

DeSoto County Chancery Clerk Cuts Backup and Restore Times, Reduces Reliance on Tape with ExaGrid

Customer Overview

Located in the State of Mississippi, DeSoto County is a unique blend of a metropolitan market mixed with traditional rural life. DeSoto County has grown into a destination county for individuals, families and corporations. So, it's no surprise that DeSoto County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. The Chancery Clerk's primary duties lie within the Chancery Court. Elected at large for a four year term, the Chancery Clerk is responsible for attending all sessions of Chancery Court and keeping all minute books in which records and directions of the chancellors and proceedings of the court are kept. However, the Chancery Clerk's responsibilities extend well beyond the Chancery Court including management of land and all court records.

Long and Unreliable Backups to Tape Strain IT Department

DeSoto County's Chancery Clerk's IT staff had been backing up the departments data to tape but had become frustrated with long backup times, unreliable backups and daily tape management.

"It had become difficult to get good backups every day with tape," said Jeff Brown, Computer Programmer for DeSoto County's Chancery Clerk's Office. "It seemed like we were constantly running into issues. Every day we would come in wondering if our backups were completed, or if we'd even be able to restore a file," said Brown.

ExaGrid's Post Process Data De-duplication Speeds Backups and Restores, Maximizes Disk Space

DeSoto County's Chancery Clerk's Office IT staff began to look for a solution that could reduce its day-to-day reliance on tape. After looking at several products on the market, the County purchased a two-site disk-based backup system from ExaGrid. The second site is located in Southaven, MS, about 12 miles from its main data center, and is used for disaster recovery purposes.

"We looked at several different approaches to disk-based backup and we really were impressed with the ExaGrid system. We liked ExaGrid's post-process data deduplication and felt that it would provide faster backups than tape," said Brown.

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 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.

"We've been extremely happy with the ExaGrid. It saves us a tremendous amount of time each day because we no longer have to worry about our backups. The ExaGrid system has made my job much easier. Restoring data is now a painless process. With tape, we were constantly worried about the backups either failing to run or the tapes becoming damaged," said Brown.

Since installing the ExaGrid system, DeSoto County's Chancery Clerk's Office has been able to significantly reduce the length of its backups each night and can now meet its backup window goals.

"The ExaGrid system saves us a tremendous amount of time each day because we no longer have to worry about our backups. We can now focus our time on our daily responsibilities, thus saving the taxpayers of DeSoto County more money during these tough economic times."

Jeff Brown
Computer Programmer
DeSoto County Chancery
Clerk's Office

Easy to Install and Manage, Industry Leading Customer Support

The ExaGrid system was designed to be easy to install and manage, with an intuitive interface designed for fast setup and straightforward integration with existing backup applications.

“Setting up the ExaGrid was simple and took no time at all, and we’ve found it extremely easy to use,” said Brown.

ExaGrid’s industry-leading customer support team is staffed by trained, in-house engineers who are dedicated to individual accounts. The ExaGrid system is fully supported and was designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components.

“The level of support we have received has been phenomenal. We were extremely impressed that we were assigned to a specific engineer who is familiar with our installation. Our support engineer has been proactive, knowledgeable and easy to reach, said Brown.

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 deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid’s byte-level data deduplication technology stores only the changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies, reducing the amount of disk 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. The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications, so organizations can retain their investment in existing applications and processes.

ExaGrid servers can be used at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery. 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 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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