

# Clearvision Optical Eliminates Tape and Achieves More Reliable Backups and Restores with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

**CLEARVISION**  
optical company

"The ExaGrid installs quickly and is painless. You're expecting this big process, but it just goes in and starts working right away."

John Pinna  
IT Consultant  
Clearvision

## Customer Overview

Clearvision Optical is one of the world's leading designers of prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses. Clearvision's brand portfolio features a dazzling array of fashion and lifestyle brands, including BCBGMAXAZRIA, Ellen Tracy, Cole Haan, IZOD, IZOD PerformX, Op, Jessica McClintock and Fisher-Price. House brands include Clearvision Collection, Junction City, Koodles, and the new Digit Eyewear for kids. Clearvision serves optical professionals throughout the U.S. and in 40 countries around the globe. The company is privately owned by the Friedfeld family, the founders of the company.

## Lengthy Backups, Unknown Restores, and Tape Management Issues

Prior to ExaGrid, Clearvision had been using tapes for their backups, but increasing data growth and tape management issues prevented Clearvision from having a clear idea as to the status of their backups. "We were doing full backups on the weekends and incrementals during the week, but we didn't know whether those backups were successful or not," said John Pinna, IT consultant at Clearvision. "We weren't prepared to easily get our data back if we needed to restore it."

Data growth was also causing the backups to take longer than the desired backup window. "The full backups on the weekends were taking two days to complete," said Pinna.

## Cost-Effectively Eliminating Tape with ExaGrid, Faster Backups and Restores

After looking at a couple of different approaches, Clearvision chose to deploy an ExaGrid EX5000 appliance. Clearvision's decision was based on a desire to move away from tape and on the reality that an ExaGrid disk-based system could be purchased at a price comparable to that of tape. "Originally we were looking at another, larger tape drive along with additional tapes," said Pinna, "but we realized that for a similar price, we could

get a disk-based system from ExaGrid and not have all of the hassles with tape."

After installing the ExaGrid, Clearvision has not only dramatically reduced their backup times, they no longer need to spend a lot of time shuffling tapes around. In addition, Clearvision is now much more prepared should they ever need to restore their backup data. "Restore time is now lightning-fast," said Pinna.

## Easy to Install, Outstanding Customer Support

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.

"The support you get with ExaGrid is excellent," said Pinna.

## ExaGrid's "Buy-as-You-Go" Scalability Negates Forklift Upgrades

The ExaGrid system can easily be expanded to accommodate more 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

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capacities of up to a 130TB full backup plus retention. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

## 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 zone-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's zone-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 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).