

Vinnolit

Leadership in PVC

About Vinnolit

There is just one top address for PVC: Vinnolit GmbH & Co. KG is one of the leading PVC manufacturers in Europe and is also one of the top 10 PVC raw materials manufacturers worldwide. Vinnolit produces and sells a wide range of PVC products to cover all standard PVC applications. The company is also the world's leading market and technology leader when it comes to special PVC products for higher quality applications. At the same time Vinnolit is a leading manufacturer and supplier for intermediate products, such as sodium hydroxide, vinyl chloride and tin tetrachloride which are used for further processing purposes by the chemicals industry and in other sectors, too. Some 1,500 staff are employed at the company headquarters in Ismaning as well as in six other production locations. In 2007 Vinnolit posted annual revenues totalling €816 million. The use of modern and economical technologies is a fundamental requirement for Vinnolit's company success.



Barracuda NG Firewall WAN Protection & Optimization Cost Efficiency at a glance

- Barracuda NG lets you use bandwidths that are less expensive but offer increased availability and cost savings of up to 90%. By using multiple carriers simultaneously bandwidths can be bundled.
- Extendable Barracuda NG systems offer companies sustainable investment protection.
- Barracuda NG Control Center saves significant time and effort compared to other Firewall/VPN solutions.



IT security as a service

Communications routes guarded with Managed Security Services – powered by Barracuda NG Firewall

When the Internet learned how to walk...

... Vinnolit was faced with a range of new challenges: The company's production facilities are located – in terms of infrastructure – in chemical industrial estates as is normal practice in the chemicals sector. A site operator provides various different services, such as plant construction and maintenance, energy supplies, waste disposal and sewage treatment, authorisation processes and, as information technology continues to develop, also with IT services for example. So, over the years, a closely interwoven IT infrastructure has emerged between Vinnolit and the other companies located in the chemical industrial estates. At the same, it became increasingly more important that all data-related areas be separated logically.

Core requirements: Security, convergence, standardization

In addition to separating the data networks run by the different onsite companies, other objectives also had to be implemented, too.

These included the creation of an integrated IT infrastructure which was, on the one hand, inexpensive and on the other, could also link up other new companies quickly. As commercial and production-related IT converged more and more, a high number of new interfaces also arose which had to be both protected and monitored. Ideally these requirements should all be fulfilled by just one system. "Our experience has been positive when it comes to reducing to just a few systems," explains Joachim Kozica, IT Service Manager at Vinnolit.

Corporate strategy: Outsourcing

For several years now, Vinnolit has given very high priority to selective IT outsourcing. In addition to cost savings, the entire IT environment could be conceived in a straightforward and transparent way as a result.

So the Vinnolit IT department is of a manageable size and yet still powerful. Its main internal task is looking after the SAP systems. All other areas, such as PC, hardware, software, front-end and the server environment, have all been completely outsourced to external IT service providers. Only one person – namely Joachim Kozica – is responsible for coordinating the outsourced segments at Vinnolit. A longstanding partner for many of the outsourcing projects is Infracore Gendorf, the site operator at the GENDORF industrial estate. It was Infracore who initially referred to Barracuda NG Firewall and the associated Managed Security options.

Managed Security Services par excellence

In the subsequent meetings it soon became clear that Barracuda NG Firewall was a solution that best fulfilled the Vinnolit requirements in terms of security functions, reporting features and central management by an external service provider. And from then onwards, everything moved very fast: The project was addressed very quickly thanks to Infracore Gendorf's positive past experience with Barracuda Networks and their in-depth knowledge of Vinnolit's specifications. The corporate-wide roll-out could be driven on at full speed following a smooth pilot test, during which one production facility was separated as planned in terms of data from the onsite company and linked directly to the corporate headquarters.

The entire project was implemented by Infracore Gendorf. Barracuda NG Firewall was offered purely as a service. So Kozica is only interested in product releases and technical specifications in passing. Vinnolit defines the objectives and specifications which are then put into written form and Infracore Gendorf is then entirely responsible for the implementation.

“ We work in a standardised fashion in other areas too, like the server or desktop environments. The advantages lie not only in the reduced costs, but also on the user side and especially for administrators whose workloads have eased up considerably as a result. ”

**-Joachim Kozica,
IT Service Manager at Vinnolit**

About Barracuda NG Firewall WAN Protection & Optimization

With its realization of the branch office box (BOB) concept, Barracuda NG provides a solution that convincingly addresses all subsidiary network requirements. What this brings among other benefits is: security at enterprise-wide level through integrated firewall and VPN gateways with a leading encryption system. Reaction times are optimized and bandwidth load reduced by local holding of frequently accessed contents, prioritizing of data flows and loss-free data compression. Some specific services such as DHCP can also be provided locally. The Traffic-Intelligence-Technology Barracuda has developed takes care of smart traffic distribution among dedicated lines, xDSL, ISDN, satellites, UMTS or Multi-Provider Uplinks. Furthermore every line is monitored and will allow for failsafe redistribution and re-prioritizing of your communication. This ensures that all branches can always rely on accessing essential resources with adequate performance and can stay productive.

“This is an area which I don't even bother to ask about. We have agreed upon and described services with our partner. I really don't mind how these are then implemented in technical terms,” comments Kozica very calmly. A core Barracuda NG Control Center is located at Infracore Gendorf which is used to manage all Barracuda NG Firewalls implemented at Vinnolit. If a change is required – be it a service request, a change or that a failure is notified via the Service Desk – then Infracore implements it within a very short space of time. “We need a partner that we can trust, especially when we are talking about security issues. The combination of Infracore and Barracuda Networks works excellently!”

Kozica is pleased with the solution's launch: “Our experience was positive right down the line – both with Infracore and also with Barracuda Networks. There were no problems at all with the implementation. Our business was not interrupted at all either. Users didn't even notice the conversion to Barracuda NG Firewall.” The first step involved integrating just the German locations and in the meantime the system has now been extended to other company locations in Germany, Great Britain and Italy. The implementations here were also completed without any hitches and the management runs centrally via Infracore Gendorf.

Mobile employees communicate safely via Barracuda NG Network Access Control

The laptops used by mobile employees at Vinnolit are now also successively being equipped with the VPN client solution by Barracuda. The administration here too is also integrated into the central management at Infracore Gendorf. Even though this solution was not originally planned in the specifications, Kozica sees a further step here towards simplifying the infrastructure and making both the administration and the security more efficient.

Key arguments for firewall and VPN: Diversity of functions and centralised management

Alongside the diversity of functions, the most important decision criterion both for the firewall and also for the VPN solution was predominantly the controllability of the solution. Kozica explains: “I only trust the technology to a certain extent, no matter which one we are using – it is much more important for me to be able to trust the people who are using it. If someone has to manage 100 different systems, then there is no way he can be as good for each individual system as someone who perhaps has a maximum of three systems in use and can master all of these much better.”

An outlook – Industrial security

Vinnolit is in good hands with Barracuda and Infracore Gendorf. Thanks to the scalability of the Barracuda NG Firewall Kozica is relaxed about the possible integration of additional locations into the corporate network. The next step will involve implementing industrial solutions which have to be installed in particularly dusty areas of the production facilities. “Fan-less systems and similar could be an issue for us in the future – and then we know Barracuda has the appropriate solutions,” says Kozica.

“If I had to mark the project in terms of school grades, then I would have to award a straight A!”

-Joachim Kozica,
IT Service Manager at Vinnolit

About Barracuda Networks Inc.

Barracuda Networks Inc. built its reputation as the worldwide leader in content security appliances by offering easy to use and affordable products that protect organizations from email, Web and IM threats. Barracuda Networks has leveraged its success in the security market to offer networking products that improve application delivery and network access as well as world-class solutions for message archiving, backup and data protection. Coca-Cola, FedEx, Harvard University, IBM, L'Oréal, and Europcar, are amongst the 100,000 organizations protecting their networks with Barracuda Networks' solutions. Barracuda Networks' success is due to its ability to deliver easy to use, comprehensive solutions that solve the most serious issues facing customer networks without unnecessary add-ons, maintenance, lengthy installations or per user license fees. Barracuda Networks is privately held with its headquarters in Campbell, Calif. Barracuda Networks has offices in 10 international locations and distributors in more than 80 countries worldwide. For more information, please visit www.barracudanetworks.com.