

Derrick Corporation Makes Backups and Restores More Efficient with ExaGrid

Customer Overview

Derrick Corporation is considered the world leader in the design and manufacture of high frequency vibrating machines and screen surfaces used to screen a wide variety of fine materials in the range of 3/8 inch to 400 mesh (10 mm to 38 microns). Derrick screens are designed to address the specific demands of the mining, aggregate, chemical, plastics, wastewater and forest products industries. Derrick employs 300 people and is headquartered in Buffalo, New York.

Long Backup Times, Tape Management Issues

The IT staff at Derrick had grown tired of dealing with long backup times and the daily grind of managing tape. With nightly incremental backups taking 12 to 15 hours and weekly full backups stretching to 48 hours, Derrick's IT department found themselves spending more and more time each day managing backup processes and dealing with issues related to tape. Finally, the staff decided that the time was right to look for a new backup approach that could improve backup times and reduce the amount of staff time spent on backups each day.

ExaGrid Reduces Backup Times, Speeds Restores

After looking at several different solutions, Derrick selected ExaGrid's disk-based backup system to work alongside its existing backup application, Symantec's Backup Exec. The ExaGrid system is located in the company's Buffalo datacenter and is backed up to tape once a month for disaster recovery purposes.

Since installing the ExaGrid system, Derrick's backup times have been significantly reduced. Nightly incremental backups have been reduced from 12 to 15 hours to five hours, and weekly full backup times have been reduced from 48 hours to between 12 to 20 hours.

"Our backups are running far more efficiently now and they're completed correctly each and every night. We also no longer have the hassle of dealing with tape, which probably saves us an hour per day or more," said Chris Firkins, senior network administrator at Derrick Corporation.

Firkins also said that Derrick's IT staff has noticed a big improvement in the amount of time spent on restoring files. The staff often gets requests to restore AutoCAD files that are weeks old, and restoring the data from tape used to take hours. With the ExaGrid system, restoring AutoCAD files takes seconds.

"We can store over sixteen weeks of data on our ExaGrid system, so we have lots of history at our

fingertips. When we need to restore a file we can easily access the information, and the actual restore process takes no time at all. It's far better than digging through tapes," said Firkins.

Data Duplication Maximizes Disk Space

ExaGrid's built in data deduplication technology reduces the amount of data stored on the system to maximize disk space. Derrick's IT staff backs up all of the firm's information to the ExaGrid system, including SQL data from its ERP system and large AutoCAD files. SQL data from Derrick's ERP system is dumped directly to the ExaGrid system and has a 25.63:1 deduplication ratio, and AutoCAD images are deduplicated 15.351:1.

"ExaGrid's data deduplication technology is extremely effective at reducing the amount of data stored on the system," said Firkins.

"We're very impressed at the deduplication ratios we've been seeing, especially with our SQL dumps. Our SQL data backs up so much faster to the ExaGrid than to tape. We can now back up our main, live database in about 30 minutes."

ExaGrid combines last backup compression along with data deduplication, 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. ExaGrid is cost effective when a two-site system is used because its data deduplication technology moves only changes between sites, minimizing the amount of bandwidth needed.

"The ExaGrid system enables our staff to be far more efficient because we're not spending so much time on managing backups. It's also saved us money. In fact, we're saving nearly \$800 each month in tape costs alone," said Firkins. "It's been a terrific solution for our company."

Chris Firkins
Senior Network Administrator
Derrick Corporation



Ability to Add Capacity, Second Site System for Disaster Recovery

“The ExaGrid gives us the flexibility to easily add capacity as our backup needs grow, said Firkins. “We can also choose to add a second ExaGrid system in the future to replicate data and improve our disaster recovery efforts. It’s nice to have those options.”

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.

Proactive Support, Reduced Costs with ExaGrid

The ExaGrid system was designed to be easy to use and administer, and all components are fully supported by ExaGrid’s trained, in-house engineers dedicated to individual accounts.

“Our support engineer has been proactive and extremely helpful. He calls to let us know about new software upgrades and things like that, and he also calls whenever he suspects we might have an issue. Any issue we’ve had has always been resolved immediately,” said Firkins. “I can’t say enough about the support we’ve received. It’s been simply awesome.”

Firkins also said that Derrick has realized significant cost savings since moving its backups to ExaGrid.

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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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