



ExaGrid-Veeam Solution Provides MPB with Quality Backup Performance and Support

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



Mississippi Public Broadcasting

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Kevin Cornell
Lead Systems Administrator

Customer Overview

Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) provides relevant instructional and public affairs programming to Mississippians through its statewide television and radio network. MPB enhances the work of educators, students, parents and learners of all ages by providing enlightening programming and educational resources. MPB’s locally-produced programming focuses on the people, resources and attractions that make Mississippi unique. Children’s programs constitute a major portion of the daytime and weekend morning schedules. Since 1970, MPB has won more than 350 national and regional awards, including Emmy, Edward R. Murrow, and Parents’ Choice Awards.

ExaGrid Remains Top Choice during Refresh of Backup Environment

When Kevin Cornell first started his position as systems administrator at Mississippi Public Broadcasting, the organization was replicating data across two Dell storage arrays, and while this offered a small measure of data protection, it was not actually a backup solution. The organization decided to invest in backup infrastructure and its IT vendor recommended using Symantec Backup Exec software (now known as Veritas Backup Exec) with ExaGrid for backup storage. While the new solution offered more data protection, Cornell found that Backup Exec was difficult to use while ExaGrid was easy to manage and offered great customer support.

When it was time to refresh the backup environment, Cornell looked into better option for a backup application and decided to switch to Veeam.

“When it came time to purchase a new backup solution I didn’t even shop around for backup storage, I knew I wanted to stick with ExaGrid. We ended up upgrading our ExaGrid system with a larger appliance and switched from Backup Exec to Veeam, and I like this new solution much better,” said Cornell, now the lead systems administrator at Mississippi Public Broadcasting. “I never felt confident using Backup Exec and I didn’t like its interface, but now that we have switched to using ExaGrid with Veeam,



I’m absolutely confident that I can restore my entire environment if necessary, as well as individual components within the environment, which I’ve been able to test. Our ExaGrid support engineer was very helpful with the transition, especially when it came to reconfiguring for 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 Tiered Backup Storage. This combination provides fast backups and efficient data storage as well as replication to an offsite location for disaster recovery. Customers can use Veeam Backup & Replication’s built-in source-side deduplication in concert with ExaGrid’s disk-based backup system with Adaptive Deduplication to further shrink backups.

Key Benefits:

- ExaGrid-Veeam solution provides fast backup and restore performance
- Storage savings from deduplication leaves ‘plenty of room for growth’
- High-quality support from ExaGrid ‘critical’ to department



Fast Backup and Restore Performance

Cornell has found that the new solution keeps up with the large amount of data that is backed up. "We're a public broadcasting agency that produces about 14 hours of our own radio content every week in addition to television production. Our organization also includes an education department, a business department, an art department, and a communications department. Since we create so much media content, the files we need to back up are rather large."

Cornell is pleased with the backup and restore performance that the ExaGrid-Veeam solution provides. "Since the initial backup, the incrementals have been very fast, and work well in the window we have to operate in. I've been very happy with the backup speed and our file-level restores are very easy and quick," he said.

ExaGrid writes backups directly to a disk-cache 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 so that an RTO and RPO can be easily met. 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-Veeam Combined Dedupe 'Important Factor' in Backup Environment

Cornell is "super satisfied" with the deduplication provided by the ExaGrid-Veeam solution, which saves on storage capacity, accommodating the organization's three-year data retention policy. "I've got plenty of room for growth, which was an important factor in the refresh of our backup environment," he said.

Veeam uses the information from VMware and Hyper-V and provides deduplication on a "per-job" basis, finding the matching areas of all the virtual disks within a backup job and using metadata to reduce the overall footprint of the backup data. Veeam also has a "dedupe friendly" compression

setting which further reduces the size of the Veeam backups in a way that allows the ExaGrid system to achieve further deduplication. This approach typically achieves a 2:1 deduplication ratio.

ExaGrid is architected from the ground up to protect virtualized environments and provide deduplication as backups are taken. ExaGrid will achieve up to 5:1 additional deduplication rate. The net result is a combined Veeam and ExaGrid deduplication rate of upwards to 10:1, which greatly reduces the amount of disk storage.

Quality Support 'Critical' to Department

Cornell appreciates the level of customer support that ExaGrid provides. "Over the years, my department has shrunk to just two people, so having support personnel we can count on is critical. I've been able to work with the same ExaGrid support engineer for years and she is awesome. In terms of system administration, I'm a one-man show in a very technical organization, so the time I have to work through issues is very limited. The support is always available, so I don't have to wait on hold, or end up in a queue," he said.

"Our ExaGrid system doesn't give me any issues, and I've gotten to know the interface very well, so usually I only need to reach out to my ExaGrid support engineer if we need to do firmware upgrades or with a quick question. The interface is very easy to use and the ExaGrid system just works, so I don't need to worry about it, and that's important to me," he added.

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.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides tiered backup storage with a unique disk-cache Landing Zone, long-term retention repository and scale-out architecture. ExaGrid's Landing Zone enables the fastest backups, restores, and instant VM recoveries. The retention repository offers the lowest cost for long-term retention. ExaGrid's scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scalable system.

Learn more at www.exagrid.com.

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