



CASE STUDY

Saving costs and accelerating the speed of business for leading global supply chain firm Ionbond.

Barracuda SecureEdge delivers streamlined and secure networks for global coating technology company.

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Customer

- Ionbond makes high quality PVD, CVD and PACVD coating for the cutting, molding and forming tool market, as well as custom OEM components
- The Switzerland-headquartered firm has been a leader in its highly specialized field for over 50 years, and now operates dozens of service centers in at least 15 countries worldwide

Challenges

- Cyber-threats targeting sensitive client IP
- Cost of MPLS lines connecting global operations
- Latency for many application users due to legacy network infrastructure
- Small IT team

Solutions



Benefits

- Easy to set up and configure; deployment of new firewalls went from two days to two hours
- A 90% reduction in costs on MPLS lines by switching to SD-WAN solution
- Neat integration with Microsoft Sentinel SIEM solution saves management time ingesting logs
- Time savings for small IT team; freed two full-time staff members to work on other tasks
- Reduced latency by a third to drive end-user productivity



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Supply chain breaches are soaring. In the US alone last year [they outnumbered](#) the volume of incidents where data was compromised by malware, impacting some 1,743 entities. Such concerns weighed heavily on the mind of lonbond Head of IT, Benedict Groppe, as he sought to upgrade his firm's global network infrastructure.

"As a critical supplier to a lot of projects we have access to critical information in a lot of fields, which makes you a prime target for someone who wants that information," he explains. "What we do as a company is not interesting, but drawings for machines used to produce semiconductors, for example, is something a lot of bad people have an interest in."

Having seen a continuous rise in attacks targeting lonbond's IT infrastructure over the previous three years, lonbond wanted a solution that balanced speed and cost savings with excellent threat protection. They found it with [Barracuda SecureEdge](#).

Love at first sight

lonbond's requirements for a new secure network infrastructure provider were shaped by strict regulatory mandates from a variety of clients. The company supplies big names in aerospace, healthcare, automotive manufacturing and many other highly regulated sectors.

"This puts a big strain on IT because we need to secure and protect the data and respect local laws," Benedict says, "But I have a very small IT team of just seven people. We are responsible for 1500 devices and 70 servers in various datacenters scattered across the globe."

"Whenever we had a question or faced an obstacle during rollout, the Barracuda team was close at hand. They always went above and beyond in getting us on track, and the reaction times were blazing fast."

Benedict Groppe, Head of IT
lonbond

That put the focus of his search on a solution capable of both "streamlining and securing our networks," as well as driving cost savings and reducing latency. Having already invested in the Barracuda CloudGen Firewall to secure lonbond's previous network infrastructure, Benedict was keen to see what the firm's new SASE offering had in store.

"My first point of call was Barracuda," he says. "We explained the challenges I was facing and that we wanted to use Azure as a network backbone. They presented us with the SecureEdge product and I immediately fell in love with it."

Going above and beyond

Although lonbond considered other solutions at this stage, Benedict describes choosing Barracuda as a "no brainer" in that "no vendor had a product with the price-performance ratio of SecureEdge."

SecureEdge is a comprehensive, flexible SASE platform offering advanced threat protection, intrusion prevention and other next-gen security features, alongside secure SD-WAN connectivity and Zero Trust Network Access (ZTNA). It's all delivered from a single cloud-based web console for streamlined management and control.

Zero touch deployment made the whole process seamless for lonbond. It enables customers to deploy appliance units directly from the factory to anywhere in the world, without requiring on-site IT personnel to manually configure. On powering up, the unit automatically selects the suitable uplink to the internet and retrieves the right configuration from the SecureEdge Platform management console. Deployment of new firewalls has gone from a two-day to a two-hour task for one person.

"Whenever we had a question or faced an obstacle during rollout, the Barracuda team was close at hand. They always went above and beyond in getting us on track, and the reaction times were blazing fast," says Benedict. "I've never experienced this before, especially with the larger vendors, which you need to have a lot of patience with."

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Taking back control of network management

Although he recognized the potential risks involved in embracing a new technology like SASE, Benedict claims “the potential rewards were too big not to take.” So he ordered 40+ new SecureEdge devices for lonbond offices and immediately started to see the business benefits in reduced latency, an improved end-user experience, and lower management overheads.

“From the first day we deployed them it was a flawless experience and gave us exactly what we were looking for,” Benedict explains.

“We are using a lot of SD-WAN capabilities to route the traffic for our ERP system. The ERP system was unresponsive and hardly usable. Since deployment of SecureEdge and Azure all lonbond offices can now work from the central ERP system. SecureEdge slots neatly into lonbond’s multi-layered security infrastructure, including its Microsoft Sentinel deployment—making SIEM integration “easier and more seamless” to manage. And there are further benefits for the small IT team.

“Before I had three people working on network infrastructure just to maintain a global network of firewalls and Azure, and now it’s just one person. The guys now have more time to take care of other things,” says Benedict.

“The product makes restoring data simple and it’s extremely reliable.”

Benedict Groppe, Head of IT
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“Also, a large part of network management previously had to be outsourced but now we’re able to do it all ourselves.”

There are also cost savings. By removing the need for an expensive MPLS line to its Asian service centers, Ionbond is paying ten times less; amounting to thousands of euros per month, he estimates.

In fact, Ionbond was so happy with its experience with Barracuda that they recently purchased Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup as the firm’s sole backup product for Microsoft 365.

“A lot of time we need to restore data quickly because people tend to accidentally delete data, or we may have compromised devices and we need to wipe them and have a safe point to restore data to,” Benedict explains. “The product makes restoring data simple and it’s extremely reliable.”

A Zero Trust future

The next big step for Ionbond is to roll out SecureEdge Zero Trust to further bolster security. The firm is also evaluating Barracuda Email Protection and they are particularly interested in the AI-based capabilities in the platform designed to mitigate impersonation and account takeover. The future’s looking bright.

Learn more:



[Barracuda SecureEdge](#) secures your users, sites and things with an easy-to-deploy cloud-first platform that connects any device, application, and cloud/hybrid environment.



[Barracuda Cloud-to-Cloud Backup](#) provides easy-to-use SaaS backup for your Microsoft 365 data, including Teams, Exchange Online, SharePoint and OneDrive, including OneNote, with unlimited storage and retention.

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About Barracuda

At Barracuda we strive to make the world a safer place. We believe every business deserves access to cloud-first, enterprise-grade security solutions that are easy to buy, deploy, and use. We protect email, networks, data, and applications with innovative solutions that grow and adapt with our customers' journey. More than 200,000 organizations worldwide trust Barracuda to protect them — in ways they may not even know they are at risk — so they can focus on taking their business to the next level. For more information, visit barracuda.com.

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