

# Objectivity Improves Backups with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Stino Tapia  
Manager, I.S.  
Objectivity

## Customer Overview

Objectivity, Inc. is the leading provider of distributed, real-time, SOA-enabled database management solutions for mission-critical applications. The company's flagship product, Objectivity/DB, is used by government, security, complex manufacturing, commercial services, science, and engineering organizations to increase speed, precision and productivity. Objectivity remains on the cutting edge of innovation by working directly with clients to build customized programs, find solutions to complicated challenges and seamlessly integrate technology across multiple platforms and languages. The company is headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, USA.

## Combination of First Generation D2D and Tape Caused Headaches for IT Department

For three years, the IT department at Objectivity had been using both a disk-to-disk (D2D) backup solution and a tape library to protect its data. The staff used the D2D product to back up its most critical data and a tape library for non-critical information and for long term storage. However, the first generation D2D solution was cumbersome and difficult to use and scalability was limited. The IT staff was also tired of dealing with tape.

"We initially installed the disk-to-disk solution to make things easier, but the system was difficult to learn and complex to manage and administer. In fact, we needed to send our staff to classes to learn how to work with it. Also, we couldn't expand the system by ourselves and adding capacity was an expensive proposition, both in terms of time and money," said Stino Tapia, manager, information systems for Objectivity, Inc. "And although the D2D solution was easier and more efficient than backing up to tape, we needed a solution for the long term that would be easy to manage, easy to scale and would provide better data reduction."

## ExaGrid System Works with Existing Backup Application to Provide Disk-based Backup

The staff decided the time was right to reevaluate its backup processes when they began to implement VMware and realized

that they couldn't easily back up VMware images using its existing D2D solution. After looking at various approaches to backup, Objectivity chose an ExaGrid disk-based backup system to replace its old D2D product. Objectivity currently backs up its VMware virtual machines to the ExaGrid with Agent for VMware Virtual Infrastructure (AVVI) along with Symantec's Backup Exec™.

"Installing the ExaGrid system was truly a plug and play experience, and took less than an hour. There was a very short learning curve because we were able to leverage Backup Exec," said Tapia. "We were immediately impressed at the ExaGrid user interface. It was intuitive and easy to use and it's a tremendous time saver for us in terms of management and administration. It's like night and day compared to our old solution."

## Data De-duplication Increases Retention, Makes Transmission Between Two Sites More Efficient

Objectivity had only two to three weeks of retention with its old D2D system, but the company is now able to keep over four weeks of data on the ExaGrid system.

"We've been amazed at the amount of retention we get from the ExaGrid. The data de-duplication technology happens behind the scenes and we never even know that it's occurring," said Tapia. "It's just extremely effective at reducing our data and it takes no intervention on our part to make it happen."



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.

Currently, Objectivity is backing up its most critical data to tape but the company is planning to add a second ExaGrid system to replicate data in case it is needed 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.

"Adding a second ExaGrid system will enable us to reduce our reliance on tape and improve our disaster recovery capabilities," said Tapia. "We're always mindful of the amount of traffic we put across our network, and ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication technology will allow us to deploy the second system in a way that will minimize the amount of bandwidth we use between sites."

## Flexible Solution Can Easily Scale to Meet Additional Requirements

"It was expensive and complex to expand our old D2D system, and even then, scalability was limited," said Tapia. "The ExaGrid system with de-duplication is inherently scalable. We can easily add additional capacity ourselves and it can all be easily managed as a single system. That's a huge plus."

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 60TB 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're very pleased with the ExaGrid and it has helped to reduce our workload," said Tapia. "It's taken a lot of the day-to-day hassle out of our backups and it frees up our time so that we can focus on other things."

## 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](http://www.exagrid.com).

## 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 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 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](http://www.exagrid.com) or call us at 1-800-868-6985.**