

ACNB Bank Installs ExaGrid System, Runs “Flawlessly”

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Stanley Miller
Data Center Administrator

Key Benefits:

- Integration with Backup Exec minimized learning curve
- Retention goals exceeded
- Replication completed overnight; workday network speed not affected
- 15% less time spent managing backups
- 20% reduction in backup window

Customer Overview

Originally founded in 1857, ACNB Bank serves its marketplace via a network of 19 retail banking offices and four loan offices located throughout Pennsylvania.

Replication Challenges Led to ‘Highly Recommended’ ExaGrid System

ACNB Bank had been successfully backing up to disk on a nightly basis; however, replication to its disaster recovery site proved challenging. After multiple attempts to resolve the situation, the bank’s IT staff decided to look for a new solution.

“We tried several different methods to get the replication to work without increasing the bandwidth between sites but could never get it to operate correctly. We were falling further and further behind, and finally got to the point where we just had to stop and look at other options,” said Stanley Miller, Data Center Administrator for ACNB Bank.

Miller said that the bank’s IT staff started networking with local businesses and other business contacts and discovered ExaGrid. “We heard about the ExaGrid system from other users, and it came highly recommended. From a technology standpoint, we liked that it could deliver strong data deduplication and required a minimum amount of bandwidth between sites,” he said.

ACNB Bank purchased an ExaGrid EX13000 system for its main datacenter and an EX7000 for its disaster recovery site. Both systems work along with Symantec Backup Exec, the bank’s existing backup application, to back up both physical and virtual machines.

“Strong integration with Backup Exec was a requirement, and the ExaGrid system works flawlessly with it. The tight integration

minimized our learning curve and saved money because we were able to keep our existing solution,” said Miller.

Data Deduplication Helps Double Retention, Speed Replication

Since installing the ExaGrid system, ACNB Bank has been seeing data deduplication ratios as high as 8:1, and retention has more than doubled.

“Thanks to ExaGrid’s strong data deduplication, we’re actually above our data retention goals,” said Miller. “Also, because only changed data is sent between sites, replication is completed quickly. In fact, we had expected that the replication process would spill over into the workday, but we’re able to complete everything overnight so it doesn’t affect our network at all.”

ExaGrid combines standard compression along with zone-level data deduplication, which stores changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies. This unique approach reduces the disk space required, 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. When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid’s zone-level data deduplication technology moves only the changes from backup to backup, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

Intuitive Management and Administration Saves Time

Miller estimates that he spends approximately 15 percent less time managing backups than he did before, and backup times have been reduced by approximately 20 percent.

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.

"The ExaGrid system is incredibly easy to use, and we don't really have to manage it or even think about our backups anymore. Before, we were constantly working on the replication issues, but now our backups are quickly completed each night, and we don't have to worry about getting our data offsite," he said.

GRID Architecture Provides Scalability to Grow

Although the ExaGrid system was sized to handle the bank's expected data growth for the next three to five years, Miller said that its GRID architecture will enable the system to easily scale in the event that the bank has a sudden surge of data due to unforeseen circumstances like an acquisition.

"Our data growth has been fairly constant, but in our industry, you have to plan for the unforeseen. We're confident that the ExaGrid system will be able to expand to handle anything in the future," he said.

ExaGrid uses a GRID-based configuration, so when the system needs to expand, additional appliance nodes are attached to the GRID, bringing with them not only additional disk but also processing power, memory, and bandwidth. This type of configuration allows the system to maintain all the aspects of performance as the amount of data grows. In addition, as new ExaGrid appliance nodes are added to the GRID, the ExaGrid automatically load balances available capacity, maintaining a virtual pool of storage that is shared across the GRID.

"ExaGrid's data deduplication and replication capabilities have been nothing short of amazing. We have all this data

that we weren't able to replicate before, but now, we can get it all backed up and replicated offsite in a much smaller window – and with fewer headaches."

ExaGrid and Symantec Backup Exec

Symantec Backup Exec is the gold standard in Windows data recovery, providing 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. It also supports single-drive libraries, encryption, and disaster recovery. High-performance agents and options provide fast, flexible, granular protection and recovery, 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 disk drives with zone-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is far more cost effective than simply backing up to straight disk. 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 backing up to straight disk. 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 appliances 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.