

EwingCole Builds Better Backups with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

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"ExaGrid's customer support is excellent. Their response, overall knowledge and willingness to satisfy the customer's needs is second to none."

Kirk Anderson
Information Technology
Manager
EwingCole

Customer Overview

In practice for more than 45 years, EwingCole is a nationally recognized architecture, engineering, interior design, historic preservation and planning firm of more than 300 professionals. As an integrated practice, the firm believes that design of the built environment can enhance our clients' ability to achieve long-term success. EwingCole is a leader in the design of academic, cultural, government, healthcare, science & technology, sports & entertainment, and workplace facilities. Based in Philadelphia, the firm has offices in Irvine, and Washington, DC.

Time Consuming Restores and Growing Data Become Issues for Firm

EwingCole is a fast growing architectural firm with a significant amount of data to protect. The company's IT department had been backing up its data to tape but struggled as its backup windows began to extend into the work day causing slow downs on the network and affecting user performance.

"Retention and restore times were becoming a concern. Our backup windows were running long because we were going through as many as 15 tapes at a time for our full backups," said Kirk Anderson, Information Technology Manager at EwingCole. "The management of that many tapes coupled with the fact that it took so much time to get tapes back onsite for restores ultimately forced us to look for another solution."

ExaGrid Provides Cost-effective Alternative to Antiquated Tape Backup System

EwingCole selected ExaGrid disk-based backup system and installed it in its Philadelphia office along with a second site used for disaster recovery in its Washington, D.C. office. "We looked at several other solutions, but ultimately selected ExaGrid due to the fact that it was significantly less expensive,

that it worked seamlessly with our backup application and that it was recommended by our technology solutions provider - Syscom Technologies," said Anderson.

Since installing the ExaGrid, EwingCole's backup windows have not only been significantly shortened, but the amount of time the firm spends managing the process has also been reduced. "We are saving at least eight hours a week in management time since moving off of tape," said Anderson.

Scalability to Meet Increased Backup Requirements

The ExaGrid system can easily be scaled to meet increased demand. 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 capacities of up to a 60TB 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 expect our data to continue to grow over the course of the next few months, we needed to be sure that the solution we chose could grow with our needs. ExaGrid's GRID architecture will enable us to easily accommodate more and more data," said Anderson.

EXAGRID™

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 byte-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's byte-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.

Syscom Technologies

Syscom Technologies is a technology solutions provider specializing in extreme makeovers for data centers and critical infrastructures. Syscom Technologies provides multiple solutions including: power and air solutions data center & IDF Closets, storage management; virtual infrastructure, disaster recovery solutions, backup and deduplication, exchange optimization, WAN traffic reduction, asset disposal as well as nationwide professional services. 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. For more information about Syscom Technologies, visit www.syscomtechnologies.com or call: 1-800-379-4910.

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.