

C&S Installs ExaGrid to Ensure Data Restoration in the Event of Catastrophic Data Loss

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



"I would personally highly recommend the ExaGrid to anyone or any organization that is looking for a high-quality, easy-to-use backup solution that will do everything they need it to do and more."

James Harter
Senior Network Administrator
C&S Companies

Customer Overview

Headquartered in Syracuse, New York, C&S provides a wide variety of multidisciplinary services, including architecture, planning, engineering, environmental, construction management, and general/specialty contracting throughout the U.S. Markets that C&S serve include aviation, education, government, healthcare, industrial, site development, transportation, and wireless communication. In May of 2011, C&S was chosen as the top large company to work for in the "Best Companies to Work for in New York" program by the New York State Society for Human Resource Management in partnership with The Business Council of New York.

Data Loss Forces Implementation of More Reliable Backup Strategy

C&S Companies recently installed an ExaGrid EX10000E to ensure ease of data restoration in the event of a mass data loss and are extremely pleased with the results.

With the recent loss of several of its virtual servers due as a result of an outage, the C&S IT staff had been forced to work a tedious 48-hour shift to get the systems back up and running. The nature and diversity of its services causes the data that C&S backs up to be a little different than many other environments. They regularly have a very large amount of new data and even when they are able to locate the backup data (a time-consuming task in and of itself), they regularly experienced painfully slow restore times due to the sluggishness of the tapes they were restoring from.

"Experiencing this painful process once was enough," said James Harter, senior network administrator at C&S. "We immediately sought an alternate solution to avoid the potential catastrophic data loss – and the ensuing tedium of slow and unreliable restoration – from recurring. The recent outage made it very clear that we needed an immediate solution to this issue," said Harter.

They had tried some of the software-based deduplication available in the past and were not happy with the results. They had not tried ExaGrid, but when they did their research, they realized it would potentially work well and play well with their existing backup software (Symantec Backup Exec and Quest vRanger) and infrastructure. This was a huge plus as there are so many pieces that they could not afford to change to "fit" a new backup solution.

Easy to Install and Maintain, Time and Money Saved

According to Harter, it took more time to get the ExaGrid out of the box and installed in the rack than it did to actually configure it! Once installed, the C&S IT staff noticed a significant reduction in the time they had to spend managing backups as well as savings we realized in tape used. They estimate that they are saving over 150 hours per year in administration and management time as well as thousands of dollars annually in tape costs!

Scalability to Grow

Of value to C&S is that the ExaGrid system can easily be expanded to accommodate more data. 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

EXAGRID™

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. This is a huge plus for C&S and the way they do business.

Easy to Install and Maintain, Time and Money Saved

The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications, so any organization can seamlessly retain their investment in existing applications and processes. In addition, ExaGrid servers can be used at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery. This is a key differentiator and a huge plus from C&S' perspective!

"Needless to say, C&S is a true fan of ExaGrid and in addition to everyone on our staff, I would personally highly recommend the ExaGrid to anyone or any organization that is looking for a high-caliber, easy-to-use backup solution that will do everything they need it to do and more," said James Harter, senior network administrator at C&S.

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.

ExaGrid and Quest vRanger

Quest's vRanger solution offers full image level and differential backups of virtual machines to enable faster, more efficient storage and recovery of virtual machines. ExaGrid's disk-based backup systems serve as the backup target for these virtual machine images, using high-performance, post-process data deduplication to dramatically reduce the disk storage capacity required for backups versus standard disk storage.

For more information about ExaGrid, please visit us at 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.