Law Firm Speeds Backups and Cuts Backup Window by Two-Thirds with ExaGrid

Berger Schatz

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> **Michael Sauriol**
> **Director of Information**
> **Services**

Key Benefits:

- Two-site ExaGrid system maximized Berger Schatz's budget dollars vs. competition
- Backup window reduced from 15 hours to 4
- Replication over WAN provides improved disaster recovery
- Post-process dedupe provides fastest possible backup speed
- 'Exceptional' customer support

Customer Overview

Established in 1987, Berger Schatz's founding partners shared a passion for bringing the highest professional and ethical standards to the practice of family law. Since its founding, Berger Schatz has specialized in cases involving high net worth individuals and complex personal assets. The firm has grown to become one of the premiere matrimonial law firms in the nation with a team of 36 attorneys in two offices in downtown Chicago and in Lake Forest, representing clients throughout Illinois.

Long, Time-Consuming Tape Backups Wear Thin for Sole IT Staffer

Berger Schatz had been backing up company and client data to a tape library for years, but daily tape management and long backup times were a burden for its one-man IT department. Finally, the firm decided the time was right to look for an alternative solution.

"I have a broad range of responsibilities at the firm, and managing backup processes was taking up more and more of my time," said Michael Sauriol, director of information services at Berger Schatz. "We wanted a solution that would automate our backups, reduce our backup window, and improve disaster recovery,"

Cost-Effective ExaGrid System Delivers Fast Backups, Data Deduplication

After looking at solutions from EMC Data Domain and ExaGrid, Berger Schatz chose a two-site ExaGrid system with data deduplication to provide both primary backup and disaster recovery. The company installed one system in its Chicago office and a second in its Lake Forest location, and replicates data between the two units via a wide-area network. The ExaGrid systems work in conjunction with Symantec Backup Exec to back up and protect data from the company's physical and virtual servers. "We compared both solutions and liked

ExaGrid's data deduplication method better than the EMC Data Domain solution," said Sauriol. "The ExaGrid system was also more cost-effective. We were able to stretch our budget dollars further with the ExaGrid, which allowed us to purchase a two-site system for disaster recovery sooner than we would have with the EMC Data Domain."

Sauriol said that ExaGrid's data deduplication technology helps to reduce the amount of data stored while delivering the fastest possible backup times.

"With the ExaGrid system, backups run as efficiently as possible because the data is backed up to a landing zone and then deduplicated. We've been very pleased with the ExaGrid's deduplication performance and are currently seeing 15:1 dedupe ratios," said Sauriol. "Our backup times have been reduced from nearly 15 hours per night to four hours per night. Also, restoring data is an extremely fast process. We can bring back a file with the touch of a button."

ExaGrid combines last backup compression along with data deduplication, which 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

EXAGRID™

is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid's zone-level data deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

Easy Management, Superior Customer Support

Sauriol worked with the ExaGrid customer support engineer assigned to the Berger Schatz account to set the system up.

"Setting up the system was easy. Our support engineer handled most of it, even the Backup Exec integration," he said. "ExaGrid support has been exceptional. We've had the same support engineer since day one; he really knows his stuff and is extremely proactive."

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.

"The best part about the ExaGrid system is that it's extremely easy to use. I get a report every night that tells me the status of my backup jobs and gives me an overview of the deduplication ratios. If there's an issue, I get an email alert or our support engineer contacts me directly," Sauriol said. "I spend virtually no time at all on backups now. It's fantastic, especially after spending all that time managing tape."

Scalability for Future Growth

As the firm's data grows, the ExaGrid system can easily scale up to meet increased backup requirements. 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.

"We sized our system to accommodate expected data growth, but it's nice to know that we can expand the system if we need to," said Sauriol. "With the ExaGrid system, I don't have to

worry about backup jobs any more because it works faithfully, day in and day out."

ExaGrid and Symantec Backup Exec

Symantec Backup Exec provides cost-effective, high-performance, and certified disk-to-disk-to-tape backup and recovery – including continuous data protection for Microsoft Exchange, SQL, 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 Symantec Backup Exec can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as Symantec Backup Exec, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running Symantec 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 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.

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**.