# The Evidence for Disk-based Backup Points Straight to ExaGrid at Stradley Ronon

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>
> **Jamie Gianna**
> **Director of IT**
> **Stradley Ronon**

## Customer Overview

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young is a Philadelphia-based law firm with over 180 attorneys. Since 1926, Stradley Ronon has worked with publicly and privately held corporations, health care and nonprofit organizations, small businesses, entrepreneurs and individuals.

## Growing Backup Window Begins to Affect Users

As a fast growing law firm with six offices in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the IT department at Stradley Ronon was grappling with how to effectively backup increasing amounts of data. With large applications such as litigation support software, and large files such as in-house video depositions and briefs as well as critical intellectual property to protect, the IT department had been protecting its data with a tape library system. However, nightly backups were taking eight hours or more, and were beginning to extend into the work day.

With 750 GB of mission-critical data to backup each night and a full backup of 2 TB of data each weekend, the IT department at Stradley Ronon was using 14 tapes a week and rotating the tapes to a secure facility for disaster recovery.

"Our tape backups would start at midnight and wouldn't finish until after eight o'clock in the morning. It began to affect the users on our network and we knew we had to look for a new way to do backups," said Jamie Gianna, director of IT for Stradley Ronon.

## Seeking a Cost-Effective, Scalable Solution

To alleviate its growing backup window and to reduce the amount of time its staff was spending dealing with tape, the IT department at Stradley Ronon began seeking an alternate solution.

"We were at a point where we were struggling to maintain a level of service to our users. After looking at solutions from several vendors, we chose ExaGrid's Disk-based Backup system because it was the most cost-effective solution, it would reduce our backup window, and it gave us the scalability we needed to address our growth issues," said Gianna.

"No other vendor offered a solution like ExaGrid at a price point that was even comparable."

"ExaGrid provides a great return on investment, and the system works as advertised. With ExaGrid, we no longer have costs associated with tape, our backups and restores are much faster, and our administrator can spend his time focusing on issues other than backups," said Gianna.

After installing the ExaGrid system, the IT department at Stradley Ronon has seen a dramatic reduction in its backup window, and its entire backup process has been reduced from eight hours each night to less than six hours.

"With ExaGrid, restores are also significantly faster and much easier, and that in itself is a cost savings," said Gianna. "With tape, you have to go find the tapes to restore, load the right one, and then restore it. With ExaGrid, we just point and click to restore."

## The Advantages of Byte-level Data De-duplication

"ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication technology is fantastic. Because the ExaGrid

only saves the data that has changed, our backups and restores are faster and the backups take up significantly less disk space than before," said Gianna.

ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication technology stores only the changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies, reducing the amount of disk space needed to at least 20 to 1, and resulting in a solution that is just 25 to 30 percent the cost of SATA storage.

ExaGrid is extremely cost effective as an offsite system because the byte-level data de-duplication technology only moves changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth. The costs associated with tape handling, shipment, and storage are significantly reduced or eliminated.

To simplify its disaster recovery process, Stradley Ronon has a primary site ExaGrid system at its Philadelphia office and a second-site system at another office forty miles away in Malvern, Pennsylvania.

"ExaGrid works seamlessly with our existing backup application, Symantec Backup Exec™," said Gianna. "The fact that we didn't have to purchase additional software or learn new applications further increased the cost savings," 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.

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.

## Cost-effective, Scalable Data Protection

ExaGrid's turnkey disk-based backup system combines high quality SATA drives with byte-level data de-duplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication technology stores only the changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies, reducing the amount of disk space needed to at least 20 to 1, and resulting in a solution that is 25 to 30% the cost of standard SATA drives.

ExaGrid is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications, so organizations can retain their investment in existing applications.

ExaGrid can be used at a primary site and at a second site to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with a live data repository or for disaster recovery. When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

**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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