

GDPdU Regulations and Barracuda Message Archiver Compliance

Introduction

On July 16, 2001, the German Federal Ministry of Finance issued a set of directives known as the Grundsätze zum Datenzugriff und zur Prüfbarkeit digitaler Unterlagen (GDPdU). The regulations apply to all businesses that collect and pay Value Added Taxes (VATs) in Germany and establish the legal standards by which digital storage, including email, of accounting records, invoices and correspondences must abide. According to GDPdU, taxpayers are required to securely store emails that contain information relevant to taxation and make them available to auditors. Emails and documents transmitted by email must be stored in a manner that provides:

- Immediate read access
- Data storage in a tamperproof environment
- Auditor access for third party evaluations and verifications
- Retention of documents for specified time periods
- Ability to export data in commonly readable formats

The Barracuda Message Archiver enables organizations to comply with these requirements. This whitepaper provides a summary of GDPdU requirements and how the Barracuda Message Archiver enables compliance.

GDPdU Overview and Barracuda Message Archiver Compliance

The following table provides a synopsis of key GDPdU regulations and how the Barracuda Message Archiver allows users to meet compliance requirements.

Table 1: GDPdU Regulations and Barracuda Message Archiver Compliance

GDPdU Requirement	Barracuda Message Archiver Compliance
Accounting and financial records must be on media that ensures immediate auditing availability.	The Barracuda Message Archiver stores all emails and attachments that have been sent from and received by the email system. The web-based user interface supports immediate read-only search and inspection by auditors.
All content under GDPdU regulations must retain its original state when stored / content must be stored in a manner that does not allow modification.	The Barracuda Message Archiver stores all data in a read-only and tamperproof environment to ensure that content is not modified during storage or transmission from the email server. It connects to the email server over a secure connection (SMTP over TLS) to ensure that data is not modified or tampered with during transmission. Additionally, multiple reports ensure that emails are appropriately archived.
Documents should have the ability to be stored for up to ten years, depending on document classification.	The Barracuda Message Archiver allows administrators to create retention policies to comply with GDPdU regulations. Time-based and content-based retention policies ensure that different classes of emails are retained for different periods of time.
Digital media submissions must include tools necessary to access and read the content.	The Barracuda Message Archiver provides various interfaces to access and read emails and attachments. Access is available via a web-based interface, through Microsoft Outlook and mobile devices.
Recipients must acknowledge the receipt of an invoice, its conversion, and any additional processing.	The Barracuda Message Archiver captures all emails and attachments. Any email acknowledgements and communication will be captured by the appliance.

Conclusion

The GDPdU regulations establish legal standards for storing email content as they relate to VATS. Relying on email servers to meet the compliance obligations of GDPdU is not sufficient. Emails can be accidentally or deliberately removed from the email server. Additionally, storing emails on the email server for an extended period of time, as required by GDPdU, negatively impacts the email server's performance. The Barracuda Message Archiver simplifies the challenges of complying with GDPdU requirements to retain, retrieve and audit relevant email data.

For questions about the Barracuda Message Archiver, please visit <http://www.barracuda.com/archiver> or call Barracuda Networks for a free 30-day evaluation at 1-888-ANTI-SPAM or +1 408-342-5400. For more information on our other security and productivity solutions, please visit <http://www.barracuda.com/products>.

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 150,000 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