

# Arthritis Foundation Solves Backup Problems Quickly and Easily with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Jeff Hulsey  
Group V.P., Technical Services  
Arthritis Foundation

## Customer Overview

The Arthritis Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organization that supports the more than 100 types of arthritis and related conditions. Founded in 1948, with headquarters in Atlanta, the Arthritis Foundation has multiple service points located throughout the country. The Arthritis Foundation is the largest private, not-for-profit contributor to arthritis research in the world, funding more than \$380 million in research grants since 1948. Celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, the Foundation helps people take control of arthritis by providing public health education, pursuing public policy and legislation, and conducting evidence-based programs to improve the quality of life for those living with arthritis.

## Broken Tape Library Led to Long Backups, Search for Disk-based Solution

For months, the Arthritis Foundation had been looking at different approaches to backup in an effort to alleviate the long backup times and the day-to-day hassles of dealing with tape. When one of its two tape libraries failed suddenly, the Foundation's IT staff was left scrambling to re-route all of its backup jobs to a single tape library and its backup times nearly tripled overnight. It was obvious that the Foundation needed a new backup solution, and its IT department was forced to evaluate and choose a new system quickly.

"We knew that we needed to purchase and deploy a replacement for our tape library as soon as possible," said Jeff Hulsey, group vice president, technical services for the Arthritis Foundation. "We had been looking at a few different disk-based solutions and we decided to go in that direction in an effort to reduce our backup windows and our reliance on tape."

## ExaGrid Works with Existing Backup Application to Provide Cost Savings, Reduce Learning Curve

The Arthritis Foundation chose an ExaGrid disk-based backup system to back up its file and print data along with its large database and in-house applications. The ExaGrid system works with the Foundation's existing

backup application, CA ARCserve Backup™. For off-site disaster recovery purposes, tape copies are made from the ExaGrid system using the Foundation's existing tape library.

"Choosing the ExaGrid system was an easy decision for us. The ExaGrid worked right out of the box with our existing backup application, and as an appliance, it fit right into our network so we were able to get it up and running very quickly," said Hulsey. "The ExaGrid was also extremely cost effective because it enabled us to keep our investment in both our backup application and our tape library and we were able to reduce the learning curve that we would have encountered with other systems."

## Backup Times Cut in Half, Data De-duplication Maximizes Disk Space

Since installing the ExaGrid system, Hulsey has seen the Foundation's backup windows cut in half. Even when both tape libraries were running properly, the Foundation had been experiencing weekly backups stretching to 48 hours or more. With the ExaGrid system, weekly backups have been reduced to 24 hours or less.

"The speed of the ExaGrid system is simply amazing," said Hulsey. "Our backups are now completed quickly and reliably each and every night and we don't have the hassles of tape."



ExaGrid's data de-duplication technology helps the Arthritis Foundation manage its growing amounts of backup data and helps maximize disk space on the system. The Foundation has been experiencing data de-duplication rates of 20:1 with ExaGrid.

ExaGrid combines last backup compression along with data de-duplication, 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 de-duplication is performed post-process after the data is stored to reduce data. 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.

## Flexible, Scalable System to Address Future Backup Needs

As the Arthritis Foundation moves through a reorganization plan, it was important to select a backup system that would scale to accommodate the expected growth of the organization.

"The ExaGrid gave us a high level of flexibility in terms of sizing the system. Because we were so confident in the scalability of the ExaGrid system, we were able to conservatively size our system to meet our budget guidelines at the time of purchase and we can easily scale the system in the future to handle more data," said Hulsey.

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 back-up plus retention. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

"The ExaGrid system was easy to install and was an immediate answer to our backup dilemma. Our backups are much faster,

easier and take far less staff time to manage," said Hulsey. "Looking forward, we're confident that we have a system in place that has the flexibility to cost-effectively grow with us as our backup needs grow."

## ExaGrid and CA ARCserve Backup

CA ARCserve Backup delivers reliable, enterprise-class data protection across multiple hardware and software platforms. Its proven technology — unified by a single, easy-to-use interface — enables multi-tiered protection driven by business goals and policies.

Organizations using ARCserve Backup can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as ARCserve Backup, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running ARCserve Backup, 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 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 sites and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery.

**For more information about ExaGrid, please visit us at [www.exagrid.com](http://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](http://www.exagrid.com).