

Barracuda Networks Detects New Form of Spam; Alerts SpamAssassin of Potential Impact to Performance

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Barracuda Spam Firewall Updated within Hours of Detection

Basingstoke, UK, Aug. 9, 2004 – Barracuda Networks, Inc., the leading provider of enterprise-class spam firewall solutions, today announced it successfully defended against a recent malformed spam that severely impacted the performance of SpamAssassin, the popular open source rules-based spam filter that is included as one of ten defence layers in the Barracuda Spam Firewall. Last week, Barracuda Networks team of engineers quickly deployed an automatic update to its spam definitions after detecting this new form of spam, which caused SpamAssassin's Bayesian analysis to run at slow speeds.

"Barracuda Networks was the first to detect and deploy a fix for this message latency problem and as a result, our customers' email delivery went uninterrupted," said Dean Drako, president and CEO of Barracuda Networks. "Our dedication to delivering timely and comprehensive solutions has helped make us the leading spam solution provider worldwide."

The update to defend against this malformed spam was automatically deployed to all Barracuda Spam Firewall customers through the Energize Update service, which deploys new spam and virus definitions on an hourly basis. Following the update, Barracuda Networks engineers quickly alerted the open source SpamAssassin project which has released a comprehensive update that has since shipped to all Barracuda Networks customers and is included in SpamAssassin 2.64.

"Barracuda Networks provided the information necessary for the SpamAssassin development team to determine the root cause of the problem and quickly develop a comprehensive solution for the current and upcoming version of our anti-spam filter," said Theo Van Dinter, SpamAssassin developer. "The SpamAssassin project is committed to fighting spam and we take pride in making sure that the most up to date defences are available for everyone."

About the Barracuda Spam Firewall Family

The Barracuda Spam Firewall is available in four models and supports from 1,000 to 25,000 active users with no per user licensing fees. The Barracuda Spam Firewall can be installed in front of the email server in typically less than five minutes and is automatically updated hourly to block new forms of spam and viruses. Its architecture leverages open source spam and virus solutions in conjunction with ten defence layers: denial of service and security protection, IP block list, rate control, virus check with archive decompression, proprietary virus check, user specified rules, spam fingerprint check, intention analysis, spam rule-based scoring, and Bayesian analysis. This architecture minimises the processing of each email, which yields the performance required to process millions of messages per day. Unlike software solutions, the Barracuda Spam Firewall reduces the load placed on the email server by off-loading both spam and virus filtering. Barracuda Networks also offers the Energize Update subscription service to automatically update the Barracuda Spam Firewall with the latest spam rules and virus definitions.

About the Barracuda Networks, Inc.

Barracuda Networks, Inc. is the worldwide leader in anti-spam appliance solutions. Winner of the 2004 Network Computing Editor's Choice Award and Well-Connected Award, the Barracuda Spam Firewall provides spam and virus protection for over 5,000 enterprises. Barracuda Networks, a privately held corporation, is headquartered in Cupertino, California with offices and distributors in over 35 countries. For more information, please visit www.barracudanetworks.com.

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