

# Aeroflex Unburdens Itself from Disk Sprawl with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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**Ed Wrona**  
Enterprise Infrastructure  
Manager

## Key Benefits:

- Cost-effective ExaGrid system proves to be the best choice for remote offices
- ExaGrid's deduplication process 'effective at reducing amount of data' stored
- Staff saves five hours per week on backup administration
- ExaGrid customer support 'extremely responsive' and knowledgeable

## Customer Overview

Aeroflex Incorporated, a wholly owned subsidiary of Aeroflex Holding Corp. (NYSE:ARX), is a leading global provider of high performance microelectronic components and test and measurement equipment used by companies in the space, avionics, defense, commercial wireless communications, medical and other markets.

## Retention an Ongoing Issue with D2D2T Architecture

The IT staff at Aeroflex had been backing up data in the company headquarters office using a disk-to-disk-to-tape methodology but struggled with retention on a daily basis. As a result, the IT staff began looking at disk-based solutions. The company had implemented another solution in its main datacenter and liked the speed and convenience of disk-based backup, but wanted a solution with similar functionality and a better price point for its remote offices.

"We run a disk-based solution in our primary datacenter, so we're familiar with this solution," said Ed Wrona, enterprise infrastructure manager at Aeroflex. "We liked the ease of that solution, but it would have been expensive to roll the technology out to a smaller office. We did further research and discovered ExaGrid."

## Cost-Effective ExaGrid System Provides Native Integration with Backup Exec

After comparing the two solutions, Wrona said that Aeroflex opted for ExaGrid's disk-based backup solution with data deduplication because of price as well as its native integration with Symantec Backup Exec.

"The ExaGrid system was more cost effective, and we liked how tightly integrated it was with Backup Exec," Wrona said. "Native integration with Backup Exec was extremely important to us. It enables us to get more detailed reports and job-by-job visibility on our data deduplication ratios directly from the ExaGrid system."



## Data Deduplication Maximizes Disk Space, Provides Fast Access to Backup Data

Wrona said that he has become a 'big fan' of ExaGrid's approach to data deduplication. Aeroflex is currently seeing deduplication ratios of 17:1 on average.

"To be honest, we were a little wary at first about ExaGrid's data deduplication. Now, after using the system, I'm a big proponent of the architecture because it backs up our data to a landing zone and then deduplicates it before it puts it into the retention area. It's also very effective at reducing the amount of data we store," Wrona said. "We like that the last full backup is resident on the landing space, making it readily available when we need it."

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.

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ExaGrid delivers extremely fast backup performance because data is written directly to disk, and data deduplication is performed 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 changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

## Fast Deployment, Easy Ongoing Management

Wrona said that the ExaGrid system was easy to install and manage. He and his staff save hours per week on managing and administering backups.

"The ExaGrid unit was extremely easy to deploy, and it's easy to use and manage. With our old setup, we'd constantly have to go in and delete data to make room for the new backups. With ExaGrid, we have a good deal of retention capacity," Wrona said. "We probably save five hours a week on management alone compared to our old backup method."

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. "We've had a great experience with ExaGrid's customer support team," Wrona said. "They've been extremely responsive and they really know the system inside and out."

## Scale-out Architecture Provides Scalability

ExaGrid's computing software makes the system highly scalable, and when plugged into a switch, different sized configurations can be mixed and matched into a single scale-out system with capacities of up to a 2PB 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, and we will consider it for other branch offices if the need arises," Wrona said. "The ExaGrid system has unburdened us from worrying

about disk sprawl in our backup architectures. I hope to never buy disk again for our backup server. It's a great feeling."

## 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 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.

## About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides hyper-converged secondary storage (HCSS) for backup with a unique landing zone and scale-out architecture. The landing zone enables the fastest backups, restores, and instant VM recoveries. The scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scalable system and ensures a fixed-length backup window as data grows, eliminating expensive and disruptive forklift upgrades. Learn more at [www.exagrid.com](http://www.exagrid.com).

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