

FNB Henning Banks on Data Deduplication to Improve Backup and Disaster Recovery

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



"Before ExaGrid, if a tape back-up failed, we didn't know if all critical files could be recovered if necessary. Now we don't have to worry about it, and all in all, it's been great because of the time and money saved.

Network Center knew our systems. We knew they were right there to help if we ever had any problems."

Mary Dunn
Loan Administrator
FNB Henning

Customer Overview

During its entire century of existence, the First National Bank in Henning has been an independent full-service financial institution serving the Henning, Ottertail, Clitherall, and Vining area in Minnesota. As a leader in the financial industry, FNB of Henning, Ottertail & Battle Lake offers Reward Rate Checking, competitive interest rates and more to meet the needs of financial customers of Otter Tail County and the surrounding areas.

Bank Wanted To Be Ahead of Disaster Recovery Regulations

FNB Henning was using tape for their nightly and weekend backups, and wanted to replace this outdated technology in order to be one step ahead of government regulations for disaster recovery and have better control and management over IT policies for backup and disaster recovery. "Being a bank, we deal in confidential information, and information is critical," said Mary Dunn, Loan Administrator. "Disaster recovery plans are prominent in regulatory reviews, and in case of any kind of disaster, we wanted to make sure our data could be recovered in a timely manner. Tape back-up is becoming outdated, and there is new technology out there that performs better."

In addition, tape backups would fail frequently, and the cost of the tape was becoming expensive as the bank's data grew. "If a tape back-up failed overnight, we didn't know if all critical information was backed-up," said Dunn. We would then have to rerun the backup during the daytime, resulting in increased network load and inconvenience to users.

Cost-Effective ExaGrid System with Data Deduplication Reduces Backup Times by 50% and Delivers Faster Restores

After looking at several alternatives, FNB Henning decided to purchase a 2-site ExaGrid disk-based backup system with data deduplication. The ExaGrid system works

alongside the facility's existing backup application, Symantec Backup Exec. The primary ExaGrid system is located in FNB Henning's central data location, and data is automatically replicated to the offsite ExaGrid system at a second branch location. Since installing ExaGrid, FNB Henning reports that backups which previously ran between 9-10 hours with tape were cut by 50%. The reliability issues with tape have been eliminated, and restore times have also been reduced dramatically. Previously, the bank kept tapes

for a 2-week period, it was an inconvenience to keep the tapes safe, and restores required retrieving tape from the previous day from offsite. "Now we don't have to worry about that at all. We can recover in minutes," said Dunn. "If something should happen to our main building, we could be up and running again in a very short period of time."

The bank is also saving on the cost of tape. Previously, they purchased tapes every 4 months, and were spending close to \$5,000 per year just on the backup tapes. This cost was in addition to the servicing of the backup itself and associate tape library hardware

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 data.

Scalability for the Future

“We like the fact that, when necessary, the ExaGrid system can be easily expanded by adding more servers to it,” said Dunn. “The extra capacity will fit right in with no interruptions in service. ExaGrid’s GRID computing software makes the system highly scalable, and different sized configurations can be mixed and matched into a single GRID system with capacities of up to a 100TB 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.

Easy Installation, Excellent Support

ExaGrid comes packaged as a turnkey appliance and is 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 installation went well in both locations, and once the system was installed, it just worked” said Dunn. A deciding factor in the purchase of ExaGrid was service from technology solution provider, Network Center. “They knew our systems and were already managing our IT equipment. We knew they were right there to help if we ever had any problems.”

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 offers the only disk-based backup appliance with data deduplication purpose-built for backup that leverages a unique architecture optimized for performance, scalability and price. The combination of post-process deduplication, most recent backup cache, and GRID scalability enables IT departments to achieve the shortest backup window, fast and reliable restores, fast tape copy, rapid disaster recovery, and data growth without performance degradation or forklift upgrades. With offices and distribution worldwide, ExaGrid has more than 2,000 systems installed at more than 500 customers, and more than 140 published customer success stories.

ExaGrid servers can be used at primary and secondary sites and a second site 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.