

MetoKote Smooths Backups and Restores with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Ken Basinger
Network Administrator
MetoKote

Customer Overview

MetoKote Corporation is the industry leader in protective coating applications. Based in Lima, Ohio, MetoKote serves over 1,000 customers worldwide in the agriculture, appliance, automotive, computer, construction equipment, electrical, furniture, industrial equipment, recreational, and truck and bus industries.

MetoKote offers a full range of high technology custom coating services, including electrocoating (e-coat), powder coating, liquid paint and other custom coatings. MetoKote's start-to-finish capabilities allow complete project management of protective coating applications including evaluation, design conception, solution recommendation, implementation, quality production and process management.

Expanding Backup Times, Tape Issues

MetoKote's IT department was dealing with rapidly increasing backup windows and nagging issues with tape. The company was experiencing growing backup times even after migrating from DLT to AIT2 tapes to gain speed and density, so when the IT staff began to have issues with the tape drives and peripherals, they began to explore alternative solutions.

After evaluating various disk-based backup solutions, MetoKote chose ExaGrid along with CA Arcserve backup to protect its data, including user files, server backups, Exchange, and SQL databases needed for corporate and manufacturing operations.

Data De-duplication Provides Cost Effective Backup

"There are a lot of NAS-based backup solutions on the market, but they don't all offer data reduction. What really attracted us to ExaGrid is its data de-duplication and the fact that it can be used to back up data cost effectively across multiple sites," said Ken Basinger, Network Administrator for MetoKote. "We have several sites worldwide and are planning to automate our backup processes over time. ExaGrid not only de-duplicates the data so that we were able to purchase a smaller system, it also is more

efficient to deploy across multiple sites because only changed data is sent across the network."

MetoKote installed its ExaGrid system at its headquarters in Lima and is planning on installing a second ExaGrid system at another site sixty miles away in Maumee, Ohio. ExaGrid's data de-duplication is extremely cost-effective as a second site because only byte-level changes are moved across the network.

"Financially, installing ExaGrid systems in additional locations will make sense for us. Because the ExaGrid only moves changed data between systems, we can use much less bandwidth between sites," said Basinger. "Deploying two ExaGrid systems will enable us to have actual live backups performed in both places in real time so that if anything happens in either site, we can just failover."

ExaGrid combines last backup compression along with data de-duplication, 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 de-duplication is performed post-process after the data is stored to reduce data. When used to replicate data between two or more



sites, ExaGrid systems are extremely efficient because only the byte-level changes are moved across the WAN, so only about 1/50th of the data needs to traverse the WAN. Additional site licenses are not required for second site ExaGrid systems.

Backup Times Cut in Half, Restores Completed in Seconds with ExaGrid

With ExaGrid, the IT staff at MetoKote was able to change their backup processes and now is able to stagger backup jobs so that they are more efficient. Full backups are performed each weekend and are completed by 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Incremental backups are performed nightly and are completed by 2:00 a.m.

“With ExaGrid, we’ve experienced a significant reduction in our backup times,” said Basinger. “It’s not an apples-to-apples comparison because we have changed our backup processes, but it’s safe to say that our backup times have been cut in half.”

Another benefit of ExaGrid’s data de-duplication technology is that it enables MetoKote to retain more copies of its data locally than it could with tape or a NAS solution.

“We have a fairly lean IT operation here, and restoring data from tape was an extremely time consuming operation,” said Basinger. “Some of our backup jobs could consume as many as eight to ten tapes, and to restore data from tape could take up to an hour. With the ExaGrid, our information is always available in case we need to perform a restore. Literally, a restore takes just seconds with ExaGrid. It makes our IT department more efficient.”

Leveraging Existing Backup Application Saves Time and Money

MetoKote’s ExaGrid system works in conjunction with the firm’s existing backup application, CA ARCserve™ Backup. Because ExaGrid is simply a disk-based target for ARCserve, MetoKote didn’t incur any additional license or maintenance costs.

“Because we were able to leverage our existing backup application, there was no learning curve in terms of a new backup application. The last thing we wanted to do was to learn a new backup application,” said Basinger. “ExaGrid and ARCserve work together beautifully.”

Scalability to Meet with Future Backup Requirements

ExaGrid’s scalability provides Basinger with an extra level of confidence because the system can easily grow to meet increased demands over time. “With ExaGrid, there’s a comfort factor because the system can be quickly and easily scaled to meet our backup requirements in the coming years,” said

Basinger. “When we need additional capacity, we can simply add additional units to accommodate our data.”

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 GRID system with capacities of up to 60TB. 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 simply works as advertised. Our backup times have been cut in half, restores are fast, and we don’t have to rely on tape anymore,” said Basinger. “Also, ExaGrid has a tremendous customer support team. They are proactive, smart and we know we can rely on them to resolve any issue that comes up.”

ExaGrid and CA ARCserve Backup

CA ARCserve Backup delivers reliable, enterprise-class data protection across multiple hardware and software platforms. Its proven technology — unified by a single, easy-to-use interface — enables multi-tiered protection driven by business goals and policies. Organizations using ARCserve Backup can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as ARCserve Backup, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running ARCserve Backup, 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 de-duplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid’s byte-level data de-duplication technology stores only the changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies, reducing the amount of disk space 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.

ExaGrid is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications, so organizations can retain their investment in existing applications.

ExaGrid can be used at a primary site and at a second site to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with a live data repository or for disaster recovery. When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid’s byte-level data de-duplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.