

Oberg Industries Streamlines Backups, Improves Disaster Recovery with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Stephen Hill
Infrastructure Manager
Oberg Industries

Customer Overview

Headquartered just north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Oberg Industries is a diversified manufacturer with nearly 650 employees specializing in the production of precision metal and plastic machined and stamped components. Oberg’s global manufacturing footprint includes operations in Pennsylvania, Costa Rica, and Mexico. Each manufacturing facility is ISO certified and operates under one of the following standards: ISO 9001:2008, ISO/TS 16949. Oberg is a strategic contract manufacturer for numerous Fortune 500 companies in the aerospace, defense, munitions, medical device, metal packaging, energy, automotive, consumer/industrial products, and housing markets.

Need for Faster Backups and Restores, Better Disaster Recovery

Oberg’s IT staff had long been frustrated by slow backups and restores. The company had been using tape to protect its data but had difficulty managing it at remote sites. At its main datacenter, nightly backups often extended beyond the company’s backup window and the IT staff found that restoring data from tape was slow and time consuming.

“We decided to move to a disk-based backup system in an effort to reduce our reliance on tape, shorten our backup times and to improve our ability to recover from a disaster. We also wanted the ability to replicate data from our remote locations to our own datacenter for safekeeping,” said Stephen Hill, infrastructure manager at Oberg Industries. “We looked at systems from HP, Data Domain and ExaGrid and chose ExaGrid because it gave us everything we were looking for in a cost-effective package.”

ExaGrid Provides Data Replication from Remote Sites, Data Deduplication to Maximize Disk Space and Speed Transmission

Oberg Industries installed a primary ExaGrid unit in its Pittsburgh datacenter and additional units at its sites in Mexico

and Costa Rica. The ExaGrid systems work in conjunction with Oberg’s existing backup application, Symantec’s NetBackup, and data is automatically replicated from the Mexico and Costa Rica sites to Pittsburgh each night in case it is needed for disaster recovery.

“Deploying the ExaGrid systems in all three sites has significantly improved our ability to recover from a disaster and it also eliminated a whole host of other issues. For example, we no longer have to remind people in our remote locations to change tapes because everything is now automated. It has really streamlined our processes and we’re more confident that our backups are being completed correctly each and every night,” said Hill. “Costa Ricais also vulnerable to earthquakes and other natural disasters. It’s been a tremendous asset to me to not have to worry about remote backups. It really gives me peace of mind.”

Hill said that ExaGrid’s post-process data deduplication helps reduce the amount of data stored and maximize disk space. The company backs up a total of nearly 2.3 TB in its Pennsylvania datacenter, with a large amount of CAD/CAM data as well as other data, including Microsoft Office information.

“Data deduplication was a mandatory requirement for us and we haven’t been disappointed by the ExaGrid system. It not only helps us maximize disk space on the ExaGrid units, but it also helps with the transmission speed between systems



because only the changed data is moved between sites each night," said Hill. 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 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.

Fast Backups, Restores

Hill said that since installing the ExaGrid system, the company can now complete its backups each and every night within its backup windows, and restores are also significantly faster and far less labor-intensive.

"The ExaGrid system has really streamlined our backups," Hill said. "We're able to finish our backups with time to spare and we don't have to deal with tape. We really like the fast restores. Restoring data from our tape library was a very slow process and very manual. We can now complete a restore with just a few keystrokes. It's wonderful."

Easy Setup, Industry-leading Customer Support

Hill said that the ExaGrid system was easy to set up and it is easy to maintain and administer. He said that he especially likes ExaGrid's management interface.

"ExaGrid's management interface was one of the deciding factors for us in choosing the system," he said. "It's very intuitive and easy to use and it took us almost no time at all to get up to speed with the system."

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.

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GRID Architecture Delivers Smooth Scalability

As Oberg's backup needs grow, the ExaGrid system can scale easily to meet increased demands. 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 100TB 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.

"We've been very pleased with the ExaGrid system. It's so nice to have our data automatically replicated every night and we don't have to worry about our data in the event of a disaster. Having the ExaGrid system in place helps me sleep better at night," he said.

ExaGrid and Symantec NetBackup

Symantec's NetBackup delivers high performance data protection that scales to protect the largest UNIX, Windows, Linux and NetWare environments. With complete protection from remote office to center to vault, NetBackup offers a single console for all backup and recovery operations. Organizations using NetBackup can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as NetBackup, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running NetBackup, 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.