Nominee: Barracuda Networks

Nomination title: Barracuda Next Generation Firewall

The Barracuda NG (Next Generation) Firewall is much more than a traditional firewall. It is designed to protect network infrastructure, improve site-to-site connectivity and simplify administration of network operations. The Barracuda NG Firewall delivers:

Improved security

Organisations can improve their security by using the Barracuda NG Firewall to integrate previously disparate security functions. These include web filtering, malware protection, email security, intrusion prevention, application control and advanced threat detection.

Full application awareness

The Barracuda NG Firewall can accurately identify a vast number of protocols and applications such as BitTorrent, Skype and instant messaging apps that are active on the network. Even if they are using advanced obfuscation techniques, port-hopping, or encryption. It can also block the use of unwanted applications such as social media - preserving bandwidth for business-critical applications and ensuring business continuity.

Full user-based visibility and control

The Barracuda NG Firewall provides seamless integration with all authentication methods such as Active Directory, RADIUS and LDAP/s to facilitate policy configuration based on the individual user and group information - not just IP addresses.

Corporate network optimisation

The Barracuda NG Firewall can reduce administrative overheads through centralised management capabilities. It can serve thousands of nodes and reduce financial costs by better managing WAN links and link bandwidth. State-of-the-art failover and bandwidth management capabilities make sure that business-critical traffic receives the bandwidth it deserves.

Accelerated troubleshooting

At a help desk and troubleshooting level, the Barracuda NG Firewall provides unprecedented levels of visibility into individual network flows, arming the network engineer with powerful tools to diagnose and maintain the network.

What are the major differentiators between your product and those of your primary competitors?

The Barracuda NG Firewall is the real successor to traditional firewalls and unified threat management (UTM) devices. Traditional firewalls forward packets and block functions often employing packet inspection. UTM devices usually add content security functions. Other Firewalls may refer to themselves as "next generation solutions" because they can detect and control social media and Web 2.0 applications, but they typically fail to integrate these functions tightly with link management, WAN management, and SSL VPN remote connectivity.

In comparison, the Barracuda NG Firewall is first true network security gateway. It starts by integrating an advanced network firewall with Layer 7 application recognition and user awareness, content security, malware protection, plus IPS in a suite of security technologies. This means that the Barracuda NG Firewall can:

Secure the network perimeter

The Barracuda NG Intrusion Detection and Prevention System (IDS/IPS) strongly enhances network security. It prevents attacks by providing complete and comprehensive real time protection against a broad range of network threats, vulnerabilities, exploits, and exposures in operating systems, applications, and databases.

Control application usage

The Barracuda NG Firewall gives administrators granular control over applications, allowing them to define rules for forwarding data traffic. It does this by using the best respective transmission channels based on type of application, user, content, time of day, and geographical location.

Enable cloud and WAN Virtualisation

Today's corporate networks are being transformed by the proliferation of mobile devices and the increasing adoption of SaaS offerings like Microsoft's Office 365 and moving corporate services to private or public clouds. The Barracuda NG Firewall is ideal for securing and compartmentalising these public cloud environments – connecting on-premises networks to the cloud and linking logically separated components within the cloud datacentres.

Deliver Secure Remote Access and Access Control

The Barracuda NG Firewall incorporates advanced site-to-site and client-to-site VPN capabilities, using both SSL and IPsec protocols to ensure remote users can easily and securely access network resources without time-consuming client configuration and management. The communication protocols used with its VPN clients are optimised to be fully roaming-capable by quickly reconnecting upon loss of communication.

Centralise Enterprise Management

The Barracuda NG Control Centre enables administrators to manage and configure security, content, traffic management, and network access policies from a single interface. This enables administrators to centralise management across many different firewalls and remote access users. Template-based configuration and globally available security objects enable efficient configuration across thousands of locations. This function helps significantly reduce the cost associated with security management while providing extra functionality both centrally and locally at the managed gateway.

Please supply supportive quotes and case study materials to demonstrate the value of this product to your customers and partners

"The Barracuda NG Firewall provides comprehensive visibility and reporting. I would often be asked to breakdown the internet usage of an individual over the course of a day and create a

report detailing what sites they had visited and the timings and activities relating to this. In the past I did not have the capability to carry out such requests.

"The Barracuda NG Firewall was also able to provide complete protection from existing cyber threats such as intrusion, malware, spam and DDoS attacks by enforcing network access controls and filtering both email and web traffic.

"As a result of the Barracuda NG Firewall, staff at Evolution Recruitment have been able to enjoy a better and more reliable support service from their IT department. This has been made possible as the connection to remote offices and workers has been vastly improved, while ensuring all workers, based here or overseas are protected from potential cyber threats. The icing on the cake is that it gives me complete visibility over all network communications and actually saves me two hours a day, which I would have previously used checking our old system. I now have more time to spend on other tasks, and worry less about the state of our network."

Damian Corr, IT Project Manager at Evolution Recruitment Solutions

Why nominee should win

Security

The Barracuda NG Firewall counters refined attacks with high-performance next generation firewall and VPN capabilities.

High availability

The Barracuda NG Firewall delivers out-of-the-box support. No additional systems and integration is necessary.

Traffic Intelligence

The Barracuda NG Firewall provides application-aware traffic intelligence. It identifies connectivity disruptions and diverts traffic accordingly.

WAN Optimisation

The Barracuda NG Firewall optimises application data traffic to reduce bandwidth loads and shorten response times.

A Virtual Option

A virtual version of the Barracuda NG Firewall provides the same technology, features and ease-of-use found in the hardware appliance.