ExaGrid Supports Carglass' Diverse Backup Environment and Reduces Backup Window 70%

CARGLASS®

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>
> **Vincent Dominguez**
> **IT Infrastructure Engineer**

FRANCE

Key Benefits:

- Carglass switches to ExaGrid for its deduplication and expands retention of its backups

- ExaGrid supports all of Carglass' backup apps and utilities in a diverse backup environment

- Switch to ExaGrid results in 70% reduction of backup window

- ExaGrid's reliability reduces the time Carglass' IT staff spends on backup management

Customer Overview

Carglass, a subsidiary of the Belron group, is the leading vehicle glass repair and replacement company, operating in 28 countries worldwide. Carglass has nearly 3,000 employees, 450 integrated centers, and nearly 700 workshop vehicles in France. For more than 30 years, private individuals and insurance companies, as well as rental car fleets, have trusted Carglass for vehicle glass services.

Slow SAN Results in New Backup Solution

The French division of Carglass had been backing up its data to a storage-attached network (SAN) solution using Veeam. The IT staff had grown frustrated with growing backup windows and struggled with storage capacity, so the company looked into other backup storage solutions. "We have many virtual machines (VMs) to back up and backups to our SAN were very slow. We would start backups at 8:00 p.m. and sometimes those still wouldn't be finished at 8:00 a.m. We were also running out of space on our SAN, and that made it even harder to manage our backups," said Vincent Dominguez, an IT infrastructure engineer at Carglass. "We also wanted to back up our databases and our principal ERP, which we realized would take up more storage space, so we looked for a solution that provided excellent deduplication. After some research, we found that ExaGrid would provide faster backups and restores, as well as better deduplication."

Carglass purchased ExaGrid systems for its two data centers, which cross-replicate backups for increased data protection. In addition to using Veeam to manage backups of VMs, the IT staff also uses Acronis to back up data, as well as the Oracle Recovery Manager (RMAN) utility to back up its databases directly to ExaGrid.

ExaGrid Reduces Backup Window by Over 70%

Dominguez backs up Carglass' data in daily incrementals and a weekly full. "We've noticed that our backups are faster than they were before," he said. "Our nightly backup used to take about 13 hours, and was error-prone. Since installing ExaGrid, our nightly backup takes under four hours, and we no longer have to resolve any issues with our backup jobs.

"Restoring data is much faster too, thanks to the landing zone. We're able to restore a VM in minutes; it's night and day, compared to restoring from the SAN," said Dominguez.

ExaGrid writes backups directly to a disk Landing Zone, avoiding inline processing and ensuring the highest possible backup performance, which results in the shortest backup window. Adaptive Deduplication performs deduplication and replication in parallel with backups while providing full system resources to the backups for the shortest backup window. Available system cycles are utilized to perform deduplication and offsite replication for an optimal recovery point at the disaster recovery site. Once complete, the onsite data is protected and immediately available in its full undeduplicated form for fast restores, VM Instant Recoveries, and tape copies while the offsite data is ready for disaster recovery.

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Deduplication Maximizes Storage Capacity, Increasing Retention

Since installing ExaGrid, Carglass has been able to expand its retention, further increasing data protection. "ExaGrid provides great deduplication across the different data types we back up. We like to retain a month's worth of our backups to restore from if necessary, and even longer for some types of data, such as accounting software backups. Thanks to the deduplication, we have more space to accommodate the retention," said Dominguez. "Before ExaGrid, we were limited to one week of backups, because we were often struggling with storage capacity in our SAN."

ExaGrid has taken an innovative path to data deduplication, using zone-level deduplication, which breaks data into larger "zones" and then compares zone stamps to identify only the bytes that have changed. ExaGrid then stores and replicates only the changed bytes. Depending on data mix and retention periods, ExaGrid achieves or exceeds the industry's best average deduplication ratios. ExaGrid requires the least amount of storage for deduplicated data and the least bandwidth to replicate data offsite for disaster recovery. ExaGrid's tracking table is 1,000th the size of the block-level approach and allows for full appliances in a hyperconverged scale-out solution. As data grows, all resources are added: processor, memory, and bandwidth as well as disk. This approach is backup application agnostic, allowing ExaGrid to support virtually any backup application.

Reliable ExaGrid System Saves Time on Backup Management

Dominguez has found that switching to ExaGrid has had an impact on his daily work life. "It only takes a few moments to look at the backup reports when I arrive to work each morning. Since I no longer have to resolve backup issues, I've gained more time to work on other projects."

Dominguez also appreciates the convenience of working with an assigned customer support engineer. "Our ExaGrid support engineer is helpful, and quickly responds whenever we have a question or an issue. He's easy to work with, and we always find a solution when we work together," he said.

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 level 2 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.

ExaGrid and Veeam

The combination of ExaGrid's and Veeam's industry-leading virtual server data protection solutions allows customers to utilize Veeam Backup & Replication in VMware, vSphere, and Microsoft Hyper-V virtual environments on ExaGrid's disk-based backup system. This combination provides fast backups and efficient data storage as well as replication to an offsite location for disaster recovery. ExaGrid fully leverages Veeam's built-in backup-to-disk capabilities, and ExaGrid's adaptive data deduplication provides additional data and cost reduction over standard disk solutions. Customers can use Veeam Backup & Replication's built-in source-side deduplication in concert with ExaGrid's disk-based backup system with adaptive deduplication to further shrink backups.

ExaGrid and Oracle RMAN

ExaGrid eliminates the need for expensive primary storage for database backups without affecting the ability to use familiar built-in database protection tools. While built-in database tools for Oracle and SQL provide the basic capability to back up and recover these mission-critical databases, adding an ExaGrid system allows database administrators to gain control over their data protection needs at a lower cost and with less complexity. ExaGrid's support of Oracle RMAN Channels provides the fastest backup, fastest restore performance, and failover for multi-hundred terabyte databases.

ExaGrid and Acronis

Efficient disk-based backup requires close integration between the backup software and the disk device. That is the advantage delivered by the partnership between Acronis and ExaGrid. Together, Acronis and ExaGrid provide a cost-effective disk-based backup solution that scales to meet the needs of demanding enterprise environments.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides intelligent hyperconverged storage 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**.

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