

ExaGrid Disk-based Backup with Data Deduplication Scores High Marks with Lourdes College

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



"Prior to implementing the ExaGrid our nightly backups were taking about 15 hours. They are now completed in just over 2 hours. The ExaGrid system just works!"

John Alderman
Network Analyst
Lourdes College

Customer Overview

Lourdes College is grounded in the Franciscan values of learning, community, reverence and service, and is known for its quality academic programs and the personalized attention afforded to our students. A college situated on 89 wooded acres in Sylvania, Ohio, the College also offers many community outreach programs.

Growing Data Forces IT Department to Search for New Solution

Lourdes College has nearly 3,000 students and faculty on its network. The College performs full backups each weekend and incremental backups throughout the rest of the week. However, since implementing Panopto, a software solution that allows faculty to record and post all lectures, the College's data was growing rapidly and its existing tape library was not a viable option for backups any longer.

"I literally just didn't have a window big enough any longer to be moving all of our data to tape," said John Alderman, Network Analyst at Lourdes College. "I didn't feel comfortable doing incremental or differentials with tape simply because if one tape in that set failed, we would have been in trouble," he said. "We knew we needed a new solution and we needed a solution that would allow me to feel comfortable doing differentials and incremental. We learned about ExaGrid and really liked its post process approach to data deduplication."

ExaGrid Provides Data Deduplication, Works with Newly Implemented Backup Application

Lourdes College chose the two-site ExaGrid system and installed one in its main datacenter and a second ExaGrid off-site for disaster recovery purposes. The ExaGrid

system works with the College's newly implemented backup application, Symantec Backup Exec™.

"We were able to implement a new backup application as well as the ExaGrid System rather seamlessly," said Alderman. "The ExaGrid was also easy to set up.

I simply plugged it into the network, stepped through a few configuration screens and it was up and running with Symantec Backup Exec. Then, I just pointed the shares to the ExaGrid instead of the tape library and it was done. All in all, setting up the ExaGrid took about an hour."

Since installing the ExaGrid system, the Lourdes College's backups have been reduced by nearly 75%.

"Our backups are now running very quickly and are completed well within our backup windows," said Alderman. "Prior to implementing the ExaGrid our nightly backups were taking about 15 hours. They are now completed in just over 2 hours. We've also been very happy with ExaGrid's data deduplication capabilities. It's extremely effective at reducing our data and it enables us to maximize the amount of data we keep on the system," said Alderman.

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™

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. When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid's byte-level data deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

Scalability to Add Capacity

For Lourdes College, scalability was also an important factor in choosing ExaGrid. 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 100TB. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

"The ExaGrid system gives us a great deal of flexibility in terms of adding capacity as we need to," said Alderman.

Outstanding Customer Support

"We've been happily surprised at the high level of support we get from ExaGrid. Our support person has been instrumental in helping us streamline our backup processes and to make sure that everything is configured and tuned correctly. It's been a very positive experience. Typically, you expect a support person to sort of go through the motions but our ExaGrid engineer has the ability to remote into our system and the knowledge to solve any problem that comes up," said Alderman.

ExaGrid's industry-leading customer support team is staffed by trained, in-house engineers who are dedicated to individual accounts. The ExaGrid system is fully supported and was designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components.

"Once a week I check the ExaGrid system to make sure everything is running smoothly," said Alderman. "Our backups are all automated with the ExaGrid and I no longer have to worry about them. Just knowing that our backups are completed flawlessly every night is a great thing."

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.

ExaGrid and 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 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.