

## Medina General Hospital Cures Disaster Recovery Blues with ExaGrid

### Customer Overview

Medina General Hospital is a 118-bed healthcare facility in Medina, Ohio. With nearly 1,000 employees, MGH is the seventh largest employer in Medina County, and offers a 24-hour emergency department that serves more than 31,000 people a year, and a full-service family birthing center that delivers almost 900 babies annually. MGH's Brunswick Campus offers a variety of medical services, such as an Immediate Care Center, an imaging center and physical and occupational therapy.

### Protecting Data for Disaster Recovery a Long and Difficult Processes

Having a solid disaster recovery plan was a priority at MGH, but the hospital's IT staff had long been burdened by extensive backup windows and problems with tape. Each week, MGH backed up all of its business data, including its Exchange server, SQL database, shared folders and files and other business documents locally to a server and then backed the server up to tape. The full backups were completed each weekend and the tapes were sent offsite in case they were needed for disaster recovery.

"Our full backups took over 12 hours to complete with tape," said Michael Skrant, MIS operations supervisor at Medina General Hospital. "We had occasional issues with bad tapes, and then we would have to start all over again."

### Expanding Disaster Recovery Capabilities with ExaGrid

The IT staff decided to expand its disaster recovery capabilities and began to look for a system to put offsite that could supplement its in-house backup systems in the event of an emergency.

"We wanted a solution that could be placed offsite and work with Backup Exec™ and the rest of our infrastructure at our main facility," said Skrant. "Also, the solution had to be cost-effective. Keeping within our budget is always a priority."

MGH chose ExaGrid's disk-based backup solution, placing the system fifteen miles away at its Brunswick, Campus. The two facilities are connected via a dark fiber link that had been primarily used to transmit radiology files back and forth between the two facilities. Backup data now travels nightly between the two facilities.

### Byte-level Data De-duplication Reduces Data, Maximizes Retention and Makes Backups Faster

MGH now backs up the data from its Windows-based systems to a server each night, then the data is compressed locally using Symantec's Backup Exec. The compressed data is then sent over the network to the ExaGrid system located in Brunswick. The ExaGrid system reduces the data even further using byte-level data de-duplication.

"ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication is very effective at further reducing our data," said Skrant. "Because it compresses the data and stores only the byte level changes, we are able to maximize the number of backups we keep on the ExaGrid. It's comforting to know that we have many weeks worth of backups on the ExaGrid, and that we can quickly and easily restore data in the event of an emergency."

ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication 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 de-duplication is performed post-process after the data is stored to reduce data.

Since installing ExaGrid, MGH's weekly full backups have been reduced from 12 hours to 4 hours. The facility performs differential backups each night in 20 minutes.

"ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication is very effective at further compressing our data. Because the ExaGrid compresses our data and de-duplicates it at the byte level, we are able to maximize our retention. It's comforting to know that we have many weeks worth of backups on the ExaGrid, and that we could quickly and easily restore data in the event of an emergency."

Michael Skrant  
MIS Operations Supervisor  
Medina General Hospital

"The ExaGrid system has significantly reduced our backup window and we're confident that our data is completely protected and available to us at any time," said Skrant. "As a healthcare facility, we also have to adhere to HIPAA regulations. We are in total compliance today, but it's nice to know that the ExaGrid system is easily expandable so we know that the system can grow if we need additional capacity to meet regulatory needs."

### 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 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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