

# U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leadership Offices Rely on ExaGrid for Faster, More Reliable Backups and Restores

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

SYMFODIUM

“The ExaGrid system offers great price/performance, it’s easy to use, and it works with existing infrastructures. Best of all, installing the system solved the long backup times and reliability issues that both offices faced on a daily basis. We’ve been very happy with it.”

Tam Myiang  
Chief Technology Officer  
Symfodium

## Customer Overview

Symfodium offers comprehensive, perfect-fit government solutions that align offices with the tools and support needed to connect with their constituents. Symfodium is based in Washington, D.C.

## Long Backups, Difficult Restores Led to Search for a New Solution

Symfodium is a technology consulting firm that specializes in working with government agencies. The company had been working with two Democratic Leadership Offices in the United States House of Representatives on various technology initiatives when they were asked to help identify a new backup approach to alleviate longstanding backup issues.

“One office had been using tape drives to back up data and the other had been using disk, but they both had issues with long backup times, capacity, reliability and restores. The first office was considering a NetApp solution, but when we compared the NetApp product against the ExaGrid, we realized that they could get the same quality backup at a fraction of the price,” said Tam Myiang, chief technology officer at Symfodium. “When we delved further into the value proposition, the ExaGrid was hard to beat.”

## ExaGrid System Fits Seamlessly into Existing Infrastructure

The first of two offices installed ExaGrid’s disk-based backup system with data deduplication. The ExaGrid system works along with the office’s existing backup application, Symantec Backup Exec.

“The ExaGrid system fit right into the office’s existing network and we were able get it up and running quickly. The ExaGrid is tightly integrated with Backup Exec, which really

reduced the learning curve,” said Myiang. “We were so happy with the ExaGrid that we recommended it to the second office, and they also installed the system.

## Data Deduplication Maximizes Disk Space

The ExaGrid system comes complete with automatic zone-level data deduplication technology to maximize the amount of data stored.

“The ExaGrid system does a fantastic job at reducing data. It enables us to keep lots of information on the system in case we need to perform a restore,” said Myiang. “Restoring data was a pain point in both offices before we installed the ExaGrid system. Now, data can be restored instantaneously, and we’re highly confident that data will be there if and when it’s needed.”

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 zone-level data deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

EXAGRID™

## Top-Notch Customer Support, GRID Architecture Provides Smooth Scalability

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.

"The ExaGrid system was easy to install and it's easy to maintain," said Myiang. "ExaGrid's customer support has been simply awesome. Our support engineer is extremely professional, knowledgeable and responsive. They really know the ExaGrid system inside and out, and they know lots about backup environments. We can rely on ExaGrid's support to help with any questions or issues we have."

The ExaGrid system can easily scale to accommodate more data as backup requirements grow. 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 130TB 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.

"The ExaGrid system is easily scalable so we're confident that it will meet the long-term needs of both offices," said Myiang. "The ExaGrid system offers great price/performance, it's easy to use, and it works with existing infrastructures. Best of all, installing the system solved the long backup times and reliability issues that both offices faced on a daily basis. We've been very happy with it."

## 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.

## Intelligent Data Protection

ExaGrid's turnkey disk-based backup system combines high quality SATA drives with zone-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's zone-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.

ExaGrid is the leader in cost-effective disk-based backup solutions. A highly scalable system that works with existing backup applications, the ExaGrid system is ideal for companies looking to quickly eliminate the hassles of tape backup while reducing their existing backup windows. ExaGrid's innovative approach minimizes the amount of data to be stored by providing standard data compression for the most recent backups along with zone-level data deduplication technology for all previous backups. Customers can deploy ExaGrid at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories or 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.**