

Higher education provider graduates to safe and secure Microsoft 365 migration with email protection and compliant backup.

Combination of email protection, backup and archiving minimises disruption and frees up IT team resource.



A lesson in multitasking

When Harshad Taylor was faced with migrating Grimsby Institute over to Office 365, he knew the right approach was crucial in order to safely, efficiently and economically manage vast amounts of sensitive data. In his role as Group Executive Director of ICT for the TEC Partnership he needed to meet the dual objective of protecting a network of staff, remote and local students whilst avoiding any downtime and ensuring the Institute remained open for business. Added to the mix was the recent introduction of GDPR, and the need to find a solution that could house 25 years worth of backup data in certain scenarios.

Harshad met with several providers who ultimately fell short when it came to technical ability, flexibility, cost, and an understanding of the education market and its needs. He chose Barracuda Essentials, an all in one security platform for email, backup and archiving, which now protects the entire staff and student base from ransomware and phishing attacks, ensures compliance with GDPR and other retention requirements, meets the backup requirements of staff and students and ensures fast, reliable recovery in the case of malicious attacks or accidental deletion.

He explained: "None of the products we saw ticked our boxes until we met Barracuda. Not only was Barracuda Essentials the perfect fit for what we were looking for, their approach was collaborative, not transactional. They took the time to get to know us, run demos, and talk us through the product and how it could benefit our specific situation."

Profile

- Part of the TEC Partnership, one of England's largest providers of further and higher education
- Based in Grimsby, Lincolnshire, UK
- 1,200 staff and 16,000 students, including part-time learners

Challenges

- Migrate to Microsoft Office 365 safely, efficiently and economically
- Reflect GDPR changes and apply retention policies to backups and some that require the housing of 25 years' worth of data
- Provide complete protection for highly sensitive information during transition to merge with another local education provider

Solution

- Barracuda Essentials Complete
- Cloud-to-Cloud Backup
- Cloud Archiving
- Barracuda Message Archiver
- Barracuda CloudGen Firewall

Results

- Ensuring compliance with GDPR and other compliance requirements
- Protecting 17,200 staff and students from ransomware and phishing attacks
- Essentials monitoring email threat protection, archiving, and backup and recovery, freeing up tech team's time

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Group Executive Director of ICT
The TEC Partnership

A secure and scalable future

Since deploying Barracuda Essentials, the Institute has realised many benefits and has significantly increased its security posture moving forward. Harshad reports that his team are able to better utilise their time, safe in the knowledge that Essentials is protecting against email-borne cyber threats such as phishing and ransomware attacks, as well as archiving, backup and recovery of sensitive data.

“Essentials has given us much better visibility for investigating and auditing as well as significantly reducing junk email and threat alerts,” he continued. Barracuda’s Advanced Threat Protection offers the Institute robust email security by sandboxing suspicious email attachments and scanning them for malware, and redirecting suspicious URLs so malware is never inadvertently downloaded.

“Not only is everything backed up and recoverable at a moment’s notice, Barracuda’s Cloud-to-Cloud Backup has meant that our data is protected even in the case of it being attacked or deleted. Migrating to the Cloud always has its concerns when it comes to protecting data, but thanks to Barracuda that is no longer a worry for us.”

The gift that keeps on giving

Looking forward, The Grimsby Institute of Education has an ambitious year ahead as it begins plans to merge with another regional college. Such a task would historically create large amounts of work for Harshad and his team, but

thanks to Essentials he claims this is no longer the case. “Since we rolled it out, Essentials has been nothing but reliable. We have experienced zero downtime, ongoing support from the Barracuda team, and speedy delivery when needed. Barracuda Essentials does exactly what we wanted.”

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case in Sentinel and it will email everyone who received the Harshad explains: “Before, a merger of this size would have been a daunting prospect and cost us thousands in additional equipment. Now, new users can be quickly and easily added to our environment at the click of a button.”

For more information about other Barracuda successes, please visit: blog.barracuda.com

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Barracuda Backup and Barracuda Sentinel**

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