ExaGrid Earns High Marks at SUNY Cortland

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

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Jim Durr
Systems Administrator
SUNY Cortland

Customer Overview

Spanning 191 acres atop one of the rolling hills in central New York's "City of Seven Valleys," the State University of New York College at Cortland was founded in 1868 as the Cortland Normal School. The original campus, located in downtown Cortland, was destroyed by a fire in 1919. The present campus opened in 1923. Over the decades, the campus expanded and in 1941, by an act of the legislature and the Board of Regents, the institution officially became a four-year college providing courses leading to the bachelor's degree. In 1948, Cortland became a founding member of the State University of New York.

Failing IT Infrastructure Led to Slow, Inconsistent Backups

SUNY Cortland's IT department had been struggling with its aging tape-based backup infrastructure for quite some time.

"Our backups were taking increasingly longer to complete, failing, and timing out. Workarounds became time-consuming such as breaking up backup jobs into smaller subsets and the like," said Jim Durr, systems administrator at SUNY Cortland.

The university remedied the situation with the purchase of a two-site disk-based backup system with data deduplication system from ExaGrid. The second site enables replication from the first site, providing for disaster recovery. The ExaGrid system works along with the college's existing backup application, Symantec Backup Exec.

Data Deduplication Approach Reduces Disk Space, Maximizes Efficiency

The ExaGrid system 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.

Fast Installation, Helpful Customer Support

Durr said that installation was fairly simple. They mounted the appliance and worked with ExaGrid's customer support engineer help them with some network issues on their end.

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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.

Scalability to Meet Future Backup Demands

The ExaGrid system can easily be expanded to accommodate more data. 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 130TB 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.

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 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**.

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