



Synovis Life Technologies Eliminates Spam with Barracuda Networks

Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 Saves the Medical Device Company Time and Money

The Patient: Synovis Life Technologies

Synovis Life Technologies, Inc., is a diversified medical device company that develops, manufactures and markets specialty medical products for use in thoracic, cardiac, neuro, vascular and ophthalmologic surgery. Consisting of three companies and with four offices throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, the company has seen significant growth in the past few years. Along with this growth came a few growing pains in the technical services department, the largest of which was caused by an outside source attacking the company—spam.

The Ailment: Spam

With more than 400 employees depending on email for vital business communication the amount of spam bombarding the company inboxes was crippling.

“The company was losing around 150 hours of productivity a year due to illegitimate email, not to mention the time our technical service department spent on the phone with employees complaining about the amount of spam,” said Daniel Knight, technical services manager at Synovis. “I received several calls a day, many of which came from top executives.”

Synovis’ technical services department was using a server-based anti-spam software solution that was fairly successful within their headquarters, however, large amounts of spam continued to attack the satellite offices’ networks. When the company decided to implement a WAN (Wide Area Network) to connect its four offices, Knight knew it was essential to find a solution to regain control of email quickly. Knight investigated other anti-spam solutions as well as considered upgrading the existing server-based anti-spam software, but found both options were expensive.

“All the solutions we came across were out of our budget, required the purchase of additional servers or they didn’t have the features we needed,” said Knight. “We are a fairly small company and can’t afford to spend our entire technology budget on one solution.”

The Cure: Barracuda Spam Firewall 300

Knight discovered Barracuda Networks after carefully researching several competitors on the Internet, as well as through trade publication reviews and at IT security tradeshows. The Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 was everything Synovis needed—scalability coupled with an extensive feature set—all at a fraction of the competitors’ price.

“The Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 is so reliable I don’t have to think about spam anymore...the rest of the company doesn’t either.”

-Daniel Knight
 Technical Services Manager
 Synovis Life Technologies



Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 Fast Facts:

- Services up to 1,000 active email users
- Compatible with all email servers
- Features MS Exchange/ LDAP Accelerator
- Ideal solution for SMB customers

Out of the box using only factory settings, the Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 stopped a remarkable 95 percent of spam. After some additional fine-tuning and customization to the blacklists and subject filtering, Knight reports the Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 now blocks more than 99.8 percent of spam.

In addition, the Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 successfully blocks viruses from entering the Synovis network and significantly reduces the amount of traffic to the exchange server by controlling the size of emails getting through.

Along with these benefits Knight appreciates the customizable reports, which the Synovis technical staff use to review the amount of spam and viruses that are blocked as well as to determine the total amount of email that the server is servicing. Such reports can then be used for making purchasing decisions for new equipment as the needs of the network continue to increase.

For Knight the hours spent worrying about spam are over.

"The Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 is so reliable I don't have to think about spam anymore, and better yet the rest of the company doesn't either," he said. "Implementing the Barracuda (Spam Firewall 300) is the best thing I have done this year. It really made the IT department a real hero."



About the Barracuda Spam Firewall

The Barracuda Spam Firewall is available in seven models and supports from 50 to 30,000 active users with no per user licensing fees.

Its architecture leverages 12 defense layers: denial of service and security protection, rate control, IP analysis, sender authentication, recipient verification, virus protection, policy (user-specified rules), Fingerprint Analysis, Intent Analysis, Image Analysis, Bayesian Analysis, and a Spam Rules Scoring engine.

In addition, the entire Barracuda Spam Firewall line features simultaneous inbound and outbound email filtering with the inclusion of sophisticated outbound email filtering techniques, such as rate controls, domain restrictions, user authentication (SASL), keyword and attachment blocking, dual layer virus blocking, and remote user support for outbound email filtering.

The Barracuda Spam Firewall's layered approach minimizes the processing of each email, which yields the performance required to process millions of messages per day.



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