

Dynamic Aviation Finds Tape Backups Just Won't Fly Anymore

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Andrew Powell
IT Manager

Key Benefits:

- Scalable GRID architecture protects against forklift upgrade as data grows
- Restore VMs in seconds using ExaGrid and Veeam
- 'Painless' installation
- 'Knowledgeable and conscientious' customer support

Customer Overview

The legacy of Dynamic Aviation begins almost 75 years ago in 1936. Over the years, Dynamic Aviation has continually found creative ways to meet its customers' most challenging requirements. They offer a comprehensive range of innovative aviation solutions, including Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, airborne data acquisition, fire management, aerial application, and sterile insect technique.

Tape Backups Reaching the End of the Road for Dynamic Aviation IT

Dynamic Aviation's (DA's) IT staff had been backing up their data to a single tape drive using Symantec Backup Exec, but because the limited write speed of the tape drive library created a very long backup window, they were only able to back up the highest priority data. Backing up even that limited amount of data took an entire weekend with about three months of retention. Only limited nightly tape backups were possible because the old system was too clumsy.

The IT staff was relying on shadow copies for the incremental backups and realized that it was just a matter of time before there was going to be a serious data loss. As a result, they started evaluating disk-based backup appliances as a replacement for their tape library.

ExaGrid Offers Superior Technology, Support and Price

According to Andrew Powell, IT manager at Dynamic Aviation, "We liked the idea of the ExaGrid GRID architecture and the sizable landing pad for a full, uncompressed backup set. I also liked the post-processing deduplication. In my view ExaGrid technology, marketing, and pricing are superior." The DA IT staff found that the ExaGrid technology to be really attractive, including the use of GRID architecture to increase capacity and eliminate forklift upgrade as their data grows. According to Powell, "We

liked the idea of being able to replicate data from site to site. I was also very impressed with the numbers of user comments mentioning simple installation and worry-free operation, which is extremely nice."

Using ExaGrid and Veeam Offers Unique Benefits

At the same time as the ExaGrid system was installed, DA learned about the unique benefits of using Veeam™ Backup & Replication for backing up virtual servers together with their new ExaGrid appliance, including backing up in minutes instead of hours, and restoring virtual machines in seconds.

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



According to Powell, "Data deduplication is a very interesting concept and important for helping us to meet our goals. Now that we've had the ExaGrid appliance in service, the range of dedupe numbers we are seeing on simple file storage is about 19:1, Exchange files are reduced by 5.25:1 and SQL shares are reduced by between 6.4:1 to 9.7:1."

Easy Setup and Management

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 installation and start-up process was totally painless. ExaGrid's support team is extremely knowledgeable and conscientious," says Powell.

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.

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.