Elektroskandia Gains Increased Retention, Scalabilty with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Elektroskandia

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Kenneth Eriksson
IT Support Manager
Elektroskandia

Customer Overview

Elektroskandia markets electrical equipment to the power, automation, telecommunications, data security, lighting and household appliance industries, power / automation, telecommunications / data / security, lighting, household appliances and industrial supplies. Elektroskandia is located in Sollentuna, Sweden and has over 800 employees in 47 offices throughout the country.

Retention an Issue with First Generation Disk-based Backup System

Elektroskandia's IT department purchased a disk-based backup system without data deduplication several years ago but retention became a serious issue as the company's data grew.

"We had outgrown our old disk-based backup solution and retention had become a big problem. We could only hold a week of backup data online, so we had to recall tapes from storage if we needed to restore a file that was over seven days old," said Kenneth Eriksson, IT support manager for Elektroskandia. "We needed a scalable solution with data deduplication to maximize our disk space and increase the amount of data available to us for restores."

After evaluating several different solutions, Elektroskandia chose a disk-based backup solution from ExaGrid. The ExaGrid system was installed in the company's datacenter in Sollentuna and works along with its existing backup application, EMC NetWorker. Elektroskandia's IT staff backs the ExaGrid system up to tape once a month and the tapes are sent offsite in case they are needed for disaster recovery.

"The ExaGrid system was very cost-effective and it gave us the data deduplication and scalability we were looking for," said Eriksson. "Because ExaGrid's data deduplication is so effective, we were able to purchase a smaller system than we otherwise would have. Between the data deduplication and scalability, it should serve our backup needs for the foreseeable future."

Data Deduplication Delivers 56:1 Data Compression

Since installing the ExaGrid solution, Elektroskandia has been experiencing data deduplication ratios as high as 56:1 for its Lotus Domino data, and the company has been able to exceed its retention goals.

"ExaGrid's data deduplication technology does a fantastic job at reducing our data. We're able to keep 16 weeks of information online in the same amount of disk space we had on our old system that could only hold one week of retention," said Eriksson. "ExaGrid's post-process approach to data deduplication makes our backup jobs go as quickly as possible because the data is reduced after the backup has landed on the system."

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 data.

Scalability to Back Up Additional Data

"Scalability was an important factor in choosing the ExaGrid system. The ExaGrid has a modular design so we can add additional units to back up more data.

EXAGRID™

Before we purchased the ExaGrid system we had an evaluation unit in our datacenter that we made into our production system by adding additional ExaGrid boxes. It was a simple, straightforward operation," said Eriksson.

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 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 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.

"ExaGrid's interface is extremely intuitive and easy to use. From the welcome screen I can see exactly what I'm looking for and I don't have to navigate through multiple menus," said Eriksson. It's a very easy system to use and it works very well with NetWorker. Some of the other systems we looked at would have required that we change our backup application but we liked the fact that we could leverage NetWorker and retain our investment. We've been very happy with the ExaGrid system and it will serve us well into the future."

ExaGrid and EMC NetWorker

The EMC NetWorker family provides fast and flexible backup and recovery, with an intuitive user interface and policy-based backup engine that helps automate and simplify the entire backup and recovery process. NetWorker's powerful snapshot management provides instant data protection and rapid recovery by giving you complete control of third-party snapshot tools.

Organizations using NetWorker can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as NetWorker, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running NetWorker, 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 deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's byte-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 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**.

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