



Washington State University Cougars Chomp Spam with Barracuda Spam Firewall

Committed to Quality Education

Founded in 1890, Washington State University is one of the top public research universities in the U.S. The University's motto, "World Class. Face to Face," illustrates WSU's commitment to providing quality education for its students in a caring community.

As with many universities and educational institutions, email serves as a fundamental communication channel for students, faculty and staff. In late 2003, the amount of spam flooding the University's network began to threaten the viability and effectiveness of email as a major means of communication for the more than 25,000 users across WSU's four campuses, 10 colleges and graduate school.

Spam Threatens Email Viability

Following a report by the WSU Advisory Committee on Computing and Telecommunications subcommittee for Computer and Network Security (UACCT-CNS) in February 2004, which forecast that as much as 50 percent of incoming email to the University was spam, the IT department made it its mission to stop the deluge.

"Spam costs the sender very little to send and the university has a variety of easily accessible directories, so we have been a prime target for spam," said Julio Valdes, WSU enterprise administrator.

Valdes knew it was necessary to find a spam and virus solution to help regain control of WSU's email network. "We needed a solid, scalable solution in order to effectively defend the more than 150,000 email addresses served by the network's mail aliasing system," said Valdes.

Clustering Functionality Ensures Scalability

After evaluating and researching several products Valdes and his team decided the Barracuda Spam Firewall 600 was the solution that best fit their needs.

"Barracuda Networks had the right combination of device features, personal support and price, all of which were driving factors behind our choice," said Valdes.

"We looked at many solutions, but ultimately the Barracuda Spam Firewall 600 delivered the most capable spam and virus solution at a price that was not going to exhaust our budget."

Because the number of email users can change frequently throughout the year based on student admissions and personnel changes, Barracuda Networks' no per-user pricing model was especially intriguing to Valdes and his team. Priced at \$8,999, the Barracuda Spam Firewall 600 is not only affordable, but allows scalability for organizations as they add users without incurring additional costs.

With over 150,000 email addresses served by the WSU network, Valdes consulted with Barracuda Networks and chose to cluster four Barracuda Spam Firewall 600 models. Clustering the Barracuda Spam Firewall, as many organizations have found, is an easy and efficient way to provide for redundancy, scalability and greater capacity.

Barracuda Networks also offers a 30-day free evaluation period to allow customers the opportunity to try the Barracuda Spam Firewall on their own network and see firsthand how quickly results are achieved. Valdes and his team were pleased to have this time to test the Barracuda Spam Firewall's functionality, capacity and to write up their end user documentation.

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—Julio Valdes,
WSU enterprise
administrator



Barracuda Spam Firewall 600 Fast Facts:

- Services 25,000 users/25 million messages per day
- Compatible with all email servers
- Features MS Exchange/LDAP Accelerator
- Clustering capabilities for redundancy and greater capacity
- Customizable branding
- Ideal solution for universities and large enterprises

During the evaluation period, Valdes found that the Barracuda Spam Firewall 600's layered approach is central to its effectiveness and accuracy for spam and virus filtering. The Barracuda Spam Firewall 600 employs 10 defense layers, including RBLs, rate control, Bayesian analysis and spam scoring to determine if a message is legitimate or spam.

With the Barracuda Spam Firewall solution WSU experienced an immediate drastic decrease in the amount of spam entering the network. "With the Barracuda Spam Firewall 600 we cut mail traffic down to our mail servers by a whopping 80 percent, it's just amazing," said Valdes. "We are running Exchange and Sendmail behind the Barracuda Spam Firewall and it works perfectly."

Valdes continues to be impressed with Barracuda Networks' 24x7 customer support and overall commitment to customer satisfaction.

"Customer support is fantastic and the product is getting better with each release," said Valdes. "As far as bang for the buck goes, I don't think anyone else can touch (Barracuda Networks)."

About the Barracuda Spam Firewall

The Barracuda Spam Firewall is available in five models and supports from 1,000 to 30,000 active users with no per user licensing fees. The Barracuda Spam Firewall can be installed in front of the email server in typically less than five minutes and is automatically updated hourly to block new forms of spam and viruses. Its architecture leverages open source spam and virus solutions in conjunction with ten defense layers: denial of service and security protection, IP block list, rate control, virus check with archive decompression, proprietary virus check, user specified rules, spam fingerprint check, intention analysis, spam rule-based scoring, and Bayesian analysis. This architecture minimizes the processing of each email, which yields the performance required to process millions of messages per day. Unlike software solutions, the Barracuda Spam Firewall reduces the load placed on the email server by off-loading both spam and virus filtering. Barracuda Networks also offers the Energize Update subscription service to automatically update the Barracuda Spam Firewall with the latest spam rules and virus definitions.

About Barracuda Networks, Inc.

Barracuda Networks, Inc. is the worldwide leader in anti-spam appliance solutions. Winner of the 2004 Network Computing Editor's Choice Award and Well-Connected Award, the Barracuda Spam Firewall provides spam and virus protection for over 12,000 organizations worldwide including Caltrans, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and Washington State University. Barracuda Networks, a privately held corporation, is headquartered in Cupertino, California with offices and distributors in over 35 countries. For more information, please visit www.barracudanetworks.com.



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