

Akron, New York School District Reduces Backup Times With ExaGrid's Disk Backup With Deduplication Solution

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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David Maurer
Systems Administrator
Akron Central School District

Customer Overview

Akron Central School District is part of the Eries 1 BOCES in New York. BOCES is an acronym for Board of Cooperative Educational Services, a regional public education service organization. Established in 1948 by the state legislature, a BOCES provides quality, cost-effective educational services to school districts in New York State. There are 37 BOCES statewide with Eries 1 BOCES serving approximately 74,441 students in 20 component school districts surrounding the city of Buffalo.

Organization Frustrated with Lengthy Backups

As data requirements grew so did Akron Central School District's backup windows. Full backups were taking as long as 22 hours to complete over the weekend and at times were unreliable.

"We were maxing out our tape library and we were spending a lot of our time managing all those tapes," said David Maurer, systems administrator for Akron Central School District. "We quickly realized that we needed to find a faster, more scalable solution that could take over our tape backups."

Built-in Data Deduplication Maximizes Use of Disk Space

After considering solutions from several other vendors, Akron Central School District selected ExaGrid's disk-based backup with deduplication system to work alongside the organization's existing backup application Symantec Backup Exec™.

"We found that ExaGrid gave us more flexibility than other solutions we looked at," said Maurer. "The dedupe technology allows us to maximize our disk space and get the most out of our appliance."

ExaGrid's post-process data deduplication processes data after it has landed on the system, ensuring the fastest backup times possible. 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 storage consumption.

According to Maurer, since installing the ExaGrid system, the organization has reduced its reliance on tape and slashed its backup times by over 50 percent.

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Responsive Customer Support a Key Differentiator

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.

"We've been extremely pleased with our level of technical support. They've worked side by side with us all along the way to

help make our backups faster and more efficient," said Maurer. "I interact with a lot of different technology vendors and I have to say that ExaGrid's customer support team ranks at the top of the list.

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 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.

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 deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

For more information about ExaGrid, please visit us at www.exagrid.com or call us at 1-800-868-6985.

About ExaGrid Systems, Inc.

Customers worldwide depend on ExaGrid Systems to solve their backup problems—effectively and permanently. ExaGrid's disk-based, scale-out GRID architecture adjusts to increasing backup demands due to constantly growing data volumes. It is the only solution that combines compute with capacity as well as a unique landing zone to permanently shorten backup windows and eliminate expensive forklift upgrades. Learn more at www.exagrid.com.