliance and reduce business risk by mitigating accidental or intentional deletion of emails by employees.

“We already utilised the Barracuda product range without any issues so when we started the migration to the cloud it was a natural progression to move the systems to Barracuda Essentials for Office 365,” explains Peck. “A major benefit was unlimited storage for mail archiving and OneDrive backups of users’ Office 365 accounts. A lot of other vendors wanted to charge for backing up that data, but then you start running into serious incremental costs, depending on how much data is being used.”

“We already utilised the Barracuda product range without any issues so when we started the migration to the cloud it was a natural progression to move the systems to Barracuda Essentials for Office 365”.

Graham Peck

Data Security Manager
Leeds United Football Club

A game-changer

Barracuda Essentials for Office 365 started adding value for Leeds United from day one, enhancing cloud email security and back-ups whilst maximizing IT productivity. The OneDrive and mail backups were a “game-changer” that enabled Peck to mitigate the risk of remote workers using multiple unsanctioned consumer-grade solutions, such as iCloud and Dropbox. He was able to consolidate all of these users and corporate data onto Barracuda Essentials.

Peck also praises the platform’s ease-of-use, single-pane-of-glass, and automated functionality, which makes the team’s day-to-day work that much easier from an operational perspective, as well as enhancing protection.

“ATP is really good because we’re a small team, which means you often end up being very reactive. With ATP it’s proactive, it will identify the issue automatically, and clean-up any malware or quarantine it so I can see what’s happened without the fear of missing it,” he explains. “Having a centralized dashboard enabling total visibility is also great for us. It means you don’t have to jump about from application to application or worry about juggling multiple passwords.”

“With ATP it’s proactive, it will identify the issue automatically, and clean-up any malware or quarantine it so I can see what’s happened without the fear of missing it”.

Graham Peck

Data Security Manager
Leeds United Football Club

That’s the story so far, and Peck is looking forward to a bright future for Leeds United, on and off the field, with Barracuda Networks.

“The great thing about Barracuda is they’re forward-thinking, which means we have made the correct choice,” he concludes. “I’d rather be with a company that is constantly evolving and changing as the landscape changes, than one that’s just become good at one thing and stagnates as the security topography changes.”

Learn more about Barracuda Essentials

barracuda.com/products/essentials

