

Norwegian Library Replaces Tape with ExaGrid for More Reliable Protection of Backup Data

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Li Chang Xia
IT Advisor

Customer Overview

The Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille (*Norsk lyd- og blindeskriftbibliotek*, NLB) is a public library based in Oslo, Norway that produces audio and braille books and loans them out to those with audio-visual impairments. The library serves users across Norway, and its service is free of charge. CD audiobooks are sent via post and can also be downloaded or streamed from the library’s website. Users can also download the library’s *Lydhør* app to listen to audiobooks on smartphones or tablets. As Norway’s largest producer of audio and braille books, the library has over 30,000 users, and its collection includes 19,000 audiobooks and 7,400 braille books. The library also produces and loans out study materials for students with audio-visual impairments, and dyslexia and other reading difficulties.

Need for Faster Backups Lead NLB to ExaGrid

Prior to purchasing the ExaGrid system, NLB used Veritas Backup Exec to an HP tape backup device for its 10TB of backup data, but according to Li Chang Xia, IT advisor at NLB, the device took too long for backups as well as restores.

“The main reasons we wanted a system to replace tape – and ultimately purchased ExaGrid – was for fast backups and restores as well as data deduplication. The advantages of ExaGrid for us is the high performance we get from the system for speed of backups and reliable restores as well as the efficiency of the system’s data deduplication,” said Xia.

Scalability an Important Factor

Xia reports that an important factor in his selection of the ExaGrid solution was the its scale-out architecture, which makes system expansion painless as well as affordable.

The ExaGrid system can easily scale to accommodate data growth. ExaGrid’s GRID computing software makes the system highly scalable, and when plugged into a switch, appliances of any size or age can be mixed and matched in a single GRID system with capacities of up to a 1PB full backup plus retention and an ingest rate of up to 200TB per hour. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.



The impact that ExaGrid has had on Xia’s IT environment has been positive. “ExaGrid has brought us more efficiency in our daily IT operations,” Xia said.

Customer Support Delivers a ‘Very Good Experience’

Xia reports having a very good experience with ExaGrid’s customer support. “Our customer support engineer does a very good job with keeping us up-to-date with software and firmware upgrades, and provides us with great service. We also get good support from the engineering team of our local reseller, Purity AS.”

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

Key Benefits:

- NLB’s backups and restores are much faster and more reliable
- Data deduplication provides efficient use of storage
- Scale-out architecture provides affordable future system expansion
- Daily IT operations are now more efficient
- Customer support proactively keeps system up-to-date with upgrades and releases

fully supported, and was designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components.

Simple Installation and Maintenance

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 seamlessly retain their investment in existing applications and processes as NLB did with Veritas Backup Exec.

Intelligent Data Protection

ExaGrid's turnkey disk-based backup system combines enterprise SATA/SAS drives with zone-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is far more cost effective than simply backing up to straight disk. ExaGrid's patented zone-level deduplication reduces the disk space needed by a range of 10:1 to 50:1 by storing only the unique bytes across backups instead of redundant data. Adaptive deduplication performs deduplication and replication in parallel with backups while providing full system resources to the backups for the fastest backups and, therefore, the shortest backup window. As data grows, only ExaGrid avoids expanding backup windows by adding full appliances in a GRID. ExaGrid's unique landing zone keeps a full copy of the most recent

backup on disk, delivering the fastest restores, VM boots in seconds to minutes, "Instant DR," and fast tape copy. Over time, ExaGrid saves up to 50% in total system costs compared to competitive solutions by avoiding costly "forklift" upgrades.

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

United States: 2000 West Park Drive | Westborough, MA 01581 | (800) 868-6985

United Kingdom: 200 Brook Drive | Green Park, Reading, Berkshire RG2 6UB | +44 (0) 1189 497 051

Singapore: 1 Raffles Place, #20-61 | One Raffles Place Tower 2 | 048616 | +65 6808 5574



www.exagrid.com