

# Aspirus Creates Healthier Backups and Restores with ExaGrid

## Customer Overview

Aspirus is a community-guided health system providing leading heart, cancer, GI, and spine and neurological care. The facility serves patients through Aspirus Wausau Hospital, more than 30 primary and specialty clinics, affiliated hospitals and physician network, nursing home care, and regional home health and hospice services in 14 Wisconsin counties and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

## Tired of Tape

The IT department at Aspirus was tired of dealing with tape and long backup windows and restore processes.

“Backing up to tape is a very labor-intensive process,” said Mark Chickering, server analyst at Aspirus. “We were experiencing continuous problems with tape and our tape library and were having difficulty meeting our backup window. Restores were also difficult and could take days of our time.”

Aspirus decided to move to a disk-based backup system and purchased a 10TB ExaGrid system to back up its critical data. The ExaGrid system works in conjunction with Aspirus’ existing Veritas NetBackup™ backup application. The healthcare system is currently in the process of expanding the use of its ExaGrid system to protect additional information.

“We were initially drawn to the ExaGrid system because of its price,” said Chickering. “It really was a great value and it gave us all the features we were looking for to make our backups more efficient. Setting up the ExaGrid system was very easy and it works seamlessly with NetBackup. It’s intuitive to use and we were up and running quickly,”

Aspirus uses the ExaGrid system to back up all of its mission critical data, such as its Epic Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system, its Lawson human resources application, SQL databases and data files.

## “Magic” Data De-duplication Reduces Storage Needs

“ExaGrid’s data de-duplication works like magic and it does a phenomenal job at reducing our data,” said Chickering. “It really helps us keep our storage needs down, especially with the data from our Epic system, and it increases our data retention and makes our restores significantly faster.”

ExaGrid combines last backup compression along with data de-duplication, 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 de-duplication is performed post-process after the data is stored to reduce data. When used to replicate data between two or more sites, ExaGrid systems are extremely efficient because only the byte-level changes are moved across the WAN, so only about 1/50th of the data needs to traverse the WAN.

## High Performance Restores

Aspirus is now able to keep four months of backups on its ExaGrid system so that its most critical data is ready to restore at any time. Chickering estimates that restores are ten times faster with the ExaGrid system.

“The first experience I had with restoring a very large file from the ExaGrid system was a real eye-opener,” he said. “I was able to restore the file right from NetBackup and it took only two hours instead of the 12 hours it would have taken with tape. With tape, the file would have had to be restored from multiple tapes in a multiplex situation. With ExaGrid, it was simply point-and-click.”

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Mark Chickering  
Server Analyst  
Aspirus Wausau

## Scalability to Meet Future Needs

"Our data is growing and we plan to back up more of our systems onto additional ExaGrid systems in the near future. The fact that ExaGrid is so scalable is a definite plus. All we have to do is rack new units and plug them into a switch to gain additional capacity," said Chickering.

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 60TB 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.

## Top Notch Customer Support

"I would place ExaGrid's customer support among the top five percent of companies I deal with on a day-to-day basis," said Chickering. "The support technicians at ExaGrid are incredibly responsive and knowledgeable about their own product and about backup processes in general. I have a high degree of confidence in them."

## ExaGrid and NetBackup

Symantec's Veritas 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 Veritas 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 de-duplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

For more information about ExaGrid, please visit [www.ExaGrid.com](http://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.

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