

VW Credit, Inc. Drives Better Backups with ExaGrid

Customer Overview

VW Credit, Inc. (VCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Volkswagen Group of America, Inc., was founded in 1981 as the financial service arm of Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. VCI, a captive finance company, services Volkswagen, Audi and Bentley retail customers and dealers as Volkswagen Credit, Audi Financial Services, and Bentley Financial Services. The company provides competitive financial products and services to dealers and their customers throughout the United States including retail leasing, retail financing, and balloon financing, along with wholesale financing for new and used vehicles. VCI is headquartered in Herndon, Virginia.

Long Backup Times With Tape

The Windows Server Team at VW Credit, Inc. is responsible for backing up over 180 GB of data a day, with a total weekly backup of 15 TB of data. Long backup times had become the norm, but when weekly full backups began pushing beyond 72 hours, the organization began looking for a new solution to speed its backups and streamline processes.

"We needed a new solution that would reduce our backup times and restores. We also knew that we wanted to get away from tape and move towards disk. Tape was such a hassle. There's just so much management and administration involved with it," said Dean Bolton, network systems engineer for VW Credit, Inc.

"We tested solutions from both ExaGrid and Data Domain side by side and chose the ExaGrid based on its post-process approach to data deduplication and its overall simplicity. The ExaGrid also had the best price/performance."

ExaGrid Systems in Multiple Sites Virtually Eliminate Tape, Improve Disaster Recovery and Backup Times

VW Credit, Inc. installed ExaGrid systems in five locations using a hub and spoke configuration. The company's Libertyville, IL data center acts as the hub, and additional systems were installed in Portland, OR, Herndon, VA, Auburn Hills, MI, and Montreal. VW Credit, Inc. also plans to install more ExaGrids at additional sites in the future. The systems work along with VW Credit, Inc. existing backup application, Symantec's NetBackup.

With the ExaGrid system, VW Credit, Inc. has been able to nearly eliminate tape. "Our backups are far, far faster and they're getting better all the time. For some of our backup jobs, we're seeing a 75 percent improvement. That has made a big

impact here," said Bolton.

"And restores are lightening fast. Besides the fact that we don't have to deal with tracking down tapes and searching for a file, we now have all this data available to us at our fingertips. We simply initiate a restore and it's done. Just like that. It's so much faster and more dependable."

Data Deduplication Provides 10:1 Reduction

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.

"The ExaGrid system does a fantastic job at reducing our data. Our dedupe ratios average about 10:1. The nice thing is that the deduplication is built right into the system and the ExaGrid does the dirty work. We didn't need to become deduplication experts," said Bolton.

"As a company, ExaGrid has done a very good job at working with partners like Symantec to ensure that the products work together optimally, and you can see that in the technology, the ease of use and in our deduplication results."

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Dean Bolton
Network Systems Engineer
VW Credit, Inc.



Easy Setup, Industry-leading Customer Support

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.

"The implementation and installation process was very straightforward. It really was easy to get the system up and running. It's a simple but powerful system that really does work as advertised," said Bolton.

"We've been very impressed with customer support. We have a dedicated support engineer who is very responsive, and on the occasions we've had to talk to other members of the support staff, we've found them knowledgeable, helpful and proactive. We couldn't ask for anything more from support."

GRID Architecture Delivers Smooth Scalability

As VW Credit, Inc.'s backup needs grow, the ExaGrid system can scale easily to meet increased demands. 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 servers is automatic.

"The ExaGrid system is highly scalable so we're assured that it will serve us well today and into the future," said Bolton.

"We've been very pleased with the ExaGrid. It has reduced our reliance on tape, made our backups and restores faster and it's given us a greater deal of confidence in our backups."

ExaGrid and Symantec NetBackup

Symantec's NetBackup delivers high performance data protection that scales to protect the largest UNIX, Windows, Linux and NetWare environments. With complete protection from remote office to center to vault, NetBackup offers a single console for all backup and recovery operations. Organizations using NetBackup can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as NetBackup, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running NetBackup, 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.

Intelligent 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 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.

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 deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

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

ABOUT EXAGRID

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.

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