

ExaGrid puts ARRL on the Right Frequency

Customer Overview

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national membership association for Amateur Radio operators, and was founded in 1914 to meet the needs of thousands of Amateur Radio operators – hams – in the United States. Today, ARRL has over 148,000 members and is the largest organization of radio amateurs in the US. Headquartered in Newington, Connecticut, ARRL is a not-for-profit organization with a staff of 100. Its headquarters station, W1AW, transmits bulletins of interest to radio amateurs as well as Morse code practice sessions. The ARRL also coordinates an extensive field organization, which includes volunteers who provide technical information for radio amateurs and public service activities. As a critical link to the thousands of Amateur Radio enthusiasts nationwide, ARRL takes data protection seriously. ARRL began looking for a disk-based backup system because its IT department found tape both time consuming and cumbersome. They chose ExaGrid.

ExaGrid Helps ARRL be Prepared if Disaster Strikes

For disaster recovery purposes, ARRL's ExaGrid system is located across the parking lot from its headquarters building in the radio station W1AW.

The radio station is connected to the headquarters building with a 1000MB fiber and has a UPS generator. Because ham radio provides critical communications services in the event of an emergency, the station also has a diesel generator with two weeks worth of fuel to ensure it can be up and running at all times.

ARRL uses ExaGrid to backup critical data from three NAS filers located in its headquarters building. The filers contain Exchange information, user shares, and data from ARRL's graphics and production department, which creates a monthly magazine for members. When the filers create snapshots of data several times a day the data is sent to ExaGrid for backup. ExaGrid serves as a disk-based backup target for ARRL's existing backup system running CA® BrightStor® ARCserve® Backup.

BrightStor ARCserve Backup provides a complete, flexible and integrated backup and recovery solution for Windows, NetWare, Linux and UNIX environments. For large datacenters, individual departments and small to medium sized businesses (SMB), BrightStor

ARCserve Backup protects and helps ensure the availability of all critical applications and data.

The IT staff at ARRL was backing up to tape five times a day and carrying the tapes over to a safe located in ARRL's radio station in a separate building next to the organization's headquarters. "We were backing up 25 tapes a week," said Andrew Shefrin, PC/Network Support. "After each backup we had to swap out the tapes, and record the contents of each one. Then, each morning we had to make sure they ran successfully and then carry them over to the radio station. It's pretty cumbersome. ExaGrid cuts out all of the physical tape handling." ARRL has also seen a reduction in its backup window. "Using tape, backups would take anywhere from four to six hours depending upon the size of the job. I would start the jobs at 3:30 p.m., and barring any problems, they would be completed when I got in the next morning," said Shefrin. "With ExaGrid, the backups take much less time, and it's less invasive. When the jobs start, I don't have to change tapes, I don't have to move old tapes around and decide whether to rewrite over old tapes. It's all taken care of with ExaGrid."

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PC/Network Support
American Radio Relay League

Reliability is also extremely important to ARRL. "ExaGrid is a very solid system," Shefrin said. "It's been very reliable and it's very easy to use." Because ExaGrid works with leading backup systems, ARRL was able to use ExaGrid with ARCserve and preserve its existing investment. "We work with ExaGrid right through our ARCserve backup system, so it really is seamless for us," Shefrin said.

Intelligent Data Protection

ExaGrid's turnkey disk-based backup system combines high quality SATA drives with byte-level delta data reduction, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's delta data reduction 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 30% the cost of standard SATA drives.

ExaGrid is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications such as BrightStor ARCserve, so organizations can retain their investment in existing applications. BrightStor ARCserve Backup protects and helps ensure the availability of all critical applications and data. It features the highest levels of hardware support for even the largest devices, innovative support for disk technologies, storage area network (SAN) and network attached storage (NAS) environments and reliable protection of enterprise class databases and messaging systems.

Working with the backup application, 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 delta technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

ABOUT EXAGRID

ExaGrid is the leader in cost-effective disk-based backup solutions. A scalable system that works with existing backup applications, ExaGrid is ideal for mid-market and small enterprise 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 reduction technology for all previous backups. Customers can deploy ExaGrid at a primary site and at a second site to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with a live data repository or for disaster recovery.

ABOUT CA

CA (NYSE: CA), one of the world's largest information technology (IT) management software companies, unifies and simplifies the management of enterprise-wide IT. Founded in 1976, CA is headquartered in Islandia, N.Y., and serves customers in more than 140 countries. For more information, please visit www.ca.com

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