Dagrofa's Switch to ExaGrid Results in Quicker Backups and a Consolidated Backup Environment

Dagrofa

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>
> **Patrick Frømming**
> **Infrastructure Architect**

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Key Benefits:

- Dagrofa resolves storage capacity issues by installing scalable ExaGrid system
- Dagrofa's daily backups ten times faster after switch to ExaGrid, due to ExaGrid's integration with Veeam Data Mover
- Data is easily restored from ExaGrid's Landing Zone in just a 'few clicks'

Customer Overview

The Dagrofa Group, headquartered in Ringsted, Denmark, operates several chains of grocery stores, a wholesale logistics company for internal and external customers and exports, and is a supplier for professional kitchens in the hotel and restaurant industry. Dagrofa is Denmark's third largest retail company and its largest wholesale business; employing around 16,500 employees, with annual sales of approximately DKK 20 billion.

Switch to ExaGrid Consolidates Backup Environment

The IT team at Dagrofa had been backing up data to a Dell EMC Data Domain system as well as smaller network-attached storage (NAS) boxes, using Veeam. As they ran out of storage space on the different devices they realized it was time for a new solution, and made a plan to consolidate the storage environment to use one product for all of the backup storage.

"We spoke with our storage vendor and he recommended that we look into ExaGrid," said Patrick Frømming, infrastructure architect at Dagrofa. "One of the key reasons we chose to switch to ExaGrid was its integration with Veeam, and were especially impressed that ExaGrid had built in Veeam's Data Mover into its system. We've noticed a significant increase in the speed of our backups since we have switched to using ExaGrid with Veeam. ExaGrid is super cool technology and I'm a big fan of Veeam as well, so it's very satisfying to me that they work so well together."

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 Speeds Up Daily Backups and Synthetic Fulls

Dagrofa has a wide variety of data to back up, including Windows data as well as SQL and Oracle databases. Frømming backs up Dagrofa's production system data in daily incrementals and weekly synthetic fulls. "Our daily backups are ten times faster with ExaGrid than with our previous backup storage solution," he said. "With our previous system, it used to take up to 24 hours to merge the daily incrementals from into a full backup. Since switching to ExaGrid that process takes significantly less time," added Frømming.

ExaGrid has integrated the Veeam Data Mover so that backups are written Veeam-to-Veeam versus Veeam-to-CIFS, which provides a 30% increase in backup performance. ExaGrid is the only product on the market that offers this performance enhancement.

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Because ExaGrid has integrated the Veeam Data Mover, Veeam synthetic fulls can be created at a rate that is six times faster than any other solution. ExaGrid stores the most recent Veeam backups in undeduplicated form in its Landing Zone, has the Veeam Data Mover running on each ExaGrid appliance, and has processor in each appliance in a scale-out architecture.

Restores in Just a 'Few Clicks'

Frømming is pleased with how quickly data is restored from ExaGrid's Landing Zone. "It only takes a few clicks to restore data from the Landing Zone. I think the Landing Zone is ExaGrid's best feature, especially because we can start up backups as virtual machines (VMs) directly from our backup storage. I also like that the storage space is differentiated between the most recent backups in the Landing Zone, and less recent backups in the retention area, and that I can adjust the storage space between the two, on one system."

ExaGrid writes backups directly to a disk-cache 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.

ExaGrid and Veeam can instantly recover a VMware virtual machine by running it directly from the ExaGrid appliance in the event that the primary storage VM becomes unavailable. Once the primary storage environment has been brought back to a working state, the VM running on the ExaGrid appliance can then be migrated to primary storage for continued operation.

Dagrofa Easily Adds to Its ExaGrid System

Frømming was impressed with how easy it was to add another ExaGrid appliance to the system, and that it resulted in a fixed-length backup window. "Dagrofa is the parent company to three different areas of business, and shortly after installing our ExaGrid system, we decided to merge data centers with our daughter company. We started out with two spokes on our ExaGrid system and added another spoke to consolidate the backup data for the merging data centers. Our ExaGrid account manager and system engineer were very helpful in sizing our system and scaling it correctly with an additional appliance," he said.

"The advantage to this process was that we gained more processing power so that we could have simultaneous backup of different systems. We also found that our backup time was the same, despite adding many more servers to back up," said Frømming.

All of ExaGrid's appliances contain not just disk but also processing power, memory, and bandwidth. When the system needs to expand, additional appliances are simply attached to the existing system. This type of configuration allows the system to maintain all the aspects of performance as the amount of data grows, with customers paying for what they need when they need it. In addition, as new ExaGrid appliances are added to the existing system, ExaGrid automatically load balances available capacity, maintaining a virtual pool of storage that is shared across the system.

ExaGrid Saves Time on Backup Management

"We've saved so much time on backup management. With our previous solution, we were always trying to move backups around to make space for new ones, but now that we use ExaGrid, our storage capacity is not an issue, in fact, we still have 39% of our retention space remaining, thanks to the great deduplication we're getting," said Frømming. "Now our backup management is as simple as reading our daily email from the ExaGrid system so we have a nice, fast view of our backup storage."

Frømming values the support he receives from his ExaGrid support engineer. "Whenever there is a new release, my support engineer gets in touch to install firmware upgrades and he gets back to me quickly when I have questions about the system. I have also found that ExaGrid provides good documentation, so that if I want to try something I can easily find documentation on how to do it. There's great support for this system."

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.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides tiered backup storage with a unique disk-cache Landing Zone, long-term retention repository and scale-out architecture. ExaGrid's Landing Zone enables the fastest backups, restores, and instant VM recoveries. The retention repository offers the lowest cost for long-term retention. ExaGrid's scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scalable system. Learn more at **www.exagrid.com**.