

# Bridgestone Chooses ExaGrid and Veeam for Virtualized Backups; Realizes 30% Reduction in Backup Window

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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**Corey Johnson**  
Technology Analyst

## Key Benefits:

- Backup windows have been reduced by 30%
- 'Outstanding' ExaGrid support checks in regularly, assists with updates
- Data backs up at 'fantastic speed' using ExaGrid and Veeam

## Customer Overview

Nashville, Tennessee-based Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations (BATO) is a business unit of Bridgestone Americas, Inc., whose parent company, Bridgestone Corporation, is the world's largest tire and rubber company. BATO develops, manufactures and markets Bridgestone, Firestone, and associate brand tires.

## Time for an Update

Corey Johnson, a technology analyst at Bridgestone's Aiken PSR plant in South Carolina, had been backing up the company's data to tape using Quantum and felt that the solution was outdated. "We were working with old hardware and older, outdated software, and it was time to look into a more efficient backup system for our file server backups." Johnson looked into other solutions that would help the environment "get with the times."

Johnson looked at other Quantum products and at Dell EMC Data Domain. He was impressed after a POC with ExaGrid and decided to completely overhaul his environment, which included virtualization. Johnson replaced Quantum with an ExaGrid system and added new backup applications—Veritas Backup Exec for physical servers and Veeam for virtual servers.

"We felt that ExaGrid was the best system for us as far as its performance and scalability, and its data deduplication was also a major factor. We updated our hardware and moved toward virtualizing the environment, and took some advice from some of the other Bridgestone plants by updating our backup applications to Backup Exec and Veeam—it just all fell together," said Johnson.

## Backing Up Data at 'Fantastic Speed'

Johnson backs up data at Bridgestone's Aiken PSR plant in daily incrementals and weekly fulls. He is impressed with ExaGrid's ingest rate. "We're backing up several sets of data in daily incrementals. We do incrementals every three hours, and they take 15 minutes each.



The backup window for our weekly full has been reduced from 19.5 hours to 13.5 hours. The speed at which the data is backed up is fantastic!"

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 disaster recovery.

ExaGrid and Veeam can instantly recover a VMware virtual machine by running it directly from the ExaGrid appliance in the event that the primary storage VM becomes unavailable. This is possible because of ExaGrid's "landing zone" – a high-speed cache

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on the ExaGrid appliance that retains the most recent backups in complete form. Once the primary storage environment has been brought back to a working state, the VM running on the ExaGrid appliance can then be migrated to primary storage for continued operation.

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## ‘Outstanding’ Support

Johnson is looking into scaling out the ExaGrid system. He feels confident that ExaGrid’s team will help install the right appliance to optimize his current environment.

All of ExaGrid’s appliances contain not just disk but also processing power, memory, and bandwidth. When the system needs to expand, additional appliances are simply attached to the existing system. This type of configuration allows the system to maintain all the aspects of performance as the amount of data grows, with customers paying for what they need when they need it. In addition, as new ExaGrid appliances are added to the existing system, ExaGrid automatically load balances available capacity, maintaining a virtual pool of storage that is shared across the system.

“During installation of our ExaGrid system, the support team helped us every step of the way. It was seamless! Overall, my support engineer has been an outstanding help. He checks in regularly to see if the backups are working well, and to assist with firmware upgrades. He’s followed up daily when we have had to work through issues, and he has been an extreme help in getting our backups to where they need to be,” said Johnson.

“A lot of support engineers from other vendors are hit or miss – they are hard to get hold of, don’t understand my problem or environment, or they may be located offshore – but there hasn’t been a time that I have reached out to my ExaGrid support engineer without receiving a quick response. He’s been awesome.”

## About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides hyper-converged secondary storage (HCSS) 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](http://www.exagrid.com).

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

## 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. The ExaGrid system fully leverages Veeam Backup & Replication’s built-in backup-to-disk capabilities and ExaGrid’s zone-level data deduplication for additional data reduction (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.

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