Global Aerospace Replaces Aging Dell EMC Data Domain with Highly Scalable ExaGrid System

GLOBAL AEROSPACE

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>
> **Paul Draper**
> **Technical Analyst**

Key Benefits:

- Seamless integration with backup apps led to replacement of Data Domain
- Scalability is 'one of ExaGrid's best features'
- Backups are more reliable; backup windows are shorter and don't impede production hours

Customer Overview

Global Aerospace, headquartered in London, is a leading provider of aerospace insurance with a worldwide portfolio of clients engaged in every aspect of the aviation and space industries.

Insurer Seeks Alternative to Aging Data Domain System

Global Aerospace found that its Dell EMC Data Domain system was running out of space as it reached its end of life. The company began to look into replacements for the aging system and considered other Data Domain models, but also looked at alternate solutions that would support its backup applications, Veritas Backup Exec and Veeam.

"My manager had been to a storage exhibition and learned about ExaGrid there," said Paul Draper, Global Aerospace's technical analyst. "We realized that ExaGrid had better integration with the backup software that we were using. We liked the fact that the ExaGrid system was modular and easily expandable, so we decided to replace Data Domain with ExaGrid."

Global Aerospace installed ExaGrid systems at its primary site and also at a secondary site for replication of critical data. "After we moved the data from the Data Domain system to the ExaGrid system at our primary site, we created a full backup and then started replicating to our secondary site. Overall, installation and setup were simple," said Paul.

The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with all of the most frequently used backup applications, so an organization can seamlessly retain its investment in existing applications and processes. In addition, ExaGrid appliances can be used at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery.

Landing Zone and Superior Deduplication Deliver More Reliable Backups

Paul backs up Global Aerospace's data in daily incrementals and weekly fulls. The data is a mix of operating systems, files, and SQL databases. Non-critical data is stored on tape, which can cause a bit of a delay in the overall production schedule, but Paul has noticed that delays have been less frequent since switching to ExaGrid, and that the backup window is shorter in general. "Switching to ExaGrid has resulted in more reliable backups. We haven't run out of space like we had before. Backup windows are smaller— several hours shorter for our largest backup job— and they don't run into production time as often."

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

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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.

Scale-Out Architecture Keeps Pace with Data Growth

Paul has been impressed by the amount of data that can be stored thanks to ExaGrid's deduplication, but when data growth caused space to become a bit limited, he decided to scale out the system by adding another appliance. "ExaGrid's deduplication and compression are better than our prior system, so we're able to store much more data. We added an appliance, and that was quite easy to do. We installed it, and our support engineer held a WebEx session with us to configure the system. Scalability is one of ExaGrid's best features."

ExaGrid's computing software makes the system highly scalable, and when plugged into a switch, appliances of any size or age can be mixed and matched in a single system with capacities of up to a 1PB full backup plus retention and an ingest rate of up to 200TB per hour. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic. ExaGrid's scale-out architecture provides lifetime value and investment protection that no other architecture can match.

ExaGrid Supports Wide Variety of Backup Apps

Paul has found that ExaGrid is easier to manage than Data Domain, monitoring the systems at both the primary and secondary sites using ExaGrid's GUI. He also finds the system is flexible and easily works with different backup applications. "I like the fact that we can tailor shares to the specific application we're using for backup; in other words, we can set up a Veeam-specific share and it's quite easy to add network cards as well, so we can have multiple streams of data going in."

ExaGrid supports a wide variety of backup applications, utilities, and database dumps. In addition, ExaGrid allows multiple approaches within the same environment. An organization can use one backup application for its physical servers, a different backup application or utility for its virtual environment, and also perform direct Microsoft SQL or Oracle RMAN database dumps – all to the same ExaGrid system. This approach allows customers to use the backup application(s) and utilities of their choosing, use best-of-breed backup applications and utilities, and choose the right backup application and utility for each specific use case.

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. The ExaGrid system fully leverages Veeam Backup & Replication's built-in backup-to-disk capabilities and ExaGrid's zone-level data deduplication for additional data reduction (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 zone-level deduplication to further shrink backups.

ExaGrid and Veritas Backup Exec

Veritas Backup Exec provides cost-effective, high-performance, and certified disk-to-disk-to-tape backup and recovery – including continuous data protection for Microsoft Exchange servers, Microsoft SQL servers, 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 Veritas Backup Exec can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as Veritas Backup Exec, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running Veritas 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 backup to disk.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides hyper-converged secondary storage (HCSS) 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**.