

# MINIMISE RISK AND MAXIMISE PRODUCTIVITY

"You can have the best security in the world but if you have someone who is going to make a mistake you're going to be caught out"

*David Price, Head of IT, Curtins*

## ABOUT CURTINS

Curtins are an award-winning consultancy, well known for their work as civil and structural engineers. David Price, Head of IT at Curtins, approached Xeretec to discuss some concerns he had over email security. Together Xeretec and Barracuda were able to offer Curtins innovative security products which have enabled them to minimise risk while maximising IT productivity.

When the pandemic hit, Curtin's required their dispersed workforce to have access to secure, cloud-based systems to obtain documents and access networks. To look after staff access, data, systems, IP, and customers during a shift to more remote working was a large job for the IT team.

"When the crisis hit, we quickly escalated from having to protect a 14-office business to a 440-office business overnight"

*David Price, Head of IT, Curtins*

After looking at their current IT set-up, Price spotted several areas that needed attention, not least a propensity to "set-and-forget" solutions and policies, which can create gaps in protection over time.

## THE CHALLENGES

- > Native Office 365 security allowed too many malicious threats into staff inboxes
- > Low levels of staff security awareness
- > Reactive IT stance meant too much "firefighting" and little structure

## MARKET INFORMATION

- > 91% of cyber-attacks start with an email
- > Up to 98% of organisations using O365 are harbouring malicious emails inside their mailboxes
- > In general, 58.4% of sensitive data is stored in office documents
- > 4 out of 5 orgs believe the misconception that Microsoft back up their data in their Cloud based O365 systems

## SOLUTION



Barracuda Total Email Protection  
Cloud to Cloud Backup

**1,500**

Malicious emails caught during free threat scan

**24hrs**

To implement first layer of protection

**100%**

Of staff now fully cyber security trained

“When we started to drill into certain areas like email, it became clear with a fresh set of eyes that we were being targeted quite a bit.” he said. In fact, the existing Office 365 native security being used by Curtins at the time was allowing a high volume of malicious emails through to staff inboxes.

A free email threat scan done by Xeretec, discovered some 1,500 potential attacks lying ready to be activated amongst some 100,000 emails, with 20% of those aimed at the C-Suite Executives. These ranged from generic Office 365 log-in phishing attacks to more sophisticated spear-phishing of senior executives. Hijacked accounts were used to launch CEO impersonation attacks on other members of staff. Price also noted that staff security awareness needed to be addressed across the company.



Initially, there was focus on email security, however it became clear that Barracuda solutions could complement other areas of the business which weren't first thought of by Curtins. For example, email archiving; there was no dedicated solution to manage this, and it was exposing the business to unnecessary financial and reputational risk as important emails to clients couldn't be retrieved.

## HOW XERETEC HAVE HELPED

Xeretec offered the information and guidance so that Curtins could put in place a solution, in just 24 hours that gave them a significantly better security posture without having to make any disruptive changes.

### Positive Outcomes for Curtins:

- Comprehensive inbox defence and gateway protection from phishing and impersonation attacks
- Enhanced security awareness from staff via simulation exercises and training
- Better risk mitigation via highly effective backup and archiving of whole O365 environment
- Cost reduction as saving money on current licence
- Automated and continuous monitoring of your infrastructure to predict and prevent attacks via Sentinel
- Continuous remediation and monitoring via Forensic and Incidence Response added into users Outlook

Perhaps most importantly, the solution does all the heavy lifting, which in turn allows Price and his team to focus on higher value tasks. “When I joined a lot of the IT department were running around fighting mini fires all over the place,” he explains. “We’ve put a lot more structure into what we do now and more focus on what individuals have responsibility for, which has given us the time to focus on what’s further down the line instead of the day-to-day. It has made us much more responsive at what we do”.

Barracuda’s Total Email Protection solution that Xeretec have deployed has also enabled Curtins to attain Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation and, “will help us on the journey” to ISO 27001, says Price. The firm is already two-thirds of the way there, and with Xeretec and Barracuda support, there’s no looking back.



## **XERETEC** **ABOUT US**

We have a 30-year history of delivering contract and lifecycle services for customers that range from Global Household brands across the World to family run businesses in the local community. Our focus is on delivering a complete technology experience designed to provide tangible business benefits, no matter how big or small you are.

Our selection process handpicks a range of solutions and service options in addition to offering off the shelf technology products. We provide bespoke solutions addressing digital workspace and communications, through to process automation.

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