Credit Union Runs Out of Disk Space, Replaces Dell EMC Data Domain with ExaGrid

INFINITY
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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>
> **Sherry Dunkin**
> **IT Manager**

Key Benefits:

- Infinity FCU recovers data 'extremely quickly' using Veeam and ExaGrid

- ExaGrid system is easier to manage, less of a strain on internal resources

- Scalability of ExaGrid is a better fit for Infinity FCU's future data growth

- Proactive ExaGrid support helps with 'quick turnaround' of installation and is a resource for entire environment

Customer Overview

As Maine's first credit union, Infinity Federal Credit Union (FCU) has been serving its members since 1921, initially as the Telephone Workers Credit Union of Maine, then as Telco of New England FCU. Infinity FCU is now community-based, available to anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Cumberland and York counties and the city of Bangor, Maine. Infinity FCU is a non-profit cooperative organization owned by its members.

Aging System Leads to New Solution

Infinity FCU had been backing up its data to Dell EMC Data Domain systems with Quest vRanger software. As the Data Domain appliances reached their end of life, Sherry Dunkin, the organization's IT manager, researched new options for the backup environment. Dunkin decided to replace vRanger with Veeam and looked for a new storage solution that Veeam would work well with. A reseller recommended ExaGrid for its integration with Veeam.

Dunkin decided to compare products to find the best option. "I revisited Data Domain, but the cost associated with it was high compared to ExaGrid. Data Domain is also not as easy to maintain, which puts strain on internal resources. In comparison, ExaGrid is far easier to work with."

Proactive Support Provides Easy Installation

Infinity FCU installed an ExaGrid appliance at its primary site that replicates to another at its DR site. Dunkin was impressed with ExaGrid support's proactive approach to setting up both sites. "Installation went quite well. Actually, ExaGrid support reached out to me immediately once we purchased the appliances, and my customer support engineer was instrumental in helping me get them configured, set up, and working. There was a very quick turnaround, and it was a painless process," said Dunkin.

The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use, and works seamlessly with all of the most frequently used backup applications, so an organization can seamlessly retain its investment in existing applications and processes.

In addition, ExaGrid appliances can be used at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery.

Quick Restores and Backups on Schedule

Infinity FCU backs up its data in daily incrementals and weekly fulls. Dunkin backs up 70 servers in chained backup jobs, which move quickly due to ExaGrid's deduplication, but the job chaining process makes the overall backup window run a bit longer. "Backups on the ExaGrid absolutely meet the window, and work well in the production schedule."

In comparison with using vRanger and Data Domain, Dunkin has found that restores using Veeam and ExaGrid are "extremely quick."

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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.

Single Scale-Out System Matches Data Growth

The scalability of the ExaGrid system is one of the features that Dunkin appreciates when planning for future data growth. "One of the things I like about ExaGrid is that if I ever need to add more storage, I can just add another appliance to the system. My Data Domain systems were fully populated and starting to run out of disk space at their end of life. I was not able to expand them anymore, or add any storage," said Dunkin.

All of ExaGrid's appliances contain not just disk but also processing power, memory, and bandwidth. When the system needs to expand, additional appliances are simply attached to the existing system. This type of configuration allows the system to maintain all the aspects of performance as the amount of data grows, with customers paying for what they need when they need it. In addition, as new ExaGrid appliances are added to the existing system, ExaGrid automatically load balances available capacity, maintaining a virtual pool of storage that is shared across the system.

A Single Resource in ExaGrid Support

"I can't say enough about ExaGrid support. I like the fact that I have one technical resource in my assigned support engineer who is familiar with my environment. I can contact him with anything that comes up. He is very responsive and extremely helpful. He was even able to help with getting Veeam configured even though it was not part of the installation process for the ExaGrid appliance," said Dunkin.

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 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.

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**.

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