College Gains Reliable Backup and Offsite Replication with Hyperconverged ExaGrid System

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

GOODWIN COLLEGE

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Randy K. Swanson
Senior Systems Administrator

Key Benefits:

- ExaGrid has provided the college with 'reliable' backup and replication for years
- 'Solid' ExaGrid system needs little maintenance
- ExaGrid supports and integrates with both of college's backup applications

Customer Overview

Goodwin College, located in East Hartford, Connecticut, is a nonprofit institution of higher education and is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). Goodwin College was founded in 1999, with the goal of serving a diverse student population with career-focused degree programs that lead to strong employment outcomes.

ExaGrid Supports College's Backup Applications

Goodwin College backs its data up to an ExaGrid system at its primary site that replicates to an offsite ExaGrid system for disaster recovery (DR). "We virtualized most of our environment and we're using Veeam to back up our VMware, and Veritas Backup Exec to back up our remaining physical machines. They're both totally different types of backups, so they're like apples and oranges, but they both integrate well with ExaGrid," said Randy K. Swanson, the college's senior system administrator.

"Installation of our systems went really well, especially with the assistance of our ExaGrid support engineer. Our ExaGrid systems have been working without issue since we set up our backup and replication years ago," he added.

The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with all of the most frequently used backup applications, so an organization can retain its investment in existing applications and processes. In addition, ExaGrid appliances can be used at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for DR.

Quick, Reliable Backups

Swanson backs up the college's data in daily incrementals as well as weekly and monthly fulls. The data consists of everything from CIFS to Exchange servers to VMs. "Our backups are broken down into 50 jobs, and those can range from a few minutes to a few hours, depending on the type of data. Our backups are reliable, with everything working just fine. ExaGrid works as well as its sales team claimed it would, which is great."

ExaGrid writes backups directly to a disk Landing Zone, avoiding inline processing and ensuring the highest possible backup performance, which results in the shortest backup window. Adaptive deduplication performs deduplication and replication in parallel with backups while providing full system resources to the backups for the shortest backup window. Available system cycles are utilized to perform deduplication and offsite replication for an optimal recovery point at the disaster recovery site. Once complete, the onsite data is protected and immediately available in its full undeduplicated form for fast restores, VM Instant Recoveries, and tape copies while the offsite data is ready for DR.

Support for a 'Solid' System

Swanson appreciates how dependable ExaGrid systems are but also knows that ExaGrid support is just a phone call away when he needs it. "I work with an assigned

EXAGRID

ExaGrid support engineer, and he really understands my environment and gets back to me quickly if I have a question.

"ExaGrid's hardware is solid. The most maintenance we've needed to do is swap out hard drives, which my support engineer sent over quickly, and is something that is expected with any product," said Swanson.

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 level 2 engineers who are assigned to individual accounts. The system is fully supported, and was designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components.

Unique Scale-Out Architecture Provides Investment Protection

ExaGrid's award-winning scale-out architecture provides customers with a consistent backup window regardless of data growth. Its unique landing zone retains the most recent backup in its full undeduplicated form, enabling the fastest restores, offsite tape copies, and instant recoveries.

ExaGrid's multiple appliance models can be combined into a single system configuration, allowing full backups of up to 2PB with a combined ingest rate of 432TB/hr. The appliances virtualize into one another when plugged into a switch so that multiple appliance models can be mixed and matched into a single configuration. Each appliance includes the appropriate amount of processor, memory, disk, and bandwidth for the data size, so as each appliance is virtualized into the system, performance is maintained and backup times do not increase as data is added. Once virtualized, they appear as a single pool of long-term capacity. Capacity load balancing of all data across servers is automatic, and multiple systems can be combined for additional capacity. Even though data is load balanced, deduplication occurs across the systems so that data migration does not cause a loss of effectiveness in deduplication.

This combination of capabilities in a turnkey appliance makes the ExaGrid system easy to install, manage, and scale. ExaGrid's architecture provides lifetime value and investment protection that no other architecture can match.

ExaGrid and Veeam

The combination of ExaGrid's and Veeam's industry-leading virtual server data protection solutions allows customers to utilize Veeam Backup & Replication in VMware, vSphere, and Microsoft Hyper-V virtual environments on ExaGrid's disk-based backup system. This combination provides fast backups and efficient data storage as well as replication to an offsite location for disaster recovery. ExaGrid fully leverages Veeam's built-in backup-to-disk capabilities, and ExaGrid's zone-level deduplication provides additional data and cost reduction over standard disk solutions. Customers can use Veeam Backup & Replication's built-in source-side deduplication in concert with ExaGrid's disk-based backup system with zone-level deduplication to further shrink backups.

ExaGrid and Veritas Backup Exec

Veritas Backup Exec provides cost-effective, high-performance, and certified disk-to-disk-to-tape backup and recovery – including continuous data protection for Microsoft Exchange servers, Microsoft SQL servers, file servers, and workstations. High-performance agents and options provide fast, flexible, granular protection and scalable management of local and remote server backups.

Organizations using Veritas Backup Exec can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as Veritas Backup Exec, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running Veritas Backup Exec, 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 backup to disk.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides intelligent hyperconverged storage for backup with a unique landing zone and scale-out architecture. The landing zone enables the fastest backups, restores, and instant VM recoveries. The scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scalable system and ensures a fixed-length backup window as data grows, eliminating expensive and disruptive forklift upgrades. Learn more at **www.exagrid.com**.

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