

Satisfied Barracuda Spam Firewall Customer Returns for Spyware Protection

Leading technical college saves time and money with the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410

About North Central Kansas Technical College

North Central Kansas Technical College's first campus was established in Beloit, Kansas in 1964 and its second campus was founded in Hays in 1975. NCKTC is widely recognized as a leader in technical education throughout the state and beyond, offering more than 14 one-year certificate programs and nine associate of applied science degree programs to more than 450 students each year.

After successfully turning the tide against spam with the Barracuda Spam Firewall 300, the IT department at NCKTC turned its attention to fighting a new threat – spyware.

Spyware overwhelms campus desktops

Before implementing the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410, NCKTC had been using a popular desktop solution, but this only helped to remove spyware once it had penetrated the network and infected users' PCs.

"This was a work-intensive solution since it helped only in after-the-infection situations," said Ian Draemel, NCKTC network administrator and the college's only IT staffer, adding that maintaining updates against the latest spyware threats on over 350 desktops between the two campuses, was overwhelming. "This was becoming a nightmare."

In addition to desktop protection Draemel was using a primary firewall to block some of the most egregious spyware Web sites and pop-up advertisements. Yet even with these two protection methods in place, Draemel wanted a solution that would provide comprehensive protection with easy management capabilities in one device.

"I felt there had to be a better solution," he said.

'Top notch' features help stop spyware in its tracks

Based on his positive experience with the Barracuda Spam Firewall 300 and after researching several solutions, Draemel decided to try the Barracuda Spyware Firewall.

"The ease-of-use of the Barracuda Spam Firewall, as well as the automated maintenance offered through the Barracuda Energize hourly update service were key factors in helping us decide to give the Barracuda Spyware Firewall a try," said Draemel.

The Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410 is easily deployed and has an intuitive user interface for maintenance and monitoring, making it a virtually administration-free solution.

In addition, system and firmware updates are delivered automatically by Barracuda Central, an advanced technology center where engineers work continuously to provide the most effective methods to combat the ever-changing spyware and virus variants. Draemel noted that he considers all of these factors combined to be "top notch."

Unlike competing solutions, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall can identify individual infected PCs on the network by IP address and machine hostname, making it easy for Draemel to know which PCs need to be scanned and cleaned. Using the Barracuda Spyware Removal Tool, an ActiveX download included with the solution, Draemel can scan for threats on the infected machine, and then remove any malware.

"... I am spending considerably much less time cleaning PCs than before, allowing me to spend more time on other projects."

– Ian Draemel,
NCKTC network
administrator



Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410 Fast Facts:

- Completely eliminates spyware and other forms of malware
- Millions of URLs in 57 categories for comprehensive content filtering
- Administration managed from easy-to-use Web GUI
- Automatic hourly system updates from Barracuda Central
- Supports up to 20 Mb/sec



About the Barracuda Spyware Firewall

Available in five models, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall combines preventative, reactive and proactive measures to form a complete anti-spyware and content filtering solution for businesses of all sizes.

Unlike the widely available desktop software solutions, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall is easily installed and does not require the additional time, money or resources necessary for downloading and maintaining software on each individual PC.

The comprehensive feature set enables the Barracuda Spyware Firewall to block spyware downloads, prevent viruses, stop access to spyware Web sites and filter Web content. In addition, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall can identify spyware-infected desktops, alert the administrator and enable users to remove spyware from infected Windows computers with the Barracuda Spyware Removal Tool.

Hourly Energize Updates are made automatically by Barracuda Central so that the Barracuda Spyware Firewall can block the ever-changing virus and spyware variants.

Draemel tested the spyware removal feature head-to-head with other popular desktop removal solutions, and found that the Barracuda Spyware Removal Tool came out equal to or better than the others, finishing on top for finding and removing more spyware infections more than 85 percent of the time.

Draemel also had to ensure that both the Beloit and Hays NCKTC campus networks were fully protected by the Barracuda Spyware Firewall. He found that the Barracuda Spyware Firewall offers complete scalability for the most complex network environments.

"Our two campuses are linked together over a private T1 line that shares both data and VoIP telephone (voice traffic)," said Draemel. "With help from Barracuda Networks technical support staff, we were able to get the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410 to work across the multiple networks on all computers, even at our second campus in Hays 110 miles away."

Content filtering helps restore productive Web surfing

The Barracuda Spyware Firewall also has powerful content filtering capabilities. With 57 categories of potentially high risk and productivity-inhibiting Web sites color-coded and categorized in the Web interface as 'typically blocked,' 'not typically blocked,' and 'neutral,' administrators can easily determine which categories they wish to block by default and which groups they will allow users to access.

The Barracuda Spyware Firewall's robust content filtering capabilities include a unique Content Filter Lookup tool which allows users to search the Barracuda Spyware Firewall database for a specific URL to determine if a particular Web site is included in the database. If the URL is not found, the administrator can easily submit it to Barracuda Central for classification and inclusion in the database.

Having the Barracuda Spyware Firewall in place has increased end users' awareness of potential threats on the Internet that they would not otherwise have known existed.

"In conjunction with added training from our IT staff, the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410 has reduced the amount of casual surfing," he said. "I hire two students to assist me with the college's data systems, and during the first several months after deploying the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410, the IT staff went around to any user that showed up on the infected client lists and showed them how to clean their computers.

"This has significantly reduced the amount of surfing, since most end users now realize how much unwanted spyware actually gets on their computers," he added.

For Draemel, it is hard to determine how much financially the college has been saved thanks to the Barracuda Spyware Firewall 410. However, the return to productivity is immeasurable.

"I do know I am spending considerably much less time cleaning PCs than before, allowing me to spend more time on other projects" Draemel said.

About Barracuda Networks, Inc.

Barracuda Networks is the leading provider of enterprise-class spam firewall solutions for comprehensive email protection. Its flagship products, the Barracuda Spam Firewall and Barracuda Spam Firewall – Outbound, provide spam and virus protection for over 30,000 customers around the world, including Adaptec, Caltrans, CBS, Georgia Institute of Technology, IBM, Knight Ridder, NASA, Pizza Hut, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and the U.S. Treasury Department. In addition, Barracuda Networks offers the Barracuda Spyware Firewall for complete network protection against spyware, malware and viruses and the Barracuda IM Firewall, the only all in one gateway solution for IM traffic management and security. Barracuda Networks is a privately held company with headquarters in Mountain View, California. Barracuda Networks has offices in eight international locations and distributors in over 43 countries.



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