

ExaGrid's Post-process Approach to Data Deduplication Allows the City of Lenexa to Significantly Reduce Backup Time

Customer Overview

The City of Lenexa is located in northeast Kansas, in the central United States of America. It is the fourth most populous city in the county. As a satellite city of Kansas City, Missouri, Lenexa is included in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. It is bordered by the cities of Shawnee to the north, Overland Park to the east, De Soto to the west and Olathe to the south. In July 2009, Lenexa was named the #26 best small town to live in the United States by Money magazine

Growing Redundant Data and Legacy Tape Drive Prove to be Problematic

The City of Lenexa's 10 person IT team is responsible for supporting over 400 employees as well as all of the city's fire and police departments. As the Network Manager for the City of Lenexa, Michael Lawrence and his team are also responsible for ensuring that the city's data is properly backed up every night. However, due to the fact that all of the city's data is backed up in full nightly, their tape drive was proving to be insufficient as the amount of redundant data continued to grow.

"Our backup jobs contained a lot of redundant data," said Michael Lawrence, Network Engineer for the City of Lenexa. "Given that we back up all of our data each and every night and that data was growing daily, we knew that a solution using data deduplication was the path we needed to take," he said.

ExaGrid's Post-process Approach Far Superior to Other Solutions

Lawrence and his team found in their research that ExaGrid's post-process approach to data deduplication was far superior to other disk solutions.

"One of the things we decided on early was that we didn't want a system that used in-line processing to deduplicate the data. We found that the in-line approach would double the amount of actual time to process our backup jobs," said Lawrence.

ExaGrid's byte-level data deduplication technology stores changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies.

This unique approach reduces the disk space required by 10 to 50:1 or more, delivering unparalleled cost savings and performance. ExaGrid delivers 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.

Superior Management and Customer Support, Scalability for the Future

ExaGrid comes packaged as a turnkey appliance and was designed to be easy to deploy and manage and to deliver maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components. All components are fully supported by ExaGrid's trained, in-house engineers dedicated to individual accounts.

As the city's data grows, the ExaGrid can easily be expanded to handle additional data. 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 100TB. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

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Michael Lawrence
Network Architect
City of Lenexa



"We like to plan ahead, and the ExaGrid system will enable us to incrementally expand the system as our data grows," said Lawrence.

"The ExaGrid was cost-effective to acquire, and the fact that we can scale easily and cost-effectively up our existing unit to handle more data will make it an even better value in the long run. I really can't say enough about the system. It has made our backups much more reliable and efficient and we're spending far less time on our backups. The ExaGrid was the best choice."

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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