FARO Improves Backup Speed and Retention with ExaGrid

> "The ExaGrid system has enabled us to reduce our backup times and we've doubled the amount of online backup data that we retain. The system works as we envisioned it would."
>
> **Tony Hughes**
> **Chief Information Officer**

Key Benefits:

- FARO resolves growing backup window issue by switching to ExaGrid for better throughput.
- ExaGrid supports FARO's existing backup app
- FARO now able to complete backups with 'time to spare'
- ExaGrid's interface keeps FARO's backups easy to manage

Customer Overview

FARO® is the world's most trusted source for 3D measurement, imaging and realization technology. Headquartered in Lake Mary, Florida, with offices and regional headquarters worldwide, the company develops and manufactures leading edge solutions that enable high-precision 3D capture, measurement and analysis across a variety of industries including manufacturing, construction, engineering and public safety.

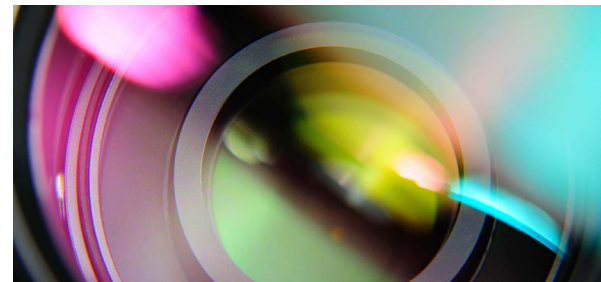## Long Backup Times, Limited Retention with First Generation Disk-to-Disk Solution

FARO is an international organization with dedicated IT resources for each region. The company's Americas region IT staff had been backing up data using a first generation disk-to-disk system but decided to look for a new solution when weekly full backup duration increased.

"We were concerned when our full backup window lengthened due to company growth and our old disk-to-disk system couldn't provide the throughput needed to improve the speed or efficiency of our backups.

"We're a growing company, and as we continue to add people, servers, and data, we need to ensure that we can protect all of our information within our defined backup windows," said Tony Hughes, Chief Information Officer at FARO. "We were also looking to increase the amount of data we could retain on disk, so data deduplication was a requirement as well."

Strong Value Proposition with ExaGrid

After looking at several of the leading disk-based backup solutions on the market, FARO chose the ExaGrid system to work alongside the company's existing backup application FARO installed one ExaGrid system in its main datacenter and a second at a satellite engineering facility.

"The ExaGrid system was cost-effective and we felt it had a strong value proposition," said Hughes. "It fit right into our network and worked with our existing backup application so there was little disruption. It also gave us the throughput we needed to make our backups faster and the data deduplication to increase retention."

Backup Times Reduced, Retention Improved

Since installing the ExaGrid system, FARO's full backup time has been reduced to well within backup window limits. FARO's IT staff has been able leverage the system's better throughput and now runs multiple backup jobs at the same time to improve efficiency and streamline operations.

"We've been pleased with the throughput we receive from the ExaGrid system," said Hughes. "We are now able to complete our backups with time to spare."

ExaGrid's built-in data deduplication technology maximizes the amount of data that FARO can keep on the system. Hughes noted that FARO has been able to double the amount of backup data the company retains on disk.

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.

Currently, FARO uses Exagrid devices at two sites. The two systems can be linked together in the future to replicate data and improve disaster recovery.

ExaGrid is cost effective when a two-site system is used because its data deduplication technology moves only changes between sites, minimizing the amount of bandwidth needed.

Turnkey Appliance Packaging for Fast Installation, Responsive Customer 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 level 2 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.

"There are always challenges when we install new systems, but the ExaGrid deployment went without a hitch. The system is also easy to manage and administer. The web interface makes it easy to kick off jobs from wherever we are," said Hughes.

"We have been impressed with ExaGrid's customer support organization. The support team was helpful during the installation process and they are always available to answer any question we have," said Hughes.

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.

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 system.

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.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides intelligent hyperconverged storage 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**.