Fast-growing University Protected from Persistent, Malicious Attacks

Ensuring Network and Data Safety with Barracuda Networks

Summary

Universiti Malaysia Perlis
Location: Perlis, Malaysia
Enrollment: approx. 8,900

Challenges:

• Protect against sophisticated attacks
• Ensure uninterrupted online access
• Support a multi-application environment
• Prevent loss of personal/sensitive data
• Scale easily
• Easy to install and manage

Solutions:

• Barracuda Web Application Firewall
• Energize Updates

Results:

• Protection from constant SQL injection and other malware attacks
• Network is always up and running
• Confidential data is safe
• Easy to manage and monitor web applications across the network

The Universiti of Malaysia Perlis is one of the country's fastest growing higher education institutions, increasing enrollment by about 7,500 percent in the past decade. This leading engineering university has multiple application servers, web services, and informational websites used by students and staff on more than 30 different campuses, as well as the general public.

According to Nasrudin Abd Shukor, Director of UniMAP's Information and Communication Technology Center (ICT), the university required a solution to "ensure network performance, scalability, uninterrupted, ubiquitous online access, and foremost, to protect the multi-application environment from any loss of confidential data." The university is subject to SQL injection attacks five to 10 times per hour.

The primary challenges he needed to address were:

  • Blocking constant attacks, even the newest, most sophisticated threats
  • Ensuring security of inbound, outbound, and peer-to-peer communications
  • Preventing data loss
  • Scaling to meet the needs of a growing university
  • Finding a complete, affordable solution

UniMAP installed the Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall in 2008, and Abd Shukor was impressed with how easy it was to install and manage, and how well it performed. In addition, he had found Barracuda Networks to be easy to work with, and highly committed to its customers. It was only natural, therefore, that he turned first to Barracuda in his search for a web application security solution.

> *Barracuda Networks took the time to understand our needs, recommend technology that was perfectly suited to our requirements, and provide expert, helpful, and friendly support when required.*
>
> **Nasrudin Abd Shukor**
> *Director of UniMAP ICT Centre*

About Barracuda Web Application Firewall

The Barracuda Web Application Firewall blocks an ever-expanding list of sophisticated web-based intrusions and attacks that target the applications hosted on web servers and the sensitive or confidential data to which they have access. Placed between the Internet and web servers, the Barracuda Web Application Firewall scans all inbound web traffic to block attacks and scans outbound traffic, providing highly effective data loss prevention.

Barracuda Web Application Firewall Fast Facts

• State-of-the-art security utilizing full reverse-proxy architecture
• Malware protection for collaborative web applications
• Built-in Data Loss Prevention (DLP)
• No per-user or per-server fees
• Also available as a virtual appliance

Enter the Barracuda Web Application Firewall 660

The ICT Center evaluation team determined the Barracuda Web Application Firewall would meet the demanding, long-term infrastructure requirements of the University. According to Abd Shukor, "Barracuda Networks took the time to understand our needs, recommend technology that was perfectly suited to our requirements, and provide expert, helpful, and friendly support when required."

"We cannot afford to lose the constant battle against today's sophisticated application layer attacks on our data centers. The Barracuda Web Application Firewall was the obvious choice: Its reverse-proxy architecture offers a high level of security. More important, it is a single point of protection for all our inbound and outbound Internet traffic as well as peer-to-peer. It includes all the best practices for application security right out of the box," said Abd Shukor.

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All web traffic passing through the firewalls uses HTTP and HTTPS protocols, providing secure, encrypted communication between university students and lecturers on one end, and web applications on the other. A dashboard provides instant visibility into attack statistics, system performance, traffic, resource usage, and other information helpful for troubleshooting and management.

"The Barracuda Web Application Firewall's intuitive, real-time interface enables our team to manage and monitor web applications across our network. It is easy to use, and the installation process is smooth and quick, with the Barracuda Web Application Firewall simply plugging in between data centers," said Abd Shukor.

The experts at Barracuda Central work 24x7 to monitor and block the latest Internet threats. Data from more than 150,000 collection points is analyzed to create and deliver protection against previously unknown threats within minutes of their discovery via Energize Updates. As new types of threats emerge, the Barracuda Web Application Firewall will acquire new capabilities to block them.

Conclusion

IT administrators at Univeriti of Malaysia found that Barracuda Networks was the right security and application delivery partner to protect it from sophisticated attacks, optimize its network, and keep IT resource needs low with its ease of installation and use. Barracuda Networks provided a complete, affordable, scalable solution that filled the application delivery and network security needs of this fast-growing university.

"Barracuda Networks took the time to understand our needs, recommend technology that was perfectly suited to our requirements, and provide expert, helpful, and friendly support when required," said Abd Shukor.

To learn more about Barracuda Networks web application delivery solutions or to request a free 30-day evaluation unit, please call us today at 1-888-268-4772, 1-408-342-5400 (outside North America), or visit www.barracuda.com/products.

About Barracuda Networks, Inc.

About Barracuda Networks, Inc. Protecting users, applications, and data for more than 150,000 organizations worldwide, Barracuda Networks has developed a global reputation as the go-to leader for powerful, easy-to-use, affordable IT solutions. The company's proven customer-centric business model focuses on delivering high-value, subscription-based IT solutions for security and storage. For additional information, please visit http://www.barracuda.com or follow us on Twitter@barracuda.