



LGSIHSD
Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

School District Expels Spam & Virus with Barracuda Spam Firewall 300

Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Stops Spam and Viruses with Barracuda Networks

Spam fails the test

Spam is a nuisance for any organization that relies on email as an integral form of business communication – including educational organizations. IT personnel at school districts nationwide are being called upon to find ways to eliminate spam from administrators' inboxes. Unlike large corporations and businesses, local school districts, such as the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District in Los Gatos, Calif., often face budget constraints that limit IT spending and personnel, making the fight against spam even more challenging.

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District provides email service to more than 400 administrators, teachers and staff using Microsoft Exchange Server. The district IT department – a staff of two employees – found that the server was collapsing at least once every month, making it necessary for this small staff to work overtime to determine what was causing the problem.

"We were receiving around 60,000 emails each day and about 50,000 to 55,000 of the emails were addressed to nonexistent users," said Dan Cochran, director of information technology for Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District.

Assignment: Find the best solution

Cochran and his colleague, Charles Gallegos, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District IT manager, attempted several different methods to alleviate the server overload and get rid of the spam. Due to budget constraints, the high prices of many commercial spam and virus software solutions as well as third party email filtering services made these solutions outside the district's price range. Both Cochran and Gallegos tried open source shareware solutions as well as manual blacklist updates to try to fix the problem, but these solutions only added to their own workload.

Barracuda Networks makes the grade

Through their research on the Internet and by monitoring various chat rooms and forums, Cochran discovered Barracuda Networks and was pleased to discover that he could try the Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 at no charge using a trial server set up offsite. Within 24 hours after having the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District's email filtered through the remote trial site, Cochran said he saw an immediate change and was beginning to get a clearer picture of what was occurring on the district email server.

"We discovered that 99 percent of the spam was caused by Trojan viruses that were filtering through always-on computers from unsuspecting users," Cochran said.

"We went from close to 60,000 spam emails to about 500 legitimate emails in one day...The Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 has been worth every nickel."

-Charles Gallegos
IT Manager
Los Gatos-Saratoga Union
High School District



Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 Fast Facts:

- Services up to 1,000 active email users
- Compatible with all email servers
- Administration managed from easy-to-use Web GUI
- Ideal solution for educational organizations

The Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 can thwart devious spam operations through denial-of-service (DOS) and directory harvest attack (DHA) protection.

Gallegos added that the success of the remote Barracuda Networks trial solution made the decision to purchase a Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 an easy one.

"We went from close to 60,000 spam emails to about 500 legitimate emails in one day of using the trial. It was unbelievable," Gallegos said. "The Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 was the best value solution because it also offers virus protection. It has been worth every nickel."



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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