The Energy Authority (TEA) is the strategic partner of choice for public power. Through the customized application of bilateral power trading, risk management, power supply management, RTO trading, and natural gas trading services, TEA is currently collaborating with public power utilities nationwide to help them optimize the value of their generation and load portfolio in wholesale energy markets in a manner that is consistent with each utility’s unique risk tolerances. Established in 1997, TEA is headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida, with offices in Seattle (Bellevue), Washington, and Portland, Oregon.

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**Customer Overview**

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**Search for Scalable Backup Solution**

The Energy Authority (TEA) is a data-intensive business where solid, consistent backups are paramount. When the company’s rapidly growing data came close to exceeding the capacity of its disk-based backup system, TEA’s IT staff realized that the system couldn’t be upgraded and began looking for a new solution.

“We were looking at a ‘rip and replace’ situation with our old disk-based backup solution because it simply wasn’t expandable,” said Scott Follick, IT manager, service delivery and support for TEA. “We needed a new scalable backup solution that could deliver the capacity we needed along with the scalability necessary to grow along with our backup requirements.”

ExaGrid uses a GRID-based configuration, where each appliance contains processing power, memory, bandwidth, and disk. When the system needs to expand, additional appliance nodes are attached to the GRID, bringing with them additional processing power, memory, bandwidth, and disk. This type of configuration allows the system to maintain all the aspects of performance as the amount of data grows, and you only pay for the amount of processing power, memory and bandwidth as you need it. In addition, as new ExaGrid appliance nodes are added to the GRID, the ExaGrid automatically load balances available capacity, maintaining a virtual pool of storage that is shared across the GRID.

**ExaGrid Delivers Superior Price/Performance, Seamless Scalability**

After looking at solutions from ExaGrid, Quantum and EMC Data Domain, TEA chose the ExaGrid system based on price and scalability.

“We looked at several different solutions, and the ExaGrid system was the clear price/performance winner,” said Follick. “We also were impressed with its scalability and the way we could grow the system over time without the need to do a complete replacement.”

**Post-Process Data Deduplication Speeds Backups and Restores**

TEA uses the ExaGrid system to back up and protect its SQL and Oracle RMAN data and will be integrating the system with its backup application, CommVault Simpana in the coming months. The firm installed a primary ExaGrid system in its Jacksonville datacenter and a second system offsite in Atlanta for disaster recovery.

“One of the things we liked about the ExaGrid solution was its data deduplication approach. We looked carefully at different

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**Key Benefits:**

- Superior price/performance
- GRID architecture and scalability negate future ‘rip and replace’
- Deduplication approach provides faster backup performance and quick restores
- Reliable system ‘just runs’
types of deduplication technology, and we liked that
the ExaGrid system backs up the data to a landing zone
before the deduplication process begins, so we get better
performance and restores are faster,” Follick said. “We’re
currently seeing data deduplication ratios of 9:1 for Oracle
data and 7:1 for SQL.”

ExaGrid combines standard compression along with zone-
level 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 zone-level data
deduplication technology moves only the changes from
backup to backup, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

**Fast, Simple Installation and Management**

Follick said that installing the ExaGrid system was simple and
straightforward.

“I worked with our ExaGrid customer support engineer
to install the system and we were able to get it up and
running fairly quickly. It really is a ‘set it and forget it’ type
of technology. I get a daily report with details on the state
of each backup job and ExaGrid reaches out and notifies
me if there’s a problem with the system. I’m not manning or
managing the device every day – it just runs,” he said. “We
also have a good relationship with our support engineer. He’s
proactive and knowledgeable and is a good resource for us.”

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 in Just Minutes**

“We’ve expanded the ExaGrid system at our primary site, and
we’re planning to expand it in our disaster recovery site within
the next 30 days. It’s incredibly simple to scale the system.
Once the unit is racked up and we assign an IP address,
ExaGrid support takes over and finishes the setup. It takes
only a few minutes,” said Follick.

Follick said that installing the ExaGrid system was the right
decision for TEA.

“We have a great deal of confidence in the ExaGrid system. It’s
rock-solid and it’s easily scalable, so we can grow the system as
our backup requirements grow,” he said.

**Intelligent Data Protection**

ExaGrid’s turn-key disk-based backup system combines
high quality disk 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 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 backing
up to straight disk. 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.

For more information about ExaGrid, please visit us at
www.exagrid.com or call us at 1-800-868-6985.