Nammo Talley Slashes Backup Window by Two-Thirds with ExaGrid's Disk-Based Backup with Deduplication

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>
> **Ted Green**
> **Network Engineer**
> **Nammo Talley**

Customer Overview

Nammo Talley provides energetics products and services to customers in the defense and related aerospace and commercial markets. Since 1960, the company has been a pioneer in the development of aircrew escape systems, automobile airbag components, submunition dispensing systems, shoulder-launched weapons, and other key propellant-loaded devices. Located on approximately 550 acres in Mesa, Arizona, Nammo Talley operates a complete industrial complex designed for the development, testing, and manufacture of its products.

Long Backups, Slow Restores with Tape

The IT staff at Nammo Talley backs up nearly 1.8TB of data each week and performs full backups each weekend to ensure that computing resources are maximized and its network operates at peak efficiency. But when backups began going beyond the weekend backup window and into the workweek, the time was right to look at alternatives to tape.

"We decided to search for a new approach to backup to reduce our backup and restore times. We looked at products from all the leading vendors and eventually chose ExaGrid based on the strength of its data deduplication technology and the fact that it worked well with Backup Exec," said Ted Green, network engineer at Nammo Talley.

ExaGrid Provides Solid Data Deduplication to Reduce Data and Maximize Storage Capacity

Nammo Talley installed the ExaGrid system in its Mesa, Arizona datacenter. The ExaGrid system works alongside the company's existing backup application, Symantec Backup Exec, to back up and protect all the company's data from its Mesa datacenter as well as its facilities in Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Utah.

"Tight integration with Backup Exec was an absolute requirement for any solution we chose, and the ExaGrid system works seamlessly with it," said Green. "In addition, the ExaGrid was cost effective. We were able to purchase a smaller system because its data deduplication technology reduces the amount of data we store. We've been very pleased with the ExaGrid's data deduplication performance. Our backups are faster, and we are able to retain lots of data on the system."

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 byte-level data deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

Backup Times Reduced by Two-Thirds, Restores in an Instant

Since installing the ExaGrid system, Green reports that the company's backup times have been reduced by nearly two-thirds and restores are now considerably faster than with tape.

"Our full backups used to take three days with tape, but with the ExaGrid, they've

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been reduced to one day," said Green. "That in itself saves us lots of time, and we no longer have to worry about going beyond our backup window. Also, our restores are far faster with the ExaGrid. All our data is online, and we can do restores in an instant. We used to have to find the correct tape, catalog it, and wait for it to search. It took a long time. Now, we have all our data at our fingertips in case we need it."

Fast Setup, Proactive Customer Support

Green installed the ExaGrid system himself using the supplied documentation and worked with ExaGrid's customer support via WebEx to complete the setup.

"The installation was fairly simple and straightforward, and ExaGrid's customer support team was there with me during the entire process," commented Green. "The support team is really phenomenal. They're always reachable by phone or via email, and they're extremely helpful. If my ExaGrid support engineer doesn't know the answer to a question, he'll track down the right answer."

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.

Flexibility to Add Additional Capacity or Second System for Enhanced Disaster Recovery

ExaGrid's GRID computing software makes the system highly scalable, and when plugged into a switch, different sized configurations can be mixed and matched into a single GRID system with capacities of up to a 100TB full backup plus retention. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across appliances is automatic.

"The ExaGrid is a very flexible solution and it will serve us well into the future. We can easily add capacity if our backup demands grow," said Green. "Also, we currently back up our ExaGrid system to tape, but we can install a second ExaGrid system offsite to improve disaster recovery at some point in the future to further reduce or even eliminate it.

"We've been able to really streamline our backup processes with ExaGrid. Our backups are now completed within our specified backup windows and restores are nearly instantaneous. It's a great solution," he said.

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.

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. ExaGrid's byte-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. 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.

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**.