

AMERICAN SYSTEMS Streamlines Backups and Enhances Disaster Recovery Operations with ExaGrid

Customer Overview

Founded in 1975, AMERICAN SYSTEMS is one of the largest employee-owned companies in the United States. Based in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Chantilly, Virginia, the company provides systems engineering, technical, and managed services to government and private sector customers. AMERICAN SYSTEMS has approximately 1,500 employees in 21 office locations and more than 125 field sites. Within the government sector, AMERICAN SYSTEMS' focus is on Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR); acquisition and logistics, readiness, national security and citizen safety. On the commercial side, the company focuses on financial services, healthcare, retail, travel, telecommunications and energy. For more information, please visit www.AmericanSystems.com

Data Growth, Disaster Recovery Plan, RTO Leads to IT Worries

As a fast growing professional, technical and IT services supplier, it is critical that AMERICAN SYSTEMS have a comprehensive data protection and disaster recovery program in place to ensure that the company's data is always available. But even though the company's IT staff backed up to tape each night and sent the tapes offsite, they were still concerned about their ability to fully protect and restore the company's data in the event of an emergency. The IT department began looking at ways to improve different areas of data protection, focusing on two areas: offsite disaster recovery and local backups.

"Our company had grown significantly and we needed to bring our data protection program up a few notches," said Jon Mahlbacher, network engineer at AMERICAN SYSTEMS. "We learned about ExaGrid while doing research on how to improve our local backups and decided that it would not only be a nice fit for daily backups, but it would also allow us to meet the Recovery Time Objectives (RTO) we wanted to implement in disaster recovery plan."

Two-site ExaGrid System Streamlines Local Backups, Provides for Disaster Recovery

AMERICAN SYSTEMS purchased a two-site ExaGrid system, placing one at its headquarters in Chantilly, Virginia, and the other at its disaster recovery facility located in Denver. The two sites are connected via secure tunnels, and the ExaGrid works alongside AMERICAN SYSTEMS' existing backup application, Symantec Backup Exec™.

ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication technology stores changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies.

This unique approach reduces the disk space required by 10 to 50:1 or more, delivering unparalleled cost savings and performance. ExaGrid delivers fast backup performance because data is written directly to disk, and data de-duplication is performed post-process after the data is stored to reduce data. When used at a second site for disaster recovery, ExaGrid is extremely efficient because its byte-level data de-duplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

Each night, AMERICAN SYSTEMS backs up its file and SQL database to the ExaGrid system at its Chantilly headquarters and then the data is replicated to its second ExaGrid system at its disaster recovery facility in Denver. The company has a three-tiered data protection plan where its most critical data is continuously replicated in real time to its disaster recovery site, backed up to the ExaGrid system each night and duplicated to tape. Non-critical data is still backed up to tape.

"The ExaGrid plays a key role in our backup and disaster recovery plan, and we rest easy knowing that our data is protected," said Mahlbacher. "The ExaGrid is highly reliable, which is critical in our disaster recovery operations, and it has also streamlined our backups and made restores faster and easier."

Mahlbacher continued, "Customer support was also a key factor in choosing ExaGrid. ExaGrid's customer support team isn't a huge bureaucracy and doesn't treat you like a number.

"We looked at several different systems and even considered building our own, but no solution could match the ExaGrid in terms of price, data de-duplication and support. It all came together when we realized we could deploy a two-site ExaGrid system and improve the speed and reliability of our local backups while gaining the high availability we were looking for in our disaster recovery plan."

Jon Mahlbacher
Network Engineer
AMERICAN SYSTEMS



They are extremely responsive and bend over backwards to resolve any issue that comes up. Also, the fact that they monitor our system remotely gives us an extra added level of comfort that we didn't get with other vendors.

"The ExaGrid system is rock-solid and we're confident that our data is protected each and every day," said Mahlbacher.

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.

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 10 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 de-duplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

For more information about ExaGrid, please visit our website 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 scalable system that works with existing backup applications, ExaGrid 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 a primary site and at a second site to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with a live data repository or for disaster recovery.

ExaGrid Systems, Inc.

2000 West Park Drive
Westborough, MA 01581

1 800.868.6985
www.ExaGrid.com

