Largest educational organisation in the Netherlands strengthens email security with comprehensive solution that meets business challenges and compliance requirements.

Outgrowing existing cybersecurity

NCOI is the largest educational organisation in the Netherlands, with a leading position in the private education market. Founded more than 25 years ago to develop knowledge, competencies, and skills of the Dutch labor market by fostering life-long learning, the organisation now employs more than 2,000 to serve 225,000 students per year under more than 14 distinct brands.

"The first Barracuda spam filter NCOI had implemented more than 10 years earlier, when there were just 200 employees, kept the inboxes clean — until it didn't anymore because of new techniques," said Gert Jan van der Burg, the company's network engineer. "Emails that were supposed to be stopped were getting through. Emails that were supposed to get through were getting stopped. Hours and hours were being wasted every day going through quarantined emails and it was clear that a spam filter alone wasn't enough to stay secure anymore."

In addition to spam filtering, data backup and file restoration were also top concerns, to deal with ransomware and other cybersecurity threats.

Overcoming critical challenges and solution shortcomings

In light of the growing cybersecurity issues, combined with the company's transition from Microsoft Exchange to Office 365, NCOI decided to implement a stronger email security solution that included secure backup of Office 365 data.

Profile

- Founded in 1996
- Largest educational organisation in the Netherlands
- More than 2,000 employees
- More than 225,000 students per year

Challenges

- Replace an outdated spam filter
- Save time on email security management
- Provide adequate defenses against evolving threats
- Migrate from Exchange Online to Office 365
- Protect and back up critical data

Solution

- Barracuda Total Email Protection

Results

- Stronger email security, powered by AI
- Secure backup of Office 365 data
- One-click incident remediation
- Flexible archiving retention policies
- Employees educated about security awareness
- ISO compliance

"We evaluated many solutions for backing up and protecting Office 365 files. Most couldn't help our meet the retention requirements for educational data," Gert Jan van der Burg explained. "Only Barracuda was able to overcome our security challenges, as well as provide unlimited retention and added protection well into the future. Barracuda's flexible solution, which includes offerings that are purpose-built for educational organisations, made it an easy decision."

After evaluating solutions, NCOI chose Barracuda Total Email Protection, a complete email security portfolio in a single bundle that is easy to buy, implement, and use.

> ## "Only Barracuda was able to overcome our security challenges, as well as provide unlimited retention and added protection well into the future."

Gert Jan van der Burg
Senior System & Network Administrator
NCOI Opleidingen

Reaping the rewards of comprehensive protection

With Barracuda Total Email Protection, defending against email-borne threats is easier, more effective, and more affordable for NCOI.

Barracuda Essentials keeps NCOI's email safe with filtering, spam blocking, encryption, archiving, and backup, ensuring compliance with ISO 9001 and ISO27001 with regard to records retention, which can be required for up to 20 years for some files.

"To detect complex cyberattacks, Barracuda Sentinel uses cutting-edge AI to provide an amazing extra level of inbox protection that traditional gateways can't," Gert Jan van der Burg said. "In the event an unwanted email sneaks through, Barracuda Forensics and Incident Response provides one-click remediation to remove it."

Barracuda PhishLine helps NCOI raise awareness and guard against spear phishing and other social-engineering attacks with continuous simulation and training that empowers employees to recognise threats, including on devices not protected by the corporate gateway.

"With Barracuda's all-in-one solution, NCOI gets gateway security, data protection, user-awareness training, and automated incident response, the industry's best layered defense against email attacks, fraud, account takeover, and brand hijacking," Gert Jan van der Burg said.

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Learn more about Barracuda Total Email Protection

barracuda.com/products/totalemailprotection

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Your journey, secured.