Maine State Legislature Installs ExaGrid System

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> **Systems Engineer**
> **Maine State Legislature**

Customer Overview

The Maine State Legislature is composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The fundamental functions of the legislative branch are to consider, debate and establish public policy, provide the means and resources for its implementation and review its administration. To accomplish these functions, the lawmakers are supported by non-partisan offices that handle the various tasks. These include the Office of the Executive Director, Revisor of Statutes, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, Law and Legislative Library, Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability and the Office Information Technology. The Legislature has several critical applications used to draft and track legislation through the process, determine fiscal impact, provide impact analysis and capture voting information. In addition, the Legislature has standard business applications including Office and email.

Quest to Improve Speed and Reliability of Backups Led to ExaGrid

The Maine Legislature had been backing up its data to a pair of tape libraries but long, problematic backups were consuming far too much time. Initially, the IT staff considered replacing one of the tape libraries in an effort to boost speed and reliability but decided to look more closely at disk-based backup.

"When we realized that we could purchase a disk-based backup system from ExaGrid for about the same price as a new tape library, we decided to seriously consider going in that direction. We liked what we saw in the ExaGrid, and it really was a no-brainer, especially in light of its cost effectiveness and the fact that we could use it with Backup Exec," said Scott Lewis, systems engineer at the Maine State Legislature. "With the ExaGrid, we've gained faster backups and much better reliability. We've also been able to reduce our reliance on tape."

The ExaGrid system works along with the Legislature's existing backup application, Symantec Backup Exec. "The ExaGrid system works well with Backup Exec. Our backups run much more reliably with the ExaGrid-Backup Exec combination than they

did with tape, and because we were able to stay with Backup Exec, we got up to speed quickly," Mr. Lewis said.

Shorter Backup Times, Faster Restores

Mr. Lewis said that since installing the ExaGrid system, backup jobs run far more efficiently than they did with the Legislature's old tape library, which ran nearly nonstop.

"Our tape backups were running approximately 20 hours a day, which left us no time to perform restores or to rerun failed backups jobs. With the ExaGrid system, we can run more backup jobs at the same time and as a result, our backups are completed in about eight hours," said Mr. Lewis. "The increased number of simultaneous backup streams that we can send to the ExaGrid has removed our bottleneck and gives us the window we need to handle restore requests."

Industry-Leading Customer Support

"We've had a fantastic experience with ExaGrid's customer support. Our support engineer is experienced, and he's familiar with our environment and with us. He's

taken the time to work through some issues we had initially, and things have been running smoothly ever since," said Mr. Lewis.

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 dedicated to individual accounts. The system is fully supported and was designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components.

Smooth Scalability with GRID Architecture

"Backups are only part of my job," Mr. Lewis said. "Having the ExaGrid system in place allows me to focus on other projects and enables me to do my job more effectively."

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 130TB 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 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's turnkey disk-based backup system combines high quality SATA drives with zone-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's zone-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**.