Fidelity Southern Corp. Values Simplicity and Scalability of ExaGrid Backup Appliances

FIDELITY SOUTHERN CORPORATION

"The robustness and dependability of the system, and the fact that it's easy to manage, makes ExaGrid the perfect solution."

Ovi Luca
VMware System Server
Administrator

Key Benefits:

- Virtualizing FSC'S environment using ExaGrid and Veeam was the 'perfect solution'

- Managing tape was time consuming vs a quick status check of the ExaGrid GUI

- Scaling was 'easy' - it took FSC just minutes to add and set up their new appliances

- ExaGrid support monitors system health remotely and is proactive in resolving issues

Customer Overview

Fidelity Southern Corporation (FSC) is one of the largest publicly traded bank holding companies based in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Through its operating subsidiaries Fidelity Bank and LionMark Insurance Company, FSC offers an array of financial products and services for a growing base of business and retail customers in Atlanta, Georgia.

A 'Leap Forward'

Fidelity Southern Corporation (FSC) had been backing up to tape with Veritas Backup Exec. The company decided to upgrade its environment to a disk-based storage solution, and chose ExaGrid to replace tape. Ovi Luca, FSC's VMware system server administrator, felt the ExaGrid system provided reliability that tape did not. "It was a leap forward. Hard drives are much better for backup than tape. The fact that we don't have to rotate the tapes anymore is a big plus. ExaGrid was the best solution."

FSC has a storage environment that is now 99% virtualized. When the company made the switch to ExaGrid, Veeam was added as a backup application for the VMs while Backup Exec was kept for the remaining physical servers. Luca is impressed by the integration between ExaGrid and Veeam. "The robustness and dependability of the system, and the fact that it's easy to manage, makes ExaGrid the perfect solution," he said.

Backups Stay on Track

FSC backs up its data in daily incrementals and weekly fulls. Luca appreciates that the 12-hour backup window for the weekly full keeps the 200+ servers running on schedule.

The company keeps two weeks of backup retention, as well as retention of some systems for up to seven years. Much of what's backed up consists of databases and banking-related images. FSC's backups are replicated to an ExaGrid system at a DR site for added data protection.

ExaGrid writes backups directly to a disk landing zone, avoiding inline processing and ensuring the highest possible backup performance, which results in the shortest backup window. "Adaptive" deduplication performs deduplication and replication in parallel with backups while providing full system resources to the backups for the shortest backup window. Available system cycles are utilized to perform deduplication and offsite replication for an optimal recovery point at the disaster recovery site. Once complete, the onsite data is protected and immediately available in its full undeduplicated form for fast restores, VM Instant Recoveries, and tape copies while the offsite data is ready for disaster recovery.

ExaGrid and Veeam can instantly recover a VMware virtual machine by running it directly from the ExaGrid appliance in the event that the primary storage VM becomes unavailable. This is possible because of ExaGrid's "landing zone" – a high-speed cache on the ExaGrid appliance that retains the most recent backups in complete form. Once the primary storage environment has

EXAGRID

been brought back to a working state, the VM running on the ExaGrid appliance can then be migrated to primary storage for continued operation.

ExaGrid Support Complements Easy Maintenance

Luca has found that the ExaGrid system is easy to manage. "Tape was time consuming because we often had to replace the robotic library. With ExaGrid, I just open the GUI and check on the backup situation. It takes only a couple of minutes to check the status, and I'm done."

In addition, Luca is impressed with ExaGrid's customer support. He said, "My support engineer is proactive, and if something comes up, such as a failed drive, he's on top of it and lets me know that he has already sent a replacement. He has been available to help whenever I have called, and can solve issues remotely. We once changed our switches for the network, and the NIC that was pointing to the ExaGrid that manages the routes for the network was not functioning properly. My support engineer removed those routes from the ExaGrid and switched to a secondary NIC, and that helped everything to work again."

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.

Simple to Scale-Out

When FSC needed to expand its storage, Luca purchased additional ExaGrid appliances to scale out the system. "Installing the new appliances was easy. It only took a couple of minutes to set up and add them. The simplicity of the setup is something that I really like about using ExaGrid," said Luca.

The ExaGrid system can easily scale to accommodate data growth. ExaGrid's 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 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.

ExaGrid and Veeam

The combination of ExaGrid's and Veeam's industry-leading virtual server data protection solutions allows customers to utilize Veeam Backup & Replication in VMware, vSphere, and Microsoft Hyper-V virtual environments on ExaGrid's disk-based backup system. This combination provides fast backups and efficient data storage as well as replication to an offsite location for disaster recovery. The ExaGrid system fully leverages Veeam Backup & Replication's built-in backup-to-disk capabilities and ExaGrid's zone-level data deduplication for additional data reduction (and cost reduction) over standard disk solutions. Customers can use Veeam Backup & Replication's built-in source-side deduplication in concert with ExaGrid's disk-based backup system with zone-level deduplication to further shrink backups.

ExaGrid and Veritas Backup Exec

Veritas Backup Exec provides cost-effective, high-performance, and certified disk-to-disk-to-tape backup and recovery – including continuous data protection for Microsoft Exchange servers, Microsoft SQL servers, 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 Veritas Backup Exec can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as Veritas Backup Exec, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running Veritas 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 backup to disk.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides hyper-converged secondary storage (HCSS) for backup with a unique landing zone and scale-out architecture. The landing zone enables the fastest backups, restores, and instant VM recoveries. The scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scalable system and ensures a fixed-length backup window as data grows, eliminating expensive and disruptive forklift upgrades. Learn more at **www.exagrid.com**.