

Brabants Historisch Informatie Centrum (BHIC) Selects ExaGrid and Veeam

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Alex Vlekken
IT Engineer

Key Benefits:

- 70%+ decrease in backup window
- Reliability and speed are key drivers for success
- Restores are 'hours' faster
- 30% time saved on administration and management of backups
- Management UI offers useful insight

Customer Overview

Brabants Historisch Informatie Centrum (BHIC) is the pre-eminent center for genealogical research in North Brabant, Netherlands and operates geographically within the Dutch province of Northern Brabant. The Centre services sixteen towns and two water board districts. BHIC serves not only the general public, but also organizations, institutions, local councils, water boards, and the provincial councils by responding to inquiries regarding the archives and history of the province and its inhabitants.

ExaGrid Selected Over Other Solutions

For years, BHIC backed up its business and archived data to tape, but the backup window continued to grow through the weekend, resulting in cancelled backup jobs, increased stress, and wasted time managing it all. BHIC currently keeps 14 daily backups, 4 weekly backups, 12 monthly backups and a yearly backup with endless retention.

"Speed to restore was the most challenging part of our old infrastructure. I also found testing server changes or doing any health checks to be nearly impossible," said Alex Vlekken, IT engineer at BHIC. "Our license for the then-current backup solution was ending, so we began searching for an enterprise solution. We had advice from our supplier about best next steps, which included ExaGrid. We evaluated other solutions as well as ExaGrid, and after several meetings and testing, we chose ExaGrid and Veeam to deliver the best results for our organization."

BHIC's goal was a fast backup that would be reliable for its virtualized environment. BHIC is looking to the future and is evaluating backup to the cloud or a disaster recovery point at another location.

Integration with Veeam Key to Successful and Reliable Backup

"The key to our solution is ExaGrid's deduplication and integration with Veeam. It makes total sense with the amount of redundant data and the cost of physical space. We are seeing dedupe ratios with Veeam and ExaGrid combined as high as 10:1," said Vlekken.

"Restores are much faster - hours faster! ExaGrid is so much more reliable than our old tape regime. Every job runs and always ends with success. ExaGrid solves problems on its own, taking the work away from the IT department."

With the change from its tape solution to Veeam and ExaGrid, BHIC's backup times saw a significant reduction. According to Vlekken, "Our daily backup used to take six hours and now takes a little over one hour. The weekend backup went from sixteen hours to under five hours. I am extremely pleased with the speed and efficiency of our backup solution."

Seamless Installation and Support Essential to Partnership

Vlekken was pleased at ExaGrid's ease of installation and how equally short the learning curve was. "Installation was a good experience with both ExaGrid and our supplier, who had extensive knowledge of the ExaGrid system. Since installing ExaGrid, I save at least 30% of my time managing and administering our backups. With Veeam, we see the jobs in one console, so we know that jobs have been successful. For the ExaGrid system, we use the reporting via email to monitor capacity, and having a quick, sharp UI also makes my job much easier," said Vlekken.

The ExaGrid system was designed to be easy to set up and maintain, and ExaGrid's industry-leading customer support team is staffed by trained, in-house engineers who are assigned to individual accounts. The system is fully supported, and was designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components.

EXAGRID

Veeam-ExaGrid Combined Deduplication

Veeam uses the information from VMware and Hyper-V, and provides deduplication on a “per-job” basis, finding the matching areas of all the virtual disks within a backup job and using metadata to reduce the overall footprint of the backup data. Veeam also has a “dedupe friendly” compression setting which further reduces the size of the Veeam backups in a way that allows the ExaGrid system to achieve further deduplication. This approach typically achieves a 2:1 deduplication ratio.

ExaGrid is architected from the ground up to protect virtualized environments and provide deduplication as backups are taken. ExaGrid will achieve a 3:1 up to 5:1 additional deduplication rate. The net result is a combined Veeam and ExaGrid deduplication rate of 6:1 upwards to 10:1, which greatly reduces the amount of disk storage required.

GRID Architecture Provides Superior Scalability

The ExaGrid system can easily scale to accommodate data growth. ExaGrid’s GRID computing software makes the system highly scalable, and when plugged into a switch, appliances of any size or age can be mixed and matched in a single GRID system with capacities of up to a 1PB full backup plus retention and an ingest rate of up to 200TB per hour. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides backup storage with a unique landing zone and scale-out architecture. The landing zone provides for the fastest backups, restores and instant VM recoveries. The scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scalable GRID and provides for a fixed-length backup window as data grows, eliminating expensive forklift upgrades. Learn more at www.exagrid.com.

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