

LeMaitre Vascular Virtualizes Environment, Upgrades Storage Solution to ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Lee Ung
Senior Systems Administrator

Key Benefits:

- Backup windows reduced by 50%
- Restores take minutes, lengthy catalog process is eliminated
- System is easy to scale, ExaGrid support assists with configuration
- System works with both Backup Exec and Veeam across physical and virtual servers

Customer Overview

LeMaitre Vascular, headquartered in Burlington, Massachusetts, is a leading global provider of innovative devices for the treatment of peripheral vascular disease. The company develops, manufactures, and markets disposable and implantable vascular devices to address the needs of vascular surgeons. Its diversified product portfolio consists of brand name products used in arteries and veins outside of the heart.

Upgrading Backup with a New Solution

LeMaitre Vascular had been backing up to external USB hard drives with Veritas Backup Exec and decided to upgrade by virtualizing its environment. Lee Ung, the senior systems administrator, began looking at new storage solutions, including Dell EMC Data Domain, which he had used while working at a previous company.

LeMaitre Vascular decided on a bundle that included ExaGrid, keeping Veritas Backup Exec for physical servers and adding Veeam for its virtual servers. Lee is glad that the ExaGrid system works in a heterogeneous environment. "ExaGrid works well with both Backup Exec and Veeam. Now, when we do backups and restores it's a lot faster as well as more convenient," said Lee. "It is definitely a big time saver because you don't have to worry about plugging and unplugging external hard drives, which would often take an hour or two, while the backup software indexes the backups on the external hard drives. This system stays online all the time and you can change your restore point."

Backup Windows 50% Shorter with Adaptive Deduplication

LeMaitre Vascular stores a large quantity and variety of data, such as OS and SQL data, as well as images, movies, and documents. Lee runs daily and weekly fulls, and daily incrementals. He noted, "We're almost at 130TB but what's actually consumed on the ExaGrid is roughly 11TB. We're getting a deduplication ratio of nearly 13:1. We didn't have a deduplication option before."



Before installing ExaGrid, backup windows were less reliable or even missed. Lee ran weekly fulls that sometimes finished over the weekend, but could take up to an entire week to complete when there were issues, disrupting other backup jobs. Now, weekly fulls take 15 hours to complete and don't leak into production hours.

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.

Higher Retention Allows for More Restores

When Lee had been managing the previous system, restores were difficult, if not impossible in some circumstances. "At that time, we recycled the hard drives every week. Any data older than a week was going to be lost," Lee noted. "We didn't do restores often, maybe once or twice a month, and then we

had to find the drive, which was in a different building, then get back to the office and make sure that the correct data was there. We had to constantly catalog every single drive to make sure that we could find the data. It would take a couple of hours each time.”

Now that LeMaitre Vascular uses ExaGrid, they are able to keep a 90-day retention, so data can be recovered from a longer timeframe. “Now, restores are really quick. The data is all in there and already cataloged, and we don’t need to mount the hardware,” said Lee.

Support to Scale Out

Lee has found that scaling out the ExaGrid system to accommodate more storage is simple. “We just popped in the second appliance and our assigned support engineer handled the configuration for us. Then, I migrated the data.” ExaGrid’s GRID 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 GRID 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.

“Our ExaGrid support engineer is awesome; he’s very helpful and resourceful when needed. While I was on vacation, he looked at the system and noticed that there were potential failing hard drives on one of our appliances. He proactively arranged for a replacement and everything was fine,” said Lee. 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 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

Lee appreciates the integration between ExaGrid and Veeam, especially when using a feature unique to this combination.

“Our backup windows used to be longer when writing over CIFS shares, now using the ExaGrid-Veeam Accelerated Data Mover, our backups are faster. Each job takes about 50% less time because there is less chatter with this protocol versus ethernet,” noted Lee.

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 backup storage with a unique landing zone and scale-out architecture. The landing zone provides for the fastest backups, restores and instant VM recoveries. The scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scalable GRID and provides for a fixed-length backup window as data grows, eliminating expensive forklift upgrades. Learn more at www.exagrid.com.

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