



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



USA

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.



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'

"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."

Brian Gretz
Systems Coordinator

ExaGrid's award-winning scale-out architecture provides customers with a fixed-length backup window regardless of data growth. Its unique disk-cache Landing Zone allows for the fastest backups and retains the most recent backup in its full unduplicated form, enabling the fastest restores.

ExaGrid's appliance models can be mixed and matched into a single scale-out system allowing a full backup of up to 2.7PB with a combined ingest rate of 488TB/hr, in a single system. The appliances automatically join the scale-out system. Each appliance includes the appropriate amount of processor, memory, disk, and bandwidth for the data size. By adding compute with capacity, the backup window remains fixed in length as the data grows. Automatic load balancing across all repositories allows for full utilization of all appliances. Data is deduplicated into an offline repository, and additionally, data is globally deduplicated across all repositories.

This combination of capabilities in a turnkey appliance makes the ExaGrid system easy to install, manage, and scale. ExaGrid's architecture provides lifetime value and investment protection that no other architecture can match.

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-cache 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 for a strong recovery point (RPO). As data is being deduplicated to the repository, it can also be replicated to a second ExaGrid site or the public cloud for disaster recovery (DR).



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!"

The ExaGrid system was designed to be easy to set up and operate. ExaGrid's industry-leading level 2 senior support engineers are assigned to individual customers, ensuring they always work with the same engineer. Customers never have to repeat themselves to various support staff, and issues get resolved quickly.

ExaGrid and Veeam

Veeam's backup solutions and ExaGrid's Tiered Backup Storage combine for the industry's fastest backups, fastest restores, a scale-out storage system as data grows, and a strong ransomware recovery story – all at the lowest cost.

ExaGrid-Veeam Combined Dedupe

Veeam uses changed block tracking to perform a level of data deduplication. ExaGrid allows Veeam deduplication and Veeam dedupe-friendly compression to stay on. ExaGrid will increase Veeam's deduplication by a factor of about 7:1 to a total combined deduplication ratio of 14:1, reducing the storage required and saving on storage costs up front and over time.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides Tiered Backup Storage with a unique disk-cache Landing Zone that enables fastest backups and restores, a Repository Tier that offers the lowest cost for long-term retention and enables ransomware recovery, and scale-out architecture which includes full appliances with up to 2.7PB full backup in a single system.

Learn more at www.exagrid.com.