Firelands Regional Medical Center Simplifies Backups with ExaGrid

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Regional Medical Center

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>
> **Mike Regan**
> **Senior Network Analyst**
> **Firelands Regional Medical Center**

Customer Overview

Firelands Regional Medical Center is located in Sandusky, Ohio and is the area's largest and most comprehensive resource for quality medical care. With more than 250 physicians and allied health practitioners on staff representing 33 specialties, Firelands Regional Medical Center provides care each year to 10,000 inpatients, 277,000 outpatients and 102,000 community program participants.

Constant Mechanical Issues with Tape Library

The IT staff at Firelands backs up its electronic medical records system and other critical data in real time to a storage-area network (SAN), but the tape library the facility used for nightly backups was often down due to mechanical issues.

"Our tape libraries were located in a closet in a remote part of our campus and we were constantly dealing with issues caused by dust and connectivity problems," said Mike Regan, senior network analyst for the Firelands Regional Medical Center. "We were spending a lot of unnecessary time troubleshooting and cleaning the tape libraries and our backups weren't reliable."

Cost-effectice ExaGrid System Provides Reliable Backups

At first, the IT department tried to solve the problem by backing up to disk but found it time consuming and expensive. Then, Firelands installed an ExaGrid disk-based backup system to replace its failing tape libraries. The ExaGrid system works along with the facility's existing backup application, CA ARCserve Backup™, and protects data from Firelands' Meditech electronic medical records system along with the facility's other patient, financial, operational and business data.

"Because our critical systems are backed up in real time, we needed a solution that would act sort of as an insurance policy in case of a disaster. The ExaGrid system fit right into our environment and it works flawlessly," said Regan. "The cost of the ExaGrid system was considerably less than purchasing new tape libraries and we no longer have to worry about the mechanical issues. It made perfect financial sense."

Easy to Set up and Manage, Outstanding Customer Support

"The ExaGrid system was very easy to set up and it's simple to manage remotely," said Regan. "We've also had good experiences with ExaGrid's customer support. They proactively call us to ensure that things are going smoothly and to make us aware of any new software updates that come up."

ExaGrid comes packaged as a turnkey appliance, was designed to be easy to deploy and manage, and to deliver maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components. All components are fully supported by ExaGrid's trained, in-house engineers dedicated to individual accounts.

Data Deduplication Reduces Amount of Data Stored

"The thing that attracted us to the ExaGrid solution was its built-in data deduplication technology. It works behind the scenes to significantly reduce the amount of data we keep on disk," said Regan. "Another big plus was that we were able to keep our existing investment in ARCserve. The two products work extremely well together."

EXAGRID™

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 10:1to 50:1 or more, delivering unparalleled cost savings and performance. ExaGrid delivers extremely fast backup performance because data is written directly to disk, and data deduplication is performed post-process after the data is stored to reduce data.

When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid's byte-level data deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

The ExaGrid system can be easily expanded to protect growing amounts of 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 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.

ExaGrid and CA ARCserve Backup

CA ARCserve Backup delivers reliable, enterprise-class data protection across multiple hardware and software platforms. Its proven technology — unified by a single, easy-to-use interface — enables multi-tiered protection driven by business goals and policies. Organizations using ARCserve Backup can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups.

ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as ARCserve Backup, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running ARCserve Backup, 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.

ExaGrid servers can be used at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery.

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**.

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