

THE AURORA GROUP CYBER SECURITY CASE STUDY

"By working with Xeretec we were able to leverage their strong partnership with Barracuda and gain a very competitive deal for the group. This played a pivotal part in our decision to go ahead with the investment."

Matthew Cordon, IT Operations Manager, The Aurora Group

ABOUT AURORA

The Aurora Group is the UK's sixth largest provider of education, care and support services for young people with special educational needs or disabilities. With 15 schools and colleges across the UK, Aurora's aim was to deploy technology which reduced cyber risk and increased operational efficiencies for the group.

After a thorough discovery session to uncover Aurora's existing challenges, Xeretec presented Barracuda as the best fit solution, which had also been recommended to Aurora by peers in the education industry. Matthew Cordon, IT Operations Manager stated, "The Barracuda demo quickly displayed the instant benefits deploying the technology would have for the group".

Xeretec's cyber security services were introduced in order to guide Aurora through the process of passing government recommended certification, Cyber Essentials. The managed subscription provides on-going support to Aurora to help achieve improved cyber hygiene via monthly services such as penetration testing, phishing simulations, vulnerability scanning and user awareness training.

"The process of passing Cyber Essentials has taught the group that we need to do more regular testing in order to spot vulnerabilities and be able to react to them in a more timely fashion, constantly ensuring our attack surface and therefore risk is minimised"

- Ben Harvey, Senior Cloud Technician, The Aurora Group

DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

- The need to migrate to the cloud from an outdated, on-premise system
- The management of 15 independent sites had become time-consuming, repetitive, and expensive
- The requirement for better protection against increasing numbers of phishing attacks was growing
- The desire to achieve government recommended certification, Cyber Essentials
- The need to consolidate technology enabling centralised management across the group

SOLUTIONS

Barracuda – Email Protection, Cloud to Cloud Backup, Web Application Firewalls

Xeretec - Managed cyber security services



POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR AURORA

COST



- Barracuda provide attractive commercial support for the education sector. Free student licences and only paying for staff across the group enabled a significant cost saving for Aurora.
- Xeretec's managed services are a monthly subscription, making it an affordable way for education customers to enhance their security posture and improve on basic cyber hygiene.

PRODUCTIVITY



- Aurora now have a team that can allow and block websites imminently from a central dash board. There is no longer the requirement for a specific team member to manage filtering and logs for each individual device.
- Aurora's IT team can now focus on value add projects and have gained a holistic visibility of the entire estate for more productive management and reporting.

RISK



- Aurora now have the ability to filter web content via firewalls across all 15 sites whilst devices are remote, allowing them to secure and monitor student and staff activity wherever they are connecting to the network.
- Xeretec's managed services continuously assesses for vulnerabilities such as unpatched software within Aurora's security infrastructure, highlighting to the IT team where exposure to attacks may lie. Gaining this visibility has helped drive policy change across the group to ensure cyber best-practice is upheld.

EXPERIENCE



- The simple capability of restoring all O365 data to a certain location has become extremely useful to enable users to efficiently retrieve data that was accidentally deleted. Previously, IT were having to manually sort through an extensive on-site backup to find the last used document prior to the incident.
- Regular phishing simulations provide reports to IT in order to reinforce training to particular staff who have fallen victim to phishing emails on multiple occasions. Staff now feel empowered and are becoming more confident to act as an additional layer of defence



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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