



About ODLO Sports Group AG

The ODLO Sports Group AG is literally very close to its customers: The Swiss Company has been manufacturing sports undergarments noted for their functionality for over 60 years, and is not only the pioneer in Europe in this segment, but also market leader. Other successful collections include those in the areas of Nordic Walking, Outdoor, Running and Kids. With a global workforce of 600, ODLO achieved a turnover of around 75.5 million Euros in 2008. Its market share in the specialized underwear sector varies between 30 and 50 percent from country to country.



Fit for the Future

Sports garment manufacturer ODLO integrates facilities utilizing Barracuda NG Firewall

Positive development of the company necessitates realignment of infrastructure

ODLO products are sold in more than 20 countries around the world, the biggest turnovers being on the Swiss home market as well as on those of Germany, France, Norway, Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands. In these countries the company is represented through its own branch offices, but in addition, ODLO operates numerous showrooms, a chain of shops and its own manufacturing facilities in Portugal and Romania. The positive development of the company and progressive internationalization has, however, presented the ODLO IT operation with growing challenges in recent years: The historically proliferating connectivity infrastructure, within which the Internet Security & Acceleration Server from a well-known manufacturer functioned as a firewall and VPN gateway, made the integration of facilities more difficult and only permitted a very limited range of services. "Some branch offices were connected via VPN, but workshops and showrooms were not connected at all. Due to the complexity and the lack of uniformity of the rule sets, however, only limited access to the main facility could be guaranteed" explains Maurizio Smilari, Manager of IT Service and Infrastructure Technology at ODLO. "Moreover, centralized access to the distributed systems was not possible, so branch offices had to set up their own configurations. Given this situation, the integration of further shops or showrooms was impossible, the capacity limits had been reached."

ODLO paves the way for the future

In August 2008 it was decided to introduce a new infrastructure, thus establishing its future direction and also creating room for further growth on the IT side. "More flexibility and scalability, and above all, centralized management – those were the most important requirements, and the basis on which we examined possible solutions. To these must be added increased security of operation and simple implementation of high availability at our Swiss and German locations" Mr. Smilari continues. "All of these areas were well covered by Barracuda Networks."

“As a company with internationally distributed facilities, the centralized management concept particularly impressed us – Barracuda Networks therefore quickly became our partner of choice.”

-Maurizio Smilari,
Manager of IT Service and Infrastructure
Technology at ODLO

The introduction of the Barracuda NG Firewall at the headquarters in Switzerland and the branch office in Germany commenced in March 2009 in cooperation with Softec Integrations AG, an experienced systems integrator based in the Swiss town of Steinhausen. In parallel to the old infrastructure, the firewall and the VPN functions were trialed with a group of test users and then transferred in their entirety to the Barracuda NG Firewall. In an ongoing process, the IT team successively integrated further branch offices, shops and showrooms as well as factories. "No-one noticed the changeover – and that's always a good sign. Barracuda Networks Support helped us to easily solve smaller challenges that came up during the changeover, and for this reason we're very confident about further progress."



Barracuda NG Firewall Cost Efficiency at a glance

- Extendable Barracuda NG systems offer companies sustainable investment protection.
- Unique management functions allow for quick and efficient roll-outs.
- Central management lets you save significant time and effort.
- Unique license and appliances/server hardware combination lets you achieve a maximum of flexibility and cost optimization.

About Barracuda NG Firewall Network Security

As the most successful attacks mounted today are within the network, a single remote access link with an unsecured external PC or laptop is often sufficient to allow hackers and malicious codes to open a back door into the company. There are also additional hazards that arise as a result of intentional or unintentional misconduct by some employees. This threat cannot be mastered with perimeter protection alone, because attackers are already behind the network limits. Crucial business processes run smoothly thanks to multi-gigabit firewall performance and integrated bandwidth management. By combining a Stateful Inspection Firewall with Intrusion Prevention, Denial of Service Protection, intelligent application-selective bandwidth and multipath management plus VPN technology, guarantee constant availability and protection. This is exactly what Barracuda is delivering with NG. Protection is no longer limited only to the perimeter and branches, but extends to all sensitive network areas. Flexible deployment and support for virtualized environments is crucial for successful realization of clean bit structures in your LAN.

Appliances from Barracuda NG Firewall – tailored solutions for every size of operation

Barracuda NG Firewall Appliances were used here. These were used to connect not only the most important branch offices and the main Swiss facility, where the central Barracuda NG Control Center is also located, but also all facilities whatever the size. Smaller facilities were cost-effectively and efficiently connected by means of F300 models (up to 100 users), F600 models (up to 500 users) as well as F10 Appliances (smallest branch offices) without having to make any sacrifices in security or management. The Barracuda NG Firewall Appliances combine leading firewall and VPN technologies in a single device and offer additional possibilities for content and e-mail security as required. Moreover the Appliances used integrate seamlessly into the Barracuda NG Control Center. From the headquarters in Switzerland, Maurizio Smilari and his team have full administrative access to all connected locations. Firewall and VPN policies at ODLO can for the first time be centrally defined and coherently implemented companywide. Graphical interfaces, for example those for the definition of VPN tunnels per drag&drop, drastically reduce the complexity of the infrastructure – according to Maurizio Smilari “miles away from the very complicated and unclear administration of the old infrastructure.”

“The size of the facilities to be connected varies greatly in our case. It’s therefore highly advantageous for us that Barracuda Networks provided a range of tailored solutions – all, however, being centrally administered.”

-Maurizio Smilari,
Manager of IT Service and Infrastructure
Technology at ODLO

High Availability and Traffic Intelligence integrated

The High Availability and Traffic Intelligence functions also permit a further reduction in complexity. These are provided out-of-the-box by the Barracuda NG Firewall and thus make additional products unnecessary. The sites in Germany and Switzerland that suffer from the heaviest load already have the VPN gateways configured for high availability. An additional Internet connection and the Multi-Link/ Multi-Provider capability of the Barracuda solution opens up the extra advantage of Traffic Intelligence to ODLO: This technology, developed by Barracuda Networks, allows automatic monitoring of transmission quality based on specific parameters, so that faults can be reacted to in the shortest possible time. Important applications, these being primarily the ERP and mail systems in ODLO’s case, are given priority. Productivity is therefore protected even if a line fails.

Secure integration of laptops

ODLO also has the well-known problem of insecure laptops, through which in the worst case threats can penetrate into the company network. To preempt this danger, ODLO chose the Barracuda NG Network Access Client as the VPN client software for mobile devices. The Barracuda NG Network Access Client, already in use at ODLO in Switzerland and planned for Germany in the near future, combines VPN-based remote access protection for optimum connectivity with comprehensive checks for rule compliance. The result is that laptops that want to connect to the network via VPN are subjected to a health check. Specifically checked are how up-to-date the virus scanner and active real-time protection are. An online update service from Barracuda helps companies control their anti-virus and anti-spyware products and check out how current the signature database is. To reduce the number of hops in a VPN connection, ODLO has in addition defined two VPN access points for Germany and Switzerland that can be alternatively used depending on the location of the employee.

About Barracuda NG Control Center

The Barracuda NG Control Center combines the advantages of a device and policy based management architecture – and this is the key to comprehensive management of complex security infrastructures with a resources use that pays dividends. Dedicated servers permit access to the entire functional scope of all netfence appliances. Administrators are kept informed at all times on the status of remote gateways and can consistently implement centrally defined security rules at every location. Furthermore the integrated revision control system increases auditing ease for the infrastructure and cuts overheads.

Solid basis for further development

The path that the ODLO infrastructure will take has already been marked out: In the course of the coming months, more and more branch offices, shops, showrooms and factories will be connected using Barracuda NG Firewall Appliances. Some facilities will for the first time obtain connection to headquarters. For Maurizio Smilari, there is no question of the correctness of the decision in favor of Barracuda Networks: “On the basis of our previous experiences, it must be said that our requirements for flexibility, scalability and operational security have been completely met. The central management and the connection of smaller facilities with tailored solutions also bring positive economic effects – not to mention the increased transparency of the infrastructure that will make further extension considerably easier. We can therefore wholeheartedly recommend that companies with distributed facilities enter into a partnership with Barracuda Networks.”

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.