

# Concord Academy Learns about Cost-effective Backups with ExaGrid

## Customer Overview

Concord Academy is a private high school for students in grades 9-12. Founded in 1922, the school has 360 boarding and day students and is located in Concord, Massachusetts.

## Slow, Outdated System Led to Long Backup Times

The IT department at Concord Academy had been backing up data to disk but its lengthy backups led the school to seek a faster, more effective solution that could streamline its backup processes. The school's lengthy backups were beginning to cause system performance problems and backup jobs often couldn't be completed because files were in use.

"We were trying to back up too much data with a system that was outdated and slow," said Jared Falcon, systems and network administrator at Concord Academy. "We really needed a solution that would handle all the aspects of our backups efficiently."

## Two-site ExaGrid System Solves Backup Issues, Provides Disaster Recovery

After looking at SAN-based solutions, Concord Academy selected ExaGrid. The school purchased two ExaGrid systems, placing one at its datacenter on campus and the other in a co-location facility several miles away in Waltham, Mass. The ExaGrid system works in conjunction with Concord Academy's existing backup application, Veritas NetBackup™.

"The ExaGrid system is a device that is purpose-built for backups, and it offered all the features we were looking for in a single package," said Falcon. "With the ExaGrid, we were able to dramatically shorten our backup times, increase retention and improve the speed of our restores. And because the system was cost-effective to acquire, it made it even more attractive to purchase a second system for disaster recovery."

## Backup Times Significantly Reduced, Restores Painless

Concord Academy's IT department had been performing a combination of full and incremental backups each night, with backup jobs occasionally lasting a full 24 hours. The backups were sent to disk and then copied off to tape each week for disaster recovery. With the two-site ExaGrid system, Concord Academy is able to replicate its data offsite and completely eliminate tape.

The IT staff now performs incremental backups each night and full backups each weekend. The nightly incremental backups now take under an hour and weekly full backups take three hours.

"ExaGrid enabled us to reduce our backup windows and provided data de-duplication so that we could increase the amount of data we keep locally," said Falcon. "We are now able to keep three months of backups on our ExaGrid system and we still have room for growth. Restoring data from the ExaGrid is simple, fast and painless."

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.

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Jared Falcon  
Systems and Network  
Administrator  
Concord Academy

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. Additional site licenses are not required for second site ExaGrid systems.

### Easy Scalability to Meet Future Needs

As its data grows, Concord Academy can easily expand the ExaGrid system to meet increased backup demands.

"When it comes time to scale the ExaGrid system, we can simply add another unit and gain additional capacity. The ExaGrid has a nice growth path," said Falcon.

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 60TB. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

"The ExaGrid met all of our backup requirements, and we were able to dramatically shorten our backup times, increase retention and improve the speed of our restores," said Falcon. "It's a plug-and-play device that solved all of our backup problems."

### 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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