



## School District Controls Web Content and Stops Spyware with Barracuda Networks

### Barracuda Web Filter 410 Eliminates Nearly 20,000 Spyware Infections Found Throughout the District Network

#### About Kingsville Independent School District

Kingsville Independent School District, located in the southern Texas city of Kingsville, was established in 1909. The school district consists of 12 facilities which include an administrative building, maintenance and transportation facility, family-involvement center, and nine school campuses.

As with many other school districts, Kingsville ISD puts a large emphasis on providing their students, faculty, and other employees with the best technology possible including quick and reliable Internet access. In the last 10 years, with help from E-Rate funding, the district has gone from dial-up Internet connections to implementing GigaMAN fiber optic and T1 connections to accommodate 2,600 workstations - including desktop and laptop computers - and 25 servers across the district. Additionally, 97 percent of Kingsville ISD employees have Internet access and the majority of students are spending increasingly more time on computers for classroom-related tasks.

#### Increasing spyware infections cost district time and money

Along with faster Internet connections, an increased number of workstations, and more students with access to the Internet came additional challenges for the Kingsville ISD Instructional Technology Department. The IT Department was not only dealing with the increasing need for aggressive Web content filtering to block access to inappropriate Web sites, but it was spending a large amount of time and money trying to combat and clean up after the stampede of spyware and adware inadvertently downloaded on workstations throughout the district.

As these security and content filtering issues continued to increase it became evident to Kingsville ISD Instruction Technologist Tim Etzler that a new Web content filtering and spyware solution was necessary.

"We were using a Web content security solution marketed specifically for school networks, and it just wasn't cutting it," said Etzler.

According to Etzler the solution the district was using was difficult to manage and lacked comprehensive spyware protection. In addition, it was difficult for the district to deal with handling load capacity requirements and the increasing annual licensing fees were becoming a budgetary issue for the department.

Kingsville ISD needed a powerful, easy to use, and affordable spyware and Web content filtering solution. The team determined that the ideal solution would be appliance-based, and one that would not require the amount of time or money required for installing and maintaining software on each individual workstation in all 12 facilities in the district.

*"I have been recommending it to everyone. The Barracuda Web Filter has saved us an enormous amount of time, money and headaches."*

-Tim Etzler  
 Instruction Technologist  
 Kingsville ISD



#### Barracuda Web Filter 410 Fast Facts:

- Completely eliminates spyware and other forms of malware
- Millions of URLs in 58 categories for comprehensive content filtering
- Customizable branding
- No per-user licensing fees
- Ideal solution for school districts and other educational organizations

### Barracuda Web Filter corrals spyware and content filtering

With this in mind, the IT department consulted surrounding school districts as well as a networking specialist located in Corpus Christi, Texas.

“Our network specialist highly recommended using the Barracuda Web Filter to resolve our network security and Web filtering issues,” said Etzler. “He installed an evaluation unit which we tested and observed for two weeks. After this trial period we were confident that the Barracuda Web Filter would be the answer to our network issues.”

Along with the Barracuda Web Filter’s powerful anti-spyware and content filtering technology, its aggressive price point and lack of per-user licensing fees were very compelling to Kingsville ISD, which works within a strict budget.

After the initial evaluation period, Kingsville ISD purchased the Barracuda Web Filter 410 for the IT department and the Barracuda Web Filter 310 for its Business Technology Department.

While the district worked with to finish upgrading the Internet connections for all facilities, the IT department temporarily installed the Barracuda Web Filter 410 at the district’s high school, which had a direct T1 connection to the ISP. This temporary installation gave the IT department time to work with the Barracuda Web Filter’s Web GUI and to customize the appliance to its specifications in a small user environment.

After the Barracuda Web Filter 410 was installed at the high school, Etzler’s team witnessed immediate benefits, including a considerable decrease in bandwidth usage.

“Prior to the Barracuda Web Filter installation, the high school would average 190kbps on a daily basis,” said Etzler. “After the appliance was installed we started averaging 130kbps daily.”

Etzler believes the content filtering functionality made a difference in bandwidth usage, but he attributes the major bandwidth decrease to the powerful spyware protection capabilities.

“We couldn’t wait for the day we could roll out the Barracuda Web Filter to all 12 facilities,” said Etzler. “Once we did, I was shocked by the amount of spyware files on our network.”

Within the first few days after the Barracuda Web Filter was implemented on the entire network, the Barracuda Web Filter identified over 20,000 spyware files on computers throughout the district. Once identified, the Barracuda Web Filter’s comprehensive reporting features helped the IT department to identify and eliminate spyware infections.

“The daily spyware infection reports allow us to clean specific workstations,” said Etzler. “I can jump on the infected computer via remote access and easily find and remove the spyware. This saves countless hours and stress.”

In addition to comprehensive filtering functionality and strong reporting tools, the IT department benefits from easy administration and customizable features.

“We have found that making adjustments to the Barracuda Web Filter, such as whitelisting and blacklisting URLs, is simple through the Web GUI,” said Etzler. “I have even redesigned the URL block notification page wording to reflect our district’s branding and it now ‘dings’ five times to alert the teacher if a student is trying to visit a restricted Web site.”

Overall, the Kingsville ISD IT department has been pleased with the performance of the Barracuda Web Filter.

“I have been recommending it to everyone,” said Etzler. “The Barracuda Web Filter has saved us an enormous amount of time, money, and headaches.”



### About the Barracuda Web Filter

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.

Unlike the widely available desktop software solutions, the Barracuda Web Filter is easily installed and does not require the additional time, money or resources necessary for downloading and maintaining software on each individual PC. Hourly Energize Updates are made automatically by Barracuda Central so that the Barracuda Web Filter can block the ever-changing virus and spyware variants, as well as maintain the most up-to-date database of the latest productivity-inhibiting Web sites.



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