NGL Virtualizes IT Environment – Replaces Tape with ExaGrid and Veeam

network global logistics

> "I am the lead person responsible for managing the company's systems, so the less time I need to spend on backup, the better. There is much less to worry about now, and we no longer have to deal with the hassle of changing tapes. Our ExaGrid system is reliable and the customer support has been great, so we are pretty satisfied."
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> **Christian Mirasol**
> **Senior System Administrator**

Key Benefits:

- Daily backups no longer spill over into the next day
- ExaGrid supported all backup apps throughout the evolution of NGL's environment
- Staff time saved due to easily managed system and responsive customer support
- System scales with NGL's needs for more capacity

Customer Overview

Network Global Logistics (NGL), which was founded in 1971 and is headquartered in Colorado, has grown to be the recognized leader in specialized third-party logistics and end-to-end global supply chain solutions. Launching as the first air courier company and pioneering the world's first Next Flight Out services, NGL later expanded into mission-critical warehousing and distribution services, and remains the leader in these services today, operating 24/7/365.

Virtualizing Environment Leads to New Solution

Network Global Logistics (NGL) had been backing up its data to tape using Arcserve Backup and Veritas Backup Exec, but Christian Mirasol, NGL's senior system administrator, lacked confidence in this solution and grew increasingly frustrated with long backup windows.

"When we were using tape, we weren't really confident that we had proper backups. The backup windows were very long and sometimes backup jobs wouldn't even complete. That was one of the major reasons we were looking for a new solution, and we also wanted to virtualize our environment," Mirasol said.

Ultimately, NGL made the decision to replace its tape-based backup with ExaGrid's disk-based backup with data deduplication. In addition, the company virtualized its environment, keeping Arcserve for backup of its physical servers and installing Quest vRanger to handle backup of its virtual servers. Mirasol found installation of the ExaGrid system to be "pretty straightforward."

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.

Easily Scale to Expand Backup Storage

NGL has continued to upgrade its IT environment, which is now 95% virtualized,

and plans to eventually phase out its physical servers. The company recently replaced Quest vRanger with Veeam and also purchased another ExaGrid appliance to add to its existing system.

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.

Spillover of Daily Backups Eliminated

Mirasol backs up NGL's physical servers with Arcserve on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis using a grandfather-father-son (GFS) rotation. The company's virtual servers are backed up using Veeam in daily incrementals for a weekly synthetic full. Daily backups are finished within four hours, which is a huge improvement over tape. "When we were backing up to tape,

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backups were very slow – sometimes our daily backups would even extend into the next day."

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.

Easy-to-Manage System with Responsive Support

Switching to ExaGrid has made Mirasol's job easier. "I am the lead person responsible for managing the company's systems, so the less time I need to spend on backup, the better. There is much less to worry about now, and we no longer have to deal with the hassle of changing tapes. Our ExaGrid system is reliable and the customer support has been great, so we are pretty satisfied."

Mirasol appreciates ExaGrid's customer support model of working with an assigned engineer. "I like the fact that we are assigned to one support engineer to work with, so when I speak with him, he already understands what is going on in my environment. He responds quickly, and I don't have to call into a queue and work with different people every time."

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.

ExaGrid and Arcserve Backup

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 popular backup applications can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid works with existing backup applications to provide faster and more reliable backups and restores.

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**.