

Dot Foods Delivers Excellence, Eases Backup Pain with ExaGrid's Disk-Based Backup System

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Les Hultquist
UNIX Administrator

Key Benefits:

- Disaster recovery improved by replacing tape backups with two-site ExaGrid system
- Staff time managing backups 'cut considerably' by switching to disk-based system
- ExaGrid chosen for unique approach to data deduplication
- ExaGrid integrates seamlessly with existing backup application

Customer Overview

Dot Foods is the largest food redistributor in the United States, serving distributors coast to coast on a daily basis. Dot developed the redistribution concept in food service in 1960 and has grown to become the industry leader. Headquartered in Mount Sterling, Illinois with nine additional locations throughout the U.S., the company specializes in servicing distributors who buy in less-than-truckload (LTL) quantities. Dot offers distributors the largest selection of products of any food redistributor with over 70,000 products from more than 700 suppliers.

Growing Backup Window Causes Evaluation of Alternative Solution

Dot Foods had been backing up to tape to protect the company's data, and with data volumes growing, their backup window continued to grow to unacceptable proportions. The number of simultaneous jobs they could run was limited by the number of tape drives they had, which did not provide the throughput and volume the company required.

"Our tape library was outdated," said Les Hultquist, UNIX administrator at Dot Foods. "The amount of tapes we needed and the amount of storage required for them was becoming an issue, and we also needed a certain number of tape drives on hand. Our backup window was becoming a problem." Hultquist and his team began looking at alternatives that could reduce the company's backup window while better protecting their valuable data and improving disaster recovery.

Dot Foods evaluated a number of vendors but chose ExaGrid as their solution based on price and performance. Of particular attraction to Hultquist was the way in which ExaGrid handles deduplication. "That helped make the decision," said Hultquist.

Dot was using Commvault as its backup application, and the fact that ExaGrid integrates seamlessly with their existing backup application was an added bonus.



Two-Site ExaGrid Solution Improves Disaster Recovery, Streamlines Backups

Dot Foods selected a two-site ExaGrid disk backup system with data deduplication. Data is replicated between the two systems for disaster recovery. Deploying two ExaGrid systems enables the company to have a comprehensive disaster recovery plan in case of emergency.

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Data Deduplication Maximizes Disk Space

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, delivering unparalleled cost savings and performance.

ExaGrid delivers extremely fast backup performance because data is written directly to disk, and data deduplication is performed after the data is stored. When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid's byte-level data deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

Expand on Demand System Scalability

ExaGrid's computing software makes the system highly scalable, and when plugged into a switch, different sized configurations can be mixed and matched into a single system with capacities of up to a 2PB 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.

Easy Setup, Top-Notch Support

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.

ExaGrid and Commvault

Commvault software contains extensive capabilities to simplify the management of backup media resources. Commvault writes backup data to a broad collection of storage devices, including

disk as a media target. This ability to write to magnetic disk as a functional equal of all other media types while exploiting the random access nature of the disk media sets Commvault software apart.

Organizations using Commvault can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as Commvault, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running Commvault, 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 byte-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than 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.

ExaGrid is the leader in cost-effective disk-based backup solutions. A highly scalable system that works with existing backup applications, the ExaGrid system is ideal for companies looking to quickly eliminate the hassles of tape backup while reducing their existing backup windows. ExaGrid's innovative approach minimizes the amount of data to be stored by providing standard data compression for the most recent backups along with byte-level data deduplication technology for all previous backups. Customers can deploy ExaGrid at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories or for disaster recovery.

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.

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