Large dental group with hundreds of locations scales for future growth

Rodericks Dental combines next-generation security and SD-WAN solution

**Experiencing growing pains**

As the third largest dental group in the United Kingdom, Rodericks Dental operates 100 practices across England and Wales. Providing NHS and private dental care, Rodericks Dental is committed to ensuring that every patient receives first-class healthcare and service. As a rapidly-expanding organization with a lean IT department, Rodericks operates a high-availability WAN network with thin clients at every branch office that connect to hyper-converged infrastructure servers in their data center.

“Our existing solution, a modem router with integrated firewall and VPN, was inexpensive and easy to procure. However, it turned out that the efforts needed for daily operations, deployment, cumbersome troubleshooting and lack of network visibility more than made up for any cost savings, especially as the business grew,” said Alex Snell, the company's head of IT.

In addition, VPN tunnels to the data center used one uplink at a time, causing connection losses, and application prioritization wasn’t available.

**Examining a new solution**

It was clear that Rodericks Dental would be unable to scale or provide efficient IT services to the growing number of locations with the existing solution. To overcome the challenges, Rodericks Dental decided to implement a new, cost-effective, overall solution, with a focus on scalability, highly-integrated central management, security, and SD-WAN.

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**Profile**

- Founded in 1984
- Third largest dental group in the UK
- 100 locations
- 650 employees

**Challenges**

- Provide continuous data center connectivity
- Protect patient data with lean operations
- Improve network-traffic visibility
- Simplify network command and control

**Solution**

- Barracuda CloudGen Firewall / SD-WAN

**Results**

- Centrally-managed security and WAN connectivity
- Business-critical traffic prioritization
- Simultaneous use of multiple uplinks
- Always-on, secure data center connectivity
- Unprecedented network-traffic visibility
- Preemptive maintenance
- Fast, on-the-fly troubleshooting
“We tried and tested a bunch of different solutions. Most weren’t stable enough to meet the requirements for operating a combined IT-security and WAN solution in a lean IT environment,” Snell said.

Expanding easily in the future

The Barracuda CloudGen Firewall, augmented with the optional 4G modem, automatically and transparently shares the network load created by the thin clients connecting via VPN tunnels to the data center, if needed. This enables always-on application performance and better customer service even at times when internet connectivity fluctuates.

The data center also hosts multiple virtual instances of Barracuda CloudGen Firewall for VPN tunnel termination and server security. The Barracuda Firewall Control Center, also hosted in the data center, can easily scale to manage thousands of remote devices.

The headquarters is protected by dual Barracuda CloudGen Firewall F600 high-performance hardware units.

With preemptive troubleshooting, instant network visibility, and full life-cycle management now available centrally, Rodericks Dental has the IT security and network infrastructure in place needed to support company expansion for years to come.

“Connecting all our dental practices securely with Barracuda CloudGen Firewall will allow us to expand from hundred to thousands of locations easily.”

Alex Snell
Head of IT
Rodericks Dental Limited

“The visibility into the network traffic with Barracuda CloudGen Firewall allows us to work proactively. The visualization provided by the Firewall Control Center is just brilliant.”

Alex Snell
Head of IT
Rodericks Dental Limited

Learn more about Barracuda CloudGen Firewall
barracuda.com/cloudgenfirewall