

GAINING COMPLETE O365 SECURITY

“The main driver for migrating to the cloud was to retire all this hardware and it’s associated costs”

*George Frazer, Technical Services Manager,
South West College*

ABOUT SOUTH WEST COLLEGE

South West College contains five main campuses spread across two countries and approximately 850 staff including support staff and full or part-time lecturers. They also host 12,000 active student accounts on the college’s network, all of which require secure email and data protection in Office 365. Together, Xeretec and Barracuda were able to offer South West College innovative security products to minimise risk and maximise IT productivity.

NEW SECURITY NEEDS

As Technical Services Manager of South West College in Northern Ireland, George Frazer managed the school’s transition from on-premise email and productivity applications to being hosted on Microsoft Office 365. The Exchange server, network firewall, secure email gateway and web filter were all physical appliances that needed to be constantly maintained and updated.

Security became a key priority for South West College, when SharePoint Online and Teams were fully deployed; causing a substantial amount of important data to sit in the cloud. Microsoft recommends a professional third party solution for M365 backup in it’s terms and conditions, yet 4 out of 5 organisations are unaware of the requirement. “Microsoft’s built-in data retention wasn’t an adequate backup system” and therefore “Barracuda’s back up solution caught our attention”.

THE CHALLENGES

- > Need to secure a vast number of inboxes and protect data in Office 365
- > Increasing numbers of evasive, sophisticated phishing attacks
- > Need to streamline and accelerate incident response processes
- > Limited operating budget requiring step-wise approach to achieving comprehensive security

SOLUTION



Barracuda Total Email Protection, including:

- > Barracuda Essentials - Email gateway defence
- > Barracuda Sentinel - AI driven watchdog
- > Barracuda PhishLine - User training and testing
- > Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup for all M365 elements
- > Barracuda Forensics and Incidence Response for isolation and remediation of cyber attack impact

THE OUTCOMES FOR SW COLLEGE

127,000

Malicious emails blocked in just 30 days

95%

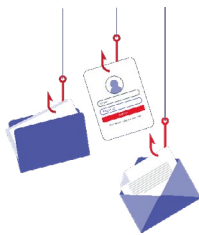
Reduction in time dealing with a phishing attack

12,000

Active student accounts now fully protected

With the knowledge, that 91% of cyber attacks start with email and 98% of organisations harbour malicious emails inside their inboxes, Frazer and his team deployed Essentials email gateway. Likewise, with 58.4% of sensitive data sitting in Office Documents, and over 70% of deletions coming from malicious or accidental action, archiving and cloud-to-cloud backup was deployed by March 2020; just in time for lockdown and the introduction of further security challenges due to remote learning. With devices being dispersed due to school closures, "it was a great relief to know emails were being filtered and archived, and that our data was protected".

Later in 2020, Sentinel and Forensics Incident Response was added to complete South West College's Total Email Protection package. With a 400% increase in phishing attacks since the start of the pandemic, and a market where staff are still being caught out by sophisticated attacks; defences needed further strengthening.



A refreshed operating budget allowed a powerful AI powered Sentinel solution to track likely incoming activity as suspect before impact. As a college with young students, Frazer's team also used keyword blocking to combat bullying and foul language between internal student inboxes. Forensics Incident Response stops attacks in their tracks before too much damage is done. 80% of organisations report taking over 6 hours to respond to email attacks, and longer to recover with operational downtime. The solution deployed brings this down to minutes.

BENEFITS BEYOND EXPECTATION

With Total Email Protection in full deployment, Frazer and his team found benefits they anticipated, and many that exceeded expectation.

Positive outcomes for South West College:

- Automated and continuous monitoring of infrastructure to predict and prevent attacks, taking away any manual scanning of inboxes and slashing IT overheads
- Trackable and effective training materials educating all users to better spot phishing emails, with a diverse range of simulated attacks to send to different individuals. Often the weakest part of the security posture are the users themselves
- Visibility to view and control every part of the Total Email Protection reports through a single and user friendly dashboard.
- Better risk mitigation via highly effective backup and archiving of whole O365 environment; including Teams, OneDrive and Sharepoint

A RELIABLE PARTNERSHIP

"Between Xeretec and Barracuda, I feel that we are in very good hands," says Frazer. "The product is really excellent, and whenever there's been a hiccup of any kind, the support we have got has been very responsive. I'm happy to recommend Barracuda Total Email Protection for anyone using Office 365."

"You can't go wrong engaging Xeretec as a vendor"

*George Frazer, Technical Service Manager,
South West College*



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.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? **GET IN TOUCH**

Tel: 0800 074 8136
Email: info@xeretec.co.uk

