

About Diamant-groep

It is not just in tough economic times that people with disabilities or other restrictions often experience problems in the employment market. State law in the Netherlands therefore specifies both integration and equal opportunities. This is the working base of the Diamant-groep: At a total of eleven locations in the larger towns and neighboring municipalities the company employs disabled people as well as difficult to place unemployed individuals in various sectors ranging from cleaning contractors to rural conservation. A further focus of the Diamant-groep, which is funded with 60 percent by the State, is the successful placement in the first labor market.



Barracuda NG Control Center Key Benefits

- Substantial cost benefits through efficient central management of all security and network functions
- Management of unlimited Barracuda NG Firewalls
- Efficient monitoring of VPN tunnels through real time 3D visualization of tunnel status
- Management of all Barracuda NG Firewalls and services from one central User interface.
- Extended multi-tenancy capabilities catering to the need to MSSP environments
- Extended multi-admin capabilities allow unlimited numbers of users to work inside the configuration User interface at the same time
- Revision Control System for all changes to all boxes to comply with governmental and company policy requirements

More transparency, less administration

Diamant-groep replaces isolated security products with Barracuda NG Firewalls

The head office in Tilburg provides all processes required for the coordination, placement as well as data centrally to the subsidiaries. The data is transferred via VPN or, in the case of the two largest subsidiaries, via redundant fiberglass lines. Reliable connectivity and security are decisive factors here: "Without these connections to the head office the subsidiaries would only be able to continue their work for a short period of time, because important work-related and personnel information such as sickness notifications for example, would not be available," explains Eric Wijn, IT Manager at the Diamant-groep. "The absolute external and internal data security must be guaranteed at all times because of the high volume of saved, highly confidential information about our 3,000 employees."

“ Following our experience with Barracuda in the Netherlands I can now say that: Barracuda really listens to its customers’ requirements and works hard to find a solution. ”

-Eric Wijn,
IT Manager at the Diamant-groep

Mission: Decrease complexity, increase flexibility

Over the years the Diamant-groep has implemented a range of specialized individual solutions in order to combat the growing number of diverse security threats: In addition to a firewall appliance and a VPN concentrator these also included an additional security and acceleration server as well as appliances for URL filtering and anti-malware – a total of five products from four internationally renowned network hardware and security suppliers. Over the course of time, the Diamant-groep had to cope increasingly with a problem that is typical of infrastructures that have grown in a historical fashion: The management. "By 2009 we had reached the point at which the solution for one problem led immediately to two or three new ones. The system's complexity and interdependence made the administration extremely laborious and prevented the integration of new requests. So it was inevitable that we would have to introduce a convergent solution with the respective centralized management functions."

An additional challenge proved to be providing flexible VPN connection options, because the number of home offices and mobile employees was also growing at the Diamant-groep, too. However, the Diamant-groep had no administrative access to a large share of the remote access systems, so the wish list was headed by the need for an uncomplicated SSL and IPSec-VPN combination – which would also help to relieve the helpdesk of VPN client installations and the resulting trouble calls.

A last minute decision

Although Eric Wijn's team was actually strongly in favour of continuing existing manufacturer relationships, the Diamant-groep decided to introduce the Barracuda NG Firewalls at short notice. The trigger: "The Barracuda NG Firewall management concept had caught our interest. On top of this, Barracuda has a reputation as being a partner for highly secured environments in the banking and insurance businesses, which also appealed to us because we have such high volumes of confidential data. A trial installation was organized both quickly and straightforwardly – meaning that we then delayed our final decision," recalls Eric Wijn.

During the trial period it soon became apparent that this decision has been the right one because the Barracuda NG Firewalls proved convincing both in terms of the management as well as in terms of potential cost savings.

About Barracuda NG Control Center

Security conscious enterprises and managed security service providers constantly deploy more and more security gateways throughout their networks. These gateways have to be rolled out, configured and monitored. Regardless of how comfortable configuration and operation of an individual device are, individually managing tens, hundreds or even thousands of such security devices is costly in terms of required skilled manpower.

Barracuda NG Control Centers help to significantly reduce the cost associated with security management while providing extra functionality both centrally and locally at the managed gateway. Central management also eliminates the risk of overlooked security policy inconsistencies. Administrators use Barracuda NG Control Centers to monitor system health and security status of remote gateways, manage Barracuda NG Firewall configurations, define global administration roles and scopes, or retrieve data on individual or collective gateway activity useful for accounting or billing purposes. Software patches and version upgrades are centrally managed from within the management console and deployment can be scheduled to be applied to all managed devices.

Three manufacturers go, one comes

With the implementation of the Barracuda NG Firewalls at all locations the jobs done by the former firewall, the VPN concentrator as well as the security and acceleration servers could all be consolidated into one infrastructure. For the first time the Diamant-groep has centralized and easy access to all subsidiary configurations.

At the same time the complexity has been drastically reduced since all corporate-wide security regulations and settings are available in a clear and easy to follow Barracuda NG Control Center. The central management here comprises not only VPN and firewall policies, but also parameters such as, for example, software licenses. VPN tunnels can be added or diverted and branching connectivity structures can be managed using the drag-and-drop functionality and graphical tunnel interface.

These same benefits have come to light with the URL filtering too, so that the Appliance used until now has also become superfluous. Barracuda NG Firewalls use the world's most comprehensive URL database with over 87 million analyzed URLs and 7 billion Web sites and images for URL filtering. Some 1,200 web crawlers search the Internet daily for new or changed contents so that some 100,000 new Web sites are recorded every single day. "With the Barracuda NG URL filtering all locations are always up-to-date with the same status without using any additional resources. Based on former experiences we can definitely envisage using the Barracuda NG Firewalls to cover the anti-malware protections too – Barracuda definitely offers us the opportunities for this," says Eric Wijn.

Flexible VPN provision as required

In order to do justice to the varying scenarios for the VPN provision Barracuda allows the combination of SSL and IPSec technologies. The convergence of access methods into one management interface guarantees the comprehensive compliance with the corporate-wide security policies here. For the Diamant-groep this means that: Private systems which do not fall under the IT department's administrative controls can be given secured access without software installations via SSL VPN. At the same time conventional VPN methods can still be used for all other systems. "SSL VPN gives us the option to open up fast and safe access to users without placing a burden on the helpdesk with installations," says Eric Wijn. "However, despite this we still have the overview over the entire VPN infrastructure."

Diamant-groep: Barracuda is worth its price

With the introduction of the Barracuda NG Firewalls the Diamant-groep has, in its own opinion, successfully fulfilled the five core requirements of an infrastructure that guarantees future connectivity and security:

- Centralized management of all locations from the head office.
- Considerably reduced administration expenses.
- Flexible and fast reaction to new situations.
- Simple provision of VPN access for home offices.
- Increased security for confidential data.

About Barracuda Networks Inc.

Barracuda Networks Inc. combines premise-based gateways and software, cloud services, and sophisticated remote support to deliver comprehensive security, networking and storage solutions. The company's expansive product portfolio includes offerings for protection against email, Web and IM threats as well as products that improve application delivery and network access, message archiving, backup and data protection. Coca-Cola, FedEx, Harvard University, IBM, L'Oreal, and Europcar are among the more than 100,000 organizations protecting their IT infrastructures with Barracuda Networks' range of affordable, easy-to-deploy and manage solutions. Barracuda Networks is privately held with its International headquarters in Campbell, Calif. For more information, please visit www.barracudanetworks.com.

“Until now one system engineer had to work on the administration for at least one day every week, often longer. Now it is only two hours.”

-Eric Wijn,
IT Manager at the Diamant-groep