

# Rödl & Partner Counts on ExaGrid for Fast, Efficient Disk-based Backup

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Rödl & Partner

“Tape libraries require a considerable amount of manual intervention and we spent hours each month changing tapes, replacing broken tapes and dealing with other issues. The ExaGrid system has significantly reduced the amount of time we spend on backups and restores.”

Stan Sherman  
IT Director  
Rödl & Partner

## Customer Overview

Rödl & Partner is a leading international professional services firm providing audit, accounting, tax preparation, tax consulting and legal services to a wide range of industries and entities. Rödl & Partner has developed unique experience in the areas of tax planning, accounting and attestation services for European and Asian companies and real estate investors who have business interests in the United States. The company is based in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Long Backup and Restore Processes Lead to Search for New Solution

Rödl & Partner is a fast growing accounting firm with 125 staff members and an expanding client base. Because the firm manages sensitive financial information, it's critical that client data is properly protected. However, the firm's IT department was bogged down with long backup and restore processes using its tape library and nightly backups were becoming more difficult by the day.

The firm decided to look for a backup system that could reduce its reliance on tape and speed its backups and restores, and chose ExaGrid's disk-based backup system.

“We liked the fact that the ExaGrid system is a purpose-built backup device. It incorporated all of the features we needed to make our backup processes faster and more reliable in one unit,” said Stan Sherman, IT director, Rödl & Partner.

## Full Backups Reduced from 11 Hours to Four Hours

Rödl & Partner installed the ExaGrid system in its Atlanta datacenter where it works alongside its existing backup application, Symantec's Backup Exec. The IT department had been performing full backups of its data each night but the jobs were taking over 11 hours. Since installing the ExaGrid system, the firm now performs incremental backups each night and full backups each weekend. Incremental backups now take approximately one hour and full backups take four hours each weekend.

“We weren't comfortable performing incremental backups with tape because of the mechanical issues involved and the length of time the tape library would be running,” said Sherman. “Our backup times have been cut by a third with ExaGrid and we are able to perform our backup jobs more efficiently.”

## Data De-duplication Achieves 50 to 1 Reduction

Through ExaGrid's data de-duplication technology, Rödl & Partner has been able to maximize the amount of data it is able to keep on the ExaGrid system. The ExaGrid has achieved data reduction rates as high as 50 to 1, and Rödl & Partner is now able to keep eight weeks of data on its ExaGrid system so that restores can be performed quickly and easily at any time.

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 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.

**EXAGRID™**

## Scalability for Future Expansion, Availability of Second Site System for Disaster Recovery Efforts

As part of its business continuity and disaster recovery planning efforts, Rödl & Partners is considering adding additional ExaGrid units in its branch offices for backing up local data. The systems can also be cross-replicated to provide disaster recovery.

Because of the firm's fast growth, scalability is critical for Rödl & Partner. 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 large capacities. Once virtualized, they appear as a single large system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

## Superior Customer Support, Time Savings

The ExaGrid system is turnkey and was designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components and supported by trained technical support personnel.

"ExaGrid's customer support is simply terrific," said Sherman. "We really like the fact that they can remotely monitor the system and assist us with any issues that come up. They are extremely knowledgeable about backups and have helped us with the process of streamlining our backup operations to enhance performance."

Moving its backups to ExaGrid has reduced the amount of hours the IT staff at Rödl & Partner spends each month managing and administering backups.

## 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 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.

**For more information about ExaGrid, please visit us at [www.exagrid.com](http://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](http://www.exagrid.com).