Enterprises faced with rapidly growing backup demands and ever shrinking windows of opportunity urgently need to rethink their data protection strategy to stay ahead. ExaGrid has the answer. Its deduplication appliances deliver a smart, scale-out, backup data retention solution, offering low upfront and ongoing costs with the purchase of extra capacity, as backup volumes increase.

One important advantage of this approach is that each additional appliance is a complete system with CPUs, memory, networking, disks, and a disk cache landing zone so that expansion won’t impede performance. The ExaGrid price protection is another winner because ongoing maintenance costs are pegged at no more than 3 per cent per year and the price you pay for your first appliance will be the same for additional units throughout the following five years.

On review is the ExaGrid flagship EX63000E. It’s a 4U appliance offering truly enormous storage potential with a full backup capacity of 63TB; it can scale up to 32 appliances, offering a total of 2PB. Capacity can also be tailored to your budget as the ExaGrid architecture allows you to mix and match any appliance models into a single scale-out system.

Traditional data deduplication techniques can hit backup and restore performance hard, but ExaGrid has developed an exclusive method to prevent this: its appliances provide a landing zone where data is written without being deduplicated. The advantages are manifold for backup performance - by avoiding inline data deduplication, particularly for VM boots, the most recent backups are stored in unduplicated format to avoid a lengthy data deduplication rehydration process. This allows ExaGrid to claim an industry-leading ingest rate for the EX63000E of up to 432TB/hour for a 2PB full backup.

During backup operations, data is deduplicated and stored in an appliance retention space, the landing zone. It will be held up to a specified capacity where you can determine how long to retain data that might be required for fast restore.

ExaGrid is very flexible and supports 25 leading backup applications, including Commvault, Veritas NetBackup, IBM Spectrum Protect, Oracle RMAN, Veeam, HYCU and Zerto. Seamless integration with these applications allows ExaGrid to support higher-level functions such as Veritas OST, Veeam Data Mover and Oracle RMAN channels.

Essential disaster recovery is also provided as ExaGrid replicates data to other appliances in secondary data centres and to public clouds such as Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure. Uniquely, ExaGrid is an asymmetrical solution and only requires a repository at the remote site that is typically half the size of the primary site.

Time-poor support staff will approve of ExaGrid’s swift deployment. The appliances are 100 per cent customer installable, offering typical unboxing to implementation times of around 30 minutes to 3 hours, with same day initial backups.

The EX63000E is indeed simple to install: you point a web browser at it, configure the interfaces that will present storage and create a new scale-out site, or add it to an existing one. Storage is presented as CIFS, NFS, shares OST or Veeam Data Mover and creation is swift, as you select the host appliance, choose a backup application from the drop-down list and apply an access security policy. The main ExaGrid web console lists all sites and appliances in its left pane and provides graphical status views of landing zone and retention space utilisation. You can view reports on deduplication ratios per share and receive automated reports and email alerts.

Along with easy deployment ExaGrid provides top level support, as customers are always assigned Level 2 senior technicians. With ExaGrid on their side, IT staff can stop worrying about storage and focus on managing their backup applications.

**Product:** EX63000E  
**Supplier:** ExaGrid  
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**Price:** Contact a local reseller or integrator