



ExaGrid-Veeam Solution Provides La Plata County Government with Optimal Backup Performance

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Brian Gretz
Systems Coordinator

Key Benefits:

- Integration between ExaGrid and Veeam results in optimal backup performance
- IT staff find that ExaGrid ‘works as designed’ and is ‘maintenance-free’
- La Plata County easily scales out ExaGrid system as data has grown over the years
- IT staff describes ExaGrid Support as ‘amazing to work with’

Customer Overview

La Plata County is a vibrant and diverse locale situated among the San Juan Mountains in the high desert of Southwest Colorado, with Durango as the County seat. Across 1,690 square miles, La Plata County provides a beautiful locale for 55,000 residents to call home and draws visitors from around the world to experience second-to-none recreational opportunities in a setting rich in history, archaeology, culture, and natural features.

ExaGrid System Keeps Backup Environment Easy to Manage

The La Plata County Government had already been backing up its data to ExaGrid for several years when Brian Gretz started there as systems coordinator. Gretz was glad to try out a new backup solution. “It’s always great to have the opportunity to learn how to use different technology. Throughout my career, I’ve administered different storage solutions, and I’m glad that I’ve had a chance to compare the ExaGrid solution to others and add it to my knowledge base,” he said.

“Our ExaGrid system works as designed and does what it’s supposed to do. ExaGrid is easy to administer, and it’s been easy to maintain. Once the system is set up, it’s kind of turnkey. You set it up and forget about it, and it’s pretty maintenance-free,” said Gretz. The ExaGrid system is designed to be easy to install, manage, and scale. ExaGrid’s architecture provides lifetime value and investment protection that no other architecture can match.

Scalable Architecture Makes Transition ‘Seamless’

Over the years, La Plata County had expanded its ExaGrid system with larger models of ExaGrid appliances. One of the first projects that Gretz worked on was transitioning the system to the largest ExaGrid model the EX63000E. “It was so simple to add a new ExaGrid appliance to our backup environment. We had been using several smaller models of ExaGrid appliances in our system, which we traded in for



ExaGrid’s largest model. There was a 30-day transition period where we kept the older models online while we started backing up to the new system. It was a seamless, easy process for us. Especially with the help of our ExaGrid customer support engineer,” said Gretz.

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.

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.



Optimal Backup Performance from ExaGrid-Veeam Solution

Gretz backs up data to the ExaGrid system using Veeam, and finds that the two products provide optimal backup performance. "We're mostly backing up user data, such as file servers. We also back up our Microsoft Exchange servers, domain controllers and web servers. We keep our backups for 30 days so that data in that timeframe is easily restorable," he said. "Restoring data from ExaGrid using Veeam is a very easy process, thanks to the integration between the two. It only takes seconds to bring a file back."

Gretz backs up La Plata County's data in incrementals Monday-Friday as well as a weekly backup for certain sets of data, with a weekly full each Sunday. "Our backup window is pretty tight, but it works for us, and our backup jobs are finishing in the time when we need them to," he said.

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 Support 'Amazing to Work With'

Gretz has found that working with his assigned ExaGrid support engineer has been helpful in managing his backup environment. "My support engineer is extremely knowledgeable and is able to help walk me through issues, and also offered training to bring me up to speed when I was new to using the ExaGrid system. He's so amazing to work with!"

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.

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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.

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. 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. .



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