



Citizens & Farmers Financial Corporation: Committed to service

Founded in 1927 in Virginia, C&F Bank steadily became a solid financial institution serving local, community-based businesses and customers. Through the years, C&F Bank has proved that dedicated, well-trained employees, a commitment to outstanding service, and a diverse offering of quality financial products are the keys to success and growth.

Today, the company has grown into a financial corporation with 18 branch offices and five wholly-owned subsidiaries: C&F Mortgage Corporation, C&F Finance Company, C&F Investment Services, C&F Insurance Services and C&F Title Company. C&F Financial Corporation believes that their officers and staff are their most important assets, critical to how the Corporation performs and supports the well being of its communities.



Citizens & Farmers Financial Corporation Banks on Barracuda Networks for Web & Email Filtering

Large financial corporation realizes significant gains in employee productivity.

Unrestricted Internet access strained IT resources

The C&F Financial Corporation IT department consists of six team members and supports 600 users across its 18 branch locations and five subsidiaries. With unrestricted access to the Internet, keeping the organization's computing systems free of viruses and spyware was a huge problem.

At C&F Mortgage alone, the network administrator was spending 10 hours a week cleaning up infected computers. Over time, even with its then-existing Web filtering solution, the Corporation saw evidence of how the Internet, with its rich content and media types, could be a huge distraction for employees while also placing increasing demands on the IT team and infrastructure.

Vinson Berry, network administrator for C&F Financial Corporation, realized their existing Web filtering solution from Websense was not ideal.

"It required three servers to run, and we spent a lot of time keeping them all in sync," said Berry. "Authenticating users was tied to the active directory structure and mode, so we constantly had to switch things around. In terms of managing the product, most of what we wanted to do was an exercise in frustration."

Barracuda Networks delivers time & cost savings

Looking for an integrated, easy to use and intuitive security solution, Berry turned to Barracuda Networks. During the 30-day free evaluation period, he chose to run the Barracuda Web Filter 610 in audit mode for one week.

"We watched where users were going, what the Barracuda Web Filter 610 would or wouldn't have blocked; and we were astounded at the results," said Berry. That experience, combined with significant cost savings clinched the deal.

"For less than we would have spent renewing our annual 600 Websense licenses, we purchased three Barracuda Web Filters and the Energize Update service for two of them," Berry says.

The Barracuda Web Filter blocks spyware at the gateway and desktop, protects against viruses, and effectively controls Web access - all in one box with no complex options to buy. Energize Updates are provided continuously by Barracuda Central, an advanced security operations center where engineers work continuously to provide the most effective methods to combat the latest Internet threats.

Increased bandwidth & productivity

After installing the Barracuda Web Filter, Berry realized just how much bandwidth was utilized by streaming media sites such as YouTube and Yahoo! Radio, all of which were often forgotten and left running in the

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-Vinson Berry,
Network Administrator

About the Barracuda Web Filter

Available in six models, the Barracuda Web Filter combines preventative, reactive and proactive measures to form a complete content filtering and anti-spyware solution for businesses of all sizes. The Barracuda Web Filter is designed to enforce acceptable Internet usage policies by blocking access to objectionable content and unauthorized Internet applications. At the same time, the Barracuda Web Filter's award-winning feature set enables the Barracuda Web Filter to block spyware downloads, prevent viruses, and stop access to spyware Web sites.



Barracuda Web Filter 610

Fast Facts:

- Supports up to 1,500 active concurrent users
- Millions of URLs in 57 categories for comprehensive content filtering
- Administration managed from easy-to-use Web GUI
- Automatic continuous system updates from Barracuda Central

background on employee desktops. Flash advertising, widely used now on the majority of popular Web sites, compounded the problem. Now, with effective blocking rules in place for streaming media alone, available bandwidth has increased significantly.

"That bandwidth savings has allowed us to double the amount of traffic we have running across our Internet circuit," said Berry. "When we joined forces with C&F Mortgage, we eliminated their circuit and had those users go through ours at no extra cost. That enabled a savings of \$12,000 per year right off the top."

In addition to bandwidth savings, the rise in social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook forced Berry and his team to revisit how the Corporation should handle which Web sites employees had access to. The Barracuda Web Filter 610 gave Berry and his team granular control over what sites employees could visit while at work.

Another important step that C&F Financial Corporation took ahead of implementing these Web filtering restrictions was to educate the workforce that certain changes were going to be made. As such, employees were given notice ahead of time which gave them an opportunity to modify their online behavior as well as to provide feedback to Berry and his team.

"A one-size-fits-all approach to Web filtering simply does not work," said Berry, noting that his previous Web filtering policy was to block sites that fell into three main categories: adult material, hate sites and gambling. "Some departments, such as human resources, have legitimate work-related reasons for visiting a site like Facebook to pre-screen job applicants or for the collections and sales departments that can use such sites to connect with customers."

To enable access, Berry used the Barracuda Web Filter's active directory feature to give specific groups of users the social networking access they needed while restricting the sites for other employees.

"There's plenty to do while you're at work that's work-related," he said.

Powerful protection for inbound & outbound email

Berry and his colleagues were so impressed with the Barracuda Web Filter that they replaced their email filtering solution from Symantec as well. Berry had the Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall 300 and Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall-Outbound 300 up and running in just two hours.

"It was so simple, and it's a complete solution for us, effectively managing both our inbound and outbound email traffic," he said.

Receiving and processing over 70,000 emails a day can be a huge drain on the network as well as employee productivity, as employees sift through loads of spam trying to filter out legitimate email, not to mention inadvertently exposing themselves to potentially dangerous phishing attacks and offensive content. After installing the Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall, the impact was phenomenal.

"The last time I checked, we had blocked 55,000 emails and another 7,000 rate-controlled emails over the course of one day," said Berry. "Out of over 66,000 emails, only 4,300 were legitimate, meaning that Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall blocked 93 percent of our incoming email – all of it spam. Prior to Barracuda, our protection was nowhere near that."

The Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall features an easy-to-use Web user interface and includes essential outbound filtering techniques including attachment scanning, virus filtering, rate controls and encryption.

About the Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall

The Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall is available in eight models and supports up to 100,000 active users with no per user licensing fees. Its architecture leverages 12 defense layers: denial of service and security protection, rate control, IP analysis, sender authentication, recipient verification, virus protection, policy (user-specified rules), Fingerprint Analysis, Intent Analysis, Image Analysis, Bayesian Analysis, and a Spam Rules Scoring engine. The Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall's layered approach minimizes the processing of each email, which yields the performance required to process millions of messages per day.



Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall 300

Fast Facts:

- Supports up to 1,000 active concurrent users
- Powerful, spam, virus and email threat protection
- End user controls for individual tuning and enhanced spam accuracy
- No per user fees

Unlike software solutions like Symantec, the Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall does not require any additional hardware investments and obviates the need to spend countless hours managing it.

"Not having to worry about security updates and programs conflicting with each other anymore is a huge stress relief," said Berry. "The Barracuda devices are easier to manage, and the interface easier to use – very much so."

In fact, the administrative time for managing the Corporation's Web and email filtering solutions has been cut in half.

"We spend less than five hours per week managing the Barracuda Web Filter and Spam & Virus Firewall devices," said Berry. "(Before) Barracuda, it was at least twice that."

The reliability, performance and affordability of the Barracuda Networks solutions has ultimately helped to ease the strain on the IT staff at C&F Financial Corporation and has enabled Berry and his team to concentrate efforts on other important issues.

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About Barracuda Networks Inc.

Barracuda Networks Inc. built its reputation as the worldwide leader in content security appliances by offering easy to use and affordable products that protect organizations from email, Web and IM threats. Barracuda Networks has leveraged its success in the security market to offer networking products that improve application delivery and network access as well as world-class solutions for message archiving, backup and data protection. Coca-Cola, FedEx, Harvard University, IBM, L'Oreal, and Europcar, are amongst the 70,000 organizations protecting their networks with Barracuda Networks' solutions. Barracuda Networks' success is due to its ability to deliver easy to use, comprehensive solutions that solve the most serious issues facing customer networks without unnecessary add-ons, maintenance, lengthy installations or per user license fees. Barracuda Networks is privately held with its headquarters in Campbell, Calif. Barracuda Networks has offices in 10 international locations and distributors in more than 80 countries worldwide. For more information, please visit www.barracudanetworks.com