

Itho Daalderop Uses 40% Less Backup Storage After Switch to ExaGrid and Veeam

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Marco Ponse
System Administrator



NETHERLANDS

Key Benefits:

- ExaGrid-Veeam deduplication results in a 40% reduction of backup storage consumed
- Backup windows are shorter and no longer impact workday
- ExaGrid's scalability key to long-term planning

Customer Overview

Itho Daalderop is the leading Dutch manufacturer and developer of whole-house ventilation systems, condensing boilers, hot water tanks, boiling water taps, solar thermal systems, and heat pumps. Its products offer the highest level of comfort, health, and the best energy efficiency to create an optimal indoor climate.

ExaGrid-Veeam Solution Chosen to Replace Data Protector

The IT staff at Itho Daalderop had found that its backup solution, Micro Focus Data Protector, was too expensive to maintain and opted to look into other options. "Our reseller recommended ExaGrid so we decided to give it a try," said Marco Ponse, the company's system administrator. "Initially, we installed Veritas Backup Exec with our ExaGrid system, but realized Backup Exec wasn't designed for virtual environments, so we eventually switched to Veeam. We have found that ExaGrid and Veeam work very 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 zone-level 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 zone-level deduplication to further shrink backups.

Restores are Quick and Backups Stay within Scheduled Window

Ponse backs up Itho Daalderop's data in daily incrementals as well as weekly, monthly, and yearly fulls. The backups are replicated



to another ExaGrid system at the company's disaster recovery site. ExaGrid is able to keep backups within a scheduled window, which was difficult with the previous solution. "We were running backups all day when we used Data Protector, which caused delays during business hours. After switching to ExaGrid and Veeam, our daily incrementals take five hours, and our fulls are finished over the weekend, so our backups don't run into the workday anymore."

"It's so much quicker to restore data from our ExaGrid-Veeam solution than it was with Data Protector" said Ponse. 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



unduplicated form for fast restores, VM Instant Recoveries, and tape copies while the offsite data is ready for disaster recovery.

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. This is possible because of ExaGrid's "landing zone" – a high-speed cache on the ExaGrid appliance that retains the most recent backups in complete form. 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.

ExaGrid-Veeam Solution Reduces Backup Storage Consumed by 40%

Itho Daalderop wasn't able to utilize data deduplication before switching to its ExaGrid-Veeam solution. Ponse has been impressed with its impact on storage capacity. "Now that we have implemented deduplication, we are using 40% less backup storage."

Veeam uses the information from VMware and Hyper-V and provides deduplication on a "per-job" basis, finding the matching areas of all the virtual disks within a backup job and using metadata to reduce the overall footprint of the backup data. Veeam also has a "dedupe friendly" compression setting which further reduces the size of the Veeam backups in a way that allows the ExaGrid system to achieve further deduplication. This approach typically achieves a 2:1 deduplication ratio.

ExaGrid is architected from the ground up to protect virtualized environments and provide deduplication as backups are taken. ExaGrid will achieve a 3:1 up to 5:1 additional deduplication rate. The net result is a combined Veeam and ExaGrid deduplication rate of 6:1 upwards to 10:1, which greatly reduces the amount of disk storage required.

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.

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While Itho Daalderop has been able to save on storage thanks to deduplication, Ponse appreciates that the system can easily scale by adding more appliances to keep up with data growth. "As our company grows, so does our data. It will be necessary to add onto our system in the future."

The ExaGrid system can easily scale to accommodate data growth. 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 2PB full backup plus retention and an ingest rate of up to 432TB per hour. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

Reliable System with 'Terrific' Customer Support

Ponse has found that the ExaGrid-Veeam solution is dependable, which simplifies backup management. "Our ExaGrid system is easy to work with—and it's fast! I know that our backups are going well, so I don't have to check on them as often, and that's made the workday a bit easier. It's a very reliable system; we've never had a failed backup using ExaGrid."

"Working with ExaGrid support has been terrific. Any time I've needed to work through an issue, I've emailed my support engineer and often receive a response within ten minutes. When a drive failed, a new one was sent over immediately. The support is perfect!" said Ponse.

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.

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