

# ENSCO Engineers Faster, More Reliable Backups and Restores with ExaGrid

## Customer Overview

ENSCO, Inc. provides engineering, science and advanced technology solutions for the defense, security, transportation and environment industries. Headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia, ENSCO is a privately owned corporation with \$100 million in revenue and 800 employees. ENSCO's wide range of projects have included designing sophisticated computer models that make NASA launches more reliable, developing monitoring systems that safeguard government facilities and national landmarks, providing safety assurance and operational efficiency for the Federal Railroad Administration and rail industry, and providing mission-critical software development and engineering systems for avionics operations and control.

## Legacy Tape System Led to Serious Backup Problems

The IT staff at ENSCO had been backing up its data to tape for years, but performing backups with its legacy tape backup solution was getting more painful by the day. Nightly incremental and weekend full backups were almost always problematic and unreliable, and the IT staff had to deal with incomplete and lengthy backups on a daily basis.

"We were getting to the point where we needed to start our full backups on Friday night at 5:00 p.m., and we would come in on Monday morning and still have jobs running throughout the day," said Mary Etta Trembly, senior systems engineer at ENSCO.

In addition to lengthy backups, the IT staff at ENSCO also had to deal with incomplete backups caused by bad tapes and failed drives.

"The system was unreliable and was taking a toll on our IT operations because we were spending so much time troubleshooting backups. We knew we had to do something to alleviate the situation before it got to the point where it would negatively impact our operations," said Trembly.

## ExaGrid Delivers Reliable Backups, Instantaneous Restores

After evaluating several solutions, ENSCO chose ExaGrid's disk-based backup solution, and installed systems in each of its datacenters in Florida, Washington, D.C. and New York. The systems work together with the ENSCO's existing backup application, Symantec's Veritas NetBackup™, to protect all of the firm's corporate and engineering data.

The ExaGrid systems currently back up data from 20 servers at both of the company's Florida and Washington D.C. locations, and four servers at its New York facility.

"The ExaGrid system is very straightforward to work with, and it was very easy to set up and to configure," said Trembly. "All I had to do was put the ExaGrid systems on the network, set up a network share, and point the backup job to ExaGrid. There was no extra work involved to get the ExaGrid to work with NetBackup. The best part is that the two products work together seamlessly."

After installing ExaGrid, ENSCO solved its reliability problems and can now complete backups well within its backup windows.

"With the ExaGrid systems, our backups are now reliable and completed on time," said Trembly.

"We've been very impressed with the reliability and stability of the ExaGrid system, and were able to alter our weekend backup schedule because of it. We used to do a full backup every weekend, and after working with the ExaGrid system for a while, we became so comfortable that we decided it was no longer necessary to do our complete, full backup every weekend. Our weekend full backups are now split across two weekends so we're maximizing the data we keep locally on the ExaGrid even further."

Prior to installing ExaGrid, restoring data was a very manual, time consuming process, especially if the file was stored on a tape offsite.

"For us, the biggest area of direct impact has been with restores. They are incredibly fast," said Trembly. "With tape, it would take us one to two hours to perform a file recovery, but with ExaGrid, we can recover and restore a file in seconds. It's made a huge difference for our IT organization and for our users."

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## 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 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](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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