

Allegro MicroSystems Streamlines Backup Environment with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Gary Gomes
Network Manager
Allegro MicroSystems

Customer Overview

Allegro MicroSystems, Inc. is a global leader in developing, manufacturing, and marketing high-performance power and Hall-effect sensor integrated circuits. Allegro's innovative solutions serve high-growth applications within the automotive, communications, computer/office automation, consumer, and industrial markets. Allegro is headquartered in Worcester, Massachusetts with design and applications centers located in North and South America, Asia, and Europe.

Lengthy Backup Window Led to Evaluation of Alternatives

As Allegro MicroSystems' business data continued to grow, and backup window along with it, the company began to investigate more contemporary backup solutions to take the place of their tape backups. Gary Gomes, network manager at Allegro MicroSystems, sought a solution that would bring the company forward from tape-based backups to more current technology.

"We did serious due diligence," said Gomes. "We looked at all the solutions out there, and in terms of meeting Allegro's business objectives and technical requirements as well as being well priced, ExaGrid came out on top. It's a product that's well suited to our company. Allegro is an innovator in its market space and prefers products that are proven, reliable, and easy to work with. We've found that ExaGrid is just like that; the product is 'set it and forget it,' and the company is very accommodating."

Gomes said he has so much confidence in the ExaGrid and his backups that he doesn't even look at it. He gets the daily log alerts, and he just does a quick review to ensure everything is working properly and moves on to his other priorities.

Various Product Features Offer Robust Backup Solution

Of paramount importance to Allegro was not overspending to obtain a new backup solution. However, features and benefits were of course important also. Gomes was impressed with ExaGrid's approach to deduplication and how deduplication maximized his disk storage and minimized his backup window. The ExaGrid system stores changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies. This unique approach reduces the disk space required by a range of 10:1 to 50:1 or more, delivering unparalleled cost savings and performance. ExaGrid delivers extremely fast backup performance because data is written directly to disk, and data deduplication is performed post-process after the data is stored to reduce data. When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid's zone-level data deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

Gomes reports that his backup window was previously 24 hours, and since installing the ExaGrid, his backups are now completed in less than eight. In addition to the gains realized in backup window, Gomes has also seen gains in recovery time. Restores that previously required minutes or even hours to complete are now often done in seconds,

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and having six to eight months of online recoverability makes retrieval very fast and easy. According to Gomes, "ExaGrid has helped us streamline our backup environment and increase its durability."

Fast Installation, Helpful Customer Support

"It's been a nice win for us from day one," said Gomes. "The installation was incredibly simple. I just racked the appliance, turned it on, plugged it in, and with the help of our ExaGrid engineer, we were up and running."

The ExaGrid system was designed to be easy to set up and maintain, and ExaGrid's industry-leading customer support team is staffed by trained, in-house engineers who are dedicated to individual accounts. The system is fully supported and was designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components.

Scalability to Meet Future Backup Demands

The ExaGrid system can easily be expanded to accommodate more data. ExaGrid's GRID computing software makes the system highly scalable, and when plugged into a switch, different sized configurations can be mixed and matched into a single GRID system with capacities of up to a 130TB full backup plus retention. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

"The scalability is awesome," said Gomes. "I don't want any part of a forklift upgrade. I wanted to put in a solution that would grow with Allegro over time, and that's just what the ExaGrid appliance will do."

About ExaGrid Systems, Inc.

Customers worldwide depend on ExaGrid Systems to solve their backup problems—effectively and permanently. ExaGrid's disk-based, scale-out GRID architecture adjusts to increasing backup demands due to constantly growing data volumes. It is the only solution that combines compute with capacity as well as a unique landing zone to permanently shorten backup windows and eliminate expensive forklift upgrades. Learn more at www.exagrid.com.

ExaGrid and Symantec NetBackup

Symantec's NetBackup delivers high performance data protection that scales to protect the largest UNIX, Windows, Linux and NetWare environments. With complete protection from remote office to center to vault, NetBackup offers a single console for all backup and recovery operations.

Organizations using NetBackup can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as NetBackup, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running NetBackup, using ExaGrid in place of a tape backup system is as easy as pointing existing backup jobs at a NAS share on the ExaGrid system. Backup jobs are sent directly from the backup application to the ExaGrid for onsite backup to disk.

Intelligent Data Protection

ExaGrid's turnkey disk-based backup system combines high quality SATA drives with zone-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's zone-level data deduplication technology stores only the changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies, reducing the amount of disk needed by a range of 10:1 to 50:1 or more, resulting in a solution that is 25% to 30% the cost of standard SATA drives.

The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications, so organizations can retain their investment in existing applications and processes. ExaGrid servers can be used at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery.

For more information about ExaGrid, please visit us at www.exagrid.com or call us at 1-800-868-6985.