

Finding the Most Appropriate Barracuda Web Filter Model

With the award-winning Barracuda Web Filter managing an organization's Internet usage and protecting against malware, it is imperative to select a model size that matches the needs of the deployment site. Without industry standard metrics, it can be confusing to select the correct model from the various methods of measurement. The Barracuda Web Filter utilizes three simple specifications: throughput, concurrent users and active TCP connections to ensure optimal performance.

During the model sizing stage, consider the following specifications when evaluating how the Barracuda Web Filter fits into the desired network environment. These specifications are generally relevant across most industries ranging from schools and enterprises to hospitals and banks where Internet usage is part of each day. To properly size a Barracuda Web Filter deployment, it requires all three specifications from a network to fall between the ranges listed in the model comparison grid.

Throughput (Mb/sec)

A starting point is to estimate the desired throughput. When deployed inline at the network perimeter, the Barracuda Web Filter is in the network data path and must match the Internet access bandwidth to prevent any bottlenecks. Throughput gauges the total volume of traffic that the Barracuda Web Filter can handle.

Concurrent Users

The next step to evaluating model sizes is to determine the maximum number of users that will simultaneously access the Internet through the Barracuda Web Filter. Typically the number of concurrent users is less than the number of work stations and should take future growth into account for simple scalability.

Peak Number of Active TCP Connections

Lastly, estimate the peak number of active TCP connections at any given time. On average, a single user is expected to require between 1 to 1.5 active TCP connections. However, the peak number of TCP connections can significantly increase for heavy Web browsing or bandwidth intensive Internet applications such as voice and instant messaging (IM). When sizing the network requirements, concurrent users and peak number of TCP connections should be measured together.

In some environments, corporate firewalls or network monitors on the core network device can report the peak number of active TCP connections.

Evaluating Capacity of Barracuda Web Filter Models

Model Comparison	Model 210	Model 310	Model 410	Model 610	Model 810	Model 910
CAPACITY*						
Throughput (Mb/sec)	5	10	20	50	200	300
Web Cache Size		10 GB	50 GB	100 GB	200 GB	300 GB
Concurrent Users	25-100	50-200	150-500	450-1,500	1,000-3,000	2,500-4,500
Active TCP Connections	50-200	20-300	300-700	700-1,800	1,800-3,500	3,500-5,500

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Throughput

The amount of data transferred or processed from one place to another in a specific amount of time.

TCP Connections

Transmission Control Protocol connections where two hosts establish a connection and exchange streams of data. TCP guarantees delivery of data and in the same order as sent.

Sizing Examples and Suggested Models

When trying to identify the most appropriate Barracuda Web Filter model, all three specifications should be evaluated. The three sizing specifications should fall between the ranges listed in the models comparison grid, while taking into account current usage and future growth.

Network Characteristics	Suggested Model
5 Mbps throughput 50 concurrent users maximum 300 active TCP connections maximum	Barracuda Web Filter 310
35 Mbps throughput 1,200 concurrent users maximum 1,500 active TCP connections maximum	Barracuda Web Filter 610
50 Mbps throughput 1,200 concurrent users maximum 2,500 active TCP connections maximum	Barracuda Web Filter 810
50 Mbps throughput 1,500 concurrent users maximum 2,000 active TCP connections maximum	Barracuda Web Filter 810
200 Mbps throughput 2,000 concurrent users maximum 4,000 active TCP connections maximum	Barracuda Web Filter 910

For more information on the Barracuda Web Filter, please visit <http://www.barracuda.com/webfilter> or call a Barracuda Networks regional sales representative at 1-888-ANTI-SPAM for a free 30-day evaluation.

About Barracuda Networks, Inc.

Established in 2002, Barracuda Networks, Inc. is the worldwide leader in email and Web security appliances. Barracuda Networks also provides world-class IM protection, application server load balancing and message archiving appliances. More than 50,000 companies, including Coca-Cola, FedEx, Harvard University, IBM, L'Oreal and Europcar, are 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 eight international locations and distributors in more than 80 countries worldwide. For more information, please visit www.barracuda.com.



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