



About Europa House

The Europa House is a certified housing facility for the University of Illinois that houses approximately 100 residents during the academic year. During the summer, graduate students, post-graduate students and visiting faculty members also live at the Europa House. The house provides network resources to residents through its 100Base-T Ethernet local area network, the EuropaNet. This network connects all computer ports in the facility to the Internet to help students and faculty access online university resources and browse the Web.



Barracuda Link Balancer Fast Facts:

- Aggregates Internet connection links
- Provides automated failover
- Enables bandwidth management
- Includes Quality of Service (QoS) for Internet applications
- Features traditional firewall



University of Illinois Housing Facility Provides Uninterrupted Internet Access with the Barracuda Link Balancer

Europa House Improves Residents Access to University Web Resources

Not getting the connection

Residents utilize EuropaNet to access university Web resources such as the online library, research databases, course materials, student portal, file sharing, blogs, and email. Residents also access other non-academic resources, such as audio and video streams, that can be bandwidth intensive. Since Internet connectivity was provided through a single cable connection, network administrators received a number of support calls around Internet latency issues which created problems for completing critical coursework and accessing other essential resources.

"With the explosion of online (university) services we needed more bandwidth to meet the growing demands of residents," said Rob Eden, network administrator for the Europa House. "We were seeing frequent link saturation that prevented normal Internet access to all users."

Prioritizing bandwidth

After extensive product research, Eden chose the Barracuda Link Balancer 430 for its affordability and comprehensive feature set. To complement the existing single cable link, Eden added two cable links to ensure Internet uptime and to improve application availability. With the Barracuda Link Balancer 430, Eden was able to easily integrate the appliance into the existing network infrastructure and balance traffic across three cable connections.

Also, the Barracuda Link Balancer provided the ability to define Quality of Service rules for prioritizing Web applications and for accessing other online resources based on the type of Web request. For example, Eden configured the Barracuda Link Balancer to ensure that access to critical academic resources and applications are given high bandwidth priority. With bandwidth prioritization, Eden saw an immediate increase in Internet connection speeds as well as a drastic reduction in support calls.

"The Barracuda Link Balancer has been great because we're now able to scale our bandwidth with multiple connections," said Eden. "Also, because a system is generally tied to a single interface, the Barracuda Link Balancer has prevented a single user from saturating the entire facility's connection."

Additionally, Eden was able to replace the in-house built firewall with the Barracuda Link Balancer's built-in firewall and configure network address translation (NAT) and port forwarding rules to secure the network monitoring server and other internal Linux servers.

"The Barracuda Link Balancer offers by far the most comprehensive feature set and the best support at an unbeatable price," said Eden. "We were able to scale our bandwidth with two additional cable connections very easily without having to purchase expensive T1 lines, resulting in a 40 percent cost savings each month. The product has also improved the overall user experience and reduced support call volumes significantly."

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**-Rob Eden,
Network Administrator, Europa House**

About the Barracuda Link Balancer

Available in three models, the Barracuda Link Balancer is an affordable and powerful solution for routing and managing traffic across multiple Internet connections, capable of handling up to six WAN links. The Barracuda Link Balancer combines bandwidth of multiple high speed connections while automatic failover ensures reliable connectivity to any of the available Internet links. The Barracuda Link Balancer automatically detects failure and service restoration for Internet connections. The Barracuda Link Balancer features an easy to use Web user interface, creating an intuitive and cost-effective administration tool for the integrated hardware and software solution. The Web user interface allows administrators to define, manage and control bandwidth settings from one central location.

About Barracuda Networks Inc.

Barracuda Networks Inc. combines premises-based gateways and software, cloud services, and sophisticated remote support to deliver comprehensive security, networking and storage solutions. The company's expansive product portfolio includes offerings for protection against email, Web and IM threats as well as products that improve application delivery and network access, message archiving, backup and data protection.

Coca-Cola, FedEx, Harvard University, IBM, L'Oreal, and Europcar are among the more than 100,000 organizations protecting their IT infrastructures with Barracuda Networks' range of affordable, easy-to-deploy and manage solutions. Barracuda Networks is privately held with its international headquarters in Campbell, Calif. For more information, please visit www.barracudanetworks.com.