



Barracuda Networks Quashes Alarm Over Spyware at EMS

Security Alarm Systems Group Freed from Spyware Tyranny

About EMS Group

EMS provides state-of-the-art, wireless fire and security alarms. The high spec systems leave conventional “hard wired” offerings behind. As such they are often the supplier of choice to supply alarm systems for big venues and prestigious events including Stanstead Airport, London Underground and the Ryder Cup Golf Tournament.

EMS’s busy headquarters in Herne Bay employs approximately 150 personnel working across sales, management, R&D and operations departments. The three-member IT department provides support to 150 workstations, 28 servers and four remote office VPNs.

Spyware infections dominate IT department workload, compromise security and slow network

Re-occurring spyware infections across many user machines posed not only a potential data security threat, but was also slowing internal and external communications and jeopardising potential sales. The majority of infections were affecting the R&D and sales department workstations and with both departments relying heavily on the Internet, the situation put a strain on both business activity and employee morale.

“We didn’t have any anti-spyware protection on our network as it hadn’t been a major issue before” said Mark Dixon, IT Manager at EMS. “However infections started cropping up on numerous machines around the network. More and more users were contacting the IT department for help, complaining of slow Internet and email access and abnormal PC behaviour.”

At its worst, the IT department was dedicating two to three days per week clearing infected PCs. This in turn meant that IT department resources were stretched and other enquiries and tasks got pushed back. Dixon decided it was time to research more viable, long-term software and hardware-based solutions.

Software solutions just didn’t add up

“We considered purchasing anti-spyware software to run on all user machines on the network,” said Dixon. “This was the cheapest up-front cost option. However when we researched the idea further, it became apparent that the annual cost of licence renewal alone would equate to nearly £2,800.

“On top of this there is the cost and time required by the IT department to install and maintain the software, the additional demand on the network when updates occur and the drain on local PC resources to run security applications,” he continued.

Barracuda Web Filter clears the way

Subsequently, the decision was made to implement a hardware-based solution. Although a number of products were considered, the Barracuda Web Filter 310 was chosen for its ability to instantly block spyware attacks and for its automatic Energize Updates from Barracuda Central. With Energize Updates, the Barracuda

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-Mark Dixon
IT Manager
EMS Group



Barracuda Web Filter 310 Fast Facts:

- Completely eliminates spyware and other forms of malware
- Millions of URLs in 58 categories for comprehensive content filtering
- Customisable branding
- No per-user licensing fees

Web Filter protects against the latest virus and spyware variants. Unlike the many desktop software solutions the Barracuda Web Filter can be set up in minutes and offers a central point for maintenance, ultimately saving time, money and resources.

"I first heard about the Barracuda Web Filter via a colleague who worked in the U.S.," said Dixon. "He was amazed by the performance of the Barracuda Web Filter having experienced similar spyware problems. He strongly advised that it was the answer we were looking for.

"It was a set-and-forget package," Dixon continued. "The box was up and running within 15 minutes with instant results. Without a doubt, purchasing the Barracuda (Web Filter) is the best decision we have made for IT security at EMS."

As a result of installing the Barracuda Web Filter, spyware is no longer an issue for Dixon and his team at EMS and no new infections have occurred since its installation.



About the Barracuda Web Filter

The Barracuda Web Filter combines preventative, reactive and proactive measures to form a complete content filtering and anti-spyware solution for businesses of all sizes.

The Barracuda Web Filter is designed to enforce acceptable Internet usage policies by blocking access to objectionable content and unauthorised Internet applications. At the same time, the Barracuda Web Filter's award-winning feature set enables the Barracuda Web Filter to block spyware downloads, prevent viruses, and stop access to spyware Web sites.

Unlike the widely available desktop software solutions, the Barracuda Web Filter is easily installed and does not require the additional time, money or resources necessary for downloading and maintaining software on each individual PC. Hourly Energize Updates are made automatically by Barracuda Central so that the Barracuda Web Filter can block the ever-changing virus and spyware variants, as well as maintain the most up-to-date database of the latest productivity-inhibiting Web sites.



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