

# Finding the Most Appropriate Barracuda Web Filter Model

With the award-winning Barracuda Web Filter managing an organization’s Internet usage and protecting against malware, it is imperative to select a model size that matches the needs of the deployment site. Without industry standard metrics, it can be confusing to select the correct model from the various methods of measurement. The Barracuda Web Filter utilizes three simple specifications: throughput, concurrent users and active TCP connections to ensure optimal performance.

During the model sizing stage, consider the following specifications when evaluating how the Barracuda Web Filter fits into the desired network environment. These specifications are generally relevant across most industries ranging from schools and enterprises to hospitals and banks where Internet usage is part of each day. To properly size a Barracuda Web Filter deployment, it requires all three specifications from a network to fall between the ranges listed in the model comparison grid.

## Throughput (Mb/sec)

A starting point is to estimate the desired throughput. When deployed inline at the network perimeter, the Barracuda Web Filter is in the network data path and must match the Internet access bandwidth to prevent any bottlenecks. Throughput gauges the total volume of traffic that the Barracuda Web Filter can handle.

## Concurrent Users

The next step to evaluating model sizes is to determine the maximum number of users that will simultaneously access the Internet through the Barracuda Web Filter. Typically the number of concurrent users is less than the number of work stations and should take future growth into account for simple scalability.

## Peak Number of Active TCP Connections

While concurrent users provides a coarse-grain estimate for sizing Barracuda Web Filters, the most relevant metric is the peak number of Active TCP connections that are proxied through the Barracuda Web Filter.

Heavy usage environments, such as school districts and larger enterprises, should expect peaks of up to 5 TCP connections per concurrent user. Factors contributing to heavy usage include permissive Web filtering policies that enable advertisements or other streaming media applications, deployment of tabbed Web browsers and Web pages that aggregate content from multiple sites. Environments with more restrictive Web filtering policies and usage generally consume fewer TCP connections and can often size their Barracuda Web Filters with as few as 1.5-4 TCP connections per concurrent user.

## Evaluating Capacity of Barracuda Web Filter Models

Model Comparison	Model 210	Model 310	Model 410	Model 610	Model 810	Model 910
<b>CAPACITY*</b>						
Throughput (Mb/sec)	5	10	20	50	200	300
Web Cache Size		10 GB	50 GB	100 GB	200 GB	300 GB
Concurrent Users	25-100	50-200	150-500	450-1,500	1,000-3,000	2,500-4,500
Active TCP Connections	50-400	400-800	800-2,000	2,000-6,000	6,000-10,000	10,000-15,000

RELEASE 3  
DECEMBER 2009

### Throughput

The amount of data transferred or processed from one place to another in a specific amount of time.

### TCP Connections

Transmission Control Protocol connections where two hosts establish a connection and exchange streams of data. TCP guarantees delivery of data and in the same order as sent.

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## Sizing Examples and Suggested Models

When trying to identify the most appropriate Barracuda Web Filter model, all three specifications should be evaluated. The three sizing specifications should fall between the ranges listed in the models comparison grid, while taking into account current usage and future growth.

Your Network Requirements	Suggested Model	Reason
10 Mbps Throughput 100 Concurrent Users 500 Active TCP Connections	<b>Barracuda Web Filter 310</b>	Requirement is within suggested ranges for the Barracuda Web Filter 310
30 Mbps Throughput 400 Concurrent Users 3,000 Active TCP Connections	<b>Barracuda Web Filter 610</b>	Expected TCP Connections are higher than suggested ranges for the Barracuda Web Filter 410
50 Mbps Throughput 1,500 Concurrent User 6,500 Active TCP Connections	<b>Barracuda Web Filter 810</b>	Expected TCP Connections are higher than suggested ranges for the Barracuda Web Filter 610

For questions about the Barracuda Web Filter, please visit <http://www.barracuda.com/webfilter> 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 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](http://www.barracudanetworks.com).



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