Law Firm Virtualizes with Veeam and ExaGrid, Products 'Integrate Perfectly'

LEVENE GOULDIN & THOMPSON, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Mark Goodman
Network Administrator

Key Benefits:

- Restores 'much easier and faster' than tape, down to just minutes
- ExaGrid and Veeam 'integrate perfectly,' offer efficient solution
- System is easy to scale; ExaGrid support guides the setup process
- Automated daily reports keep system easy to maintain

Customer Overview

Since 1927, the lawyers and staff of Levene Gouldin & Thompson (LG&T) have helped clients with prompt legal expertise that has made a difference. Nearly 100 LG&T attorneys and paralegals provide counsel to families and businesses on a host of legal matters including personal injury, elder law, family law, and corporate law in offices throughout Central New York and Northern Pennsylvania.

'Cumbersome Ordeal' with Tape Library

Mark Goodman, network administrator for LG&T, recalls the frustrations of backing up to a tape library. "Before we installed ExaGrid, we only had physical servers and we backed everything up to a tape library. It was a cumbersome ordeal as far as the software; we used Arcserve from CA Technologies at the time."

When LG&T transitioned from physical servers to a virtual environment, Mark found that backing up using tape was not efficient. In addition, it was hard to find platforms that supported the Novell Enterprise Server that LG&T had been using. The law firm was ready for a change.

Making the Switch

At a presentation with an IT services provider, Mark was impressed by what he learned about ExaGrid and Veeam, and decided to upgrade his environment. "We just jumped in with both feet and purchased the products. This was the only solution we ever looked at, and using Veeam and ExaGrid was so simple that there wasn't any need to look at anything else. What sold us on ExaGrid was how easy restores would be—that we could spin-up a previous version of a system that was running to grab data if we needed to."

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.

Restores are 'Much Easier and Faster'

Mark is pleased to work with a system that is optimized for restoring data. He had been frustrated with the restore process before switching to ExaGrid. "With Arcserve, we needed to go back and the find the job number to specify the tape. Now using Veeam with ExaGrid, everything is right there. I see a list of backups and it's just a matter of selecting the date, going to that file, and restoring. I can have it all done in 15 minutes.

"It's great to have easy access to our data and to be able to restore so easily. ExaGrid integrates perfectly with Veeam. I can't say enough how much I like these products. I've had other people call me, trying to sell me on other products, but I'm not interested in moving to anything different. This system is much easier and faster."

EXAGRID®

ExaGrid's award-winning scale-out architecture provides customers with a consistent backup window regardless of data growth. Its unique landing zone retains the most recent backup in its full undeduplicated form, enabling the fastest restores, offsite tape copies, and instant recoveries.

Reliable System is Easy to Maintain

Mark appreciates the reliability of the ExaGrid system and how easy it is to monitor the system with automated daily reports. "I get a report every day for every backup so I can check the health of the system, which is very helpful. I have the reporting set up so that if it's a clean report, it goes to a folder in my e-mail and if it's not, it comes to my inbox, so I know right away if something's wrong.

"The interface is very simple and easy to use, as is working with the hardware itself. I like using ExaGrid! I'll recommend it to anybody who is looking for a new system," Mark said.

Support to Scale Out

To keep up with the standards of the legal industry, LG&T keeps a ten-year retention of its data. Mark found it easy to scale out the GRID when the law firm needed more storage. "It was easy. Once I hooked up the new appliance, my ExaGrid customer support engineer helped me link it to the network and add an IP address. Within an hour we had it all set up, repartitioned, and changed the jobs so that one set of jobs went to the EX3000, one went to the EX5000, and I flipped up two repositories. It went smoothly. Anytime I've had an issue with partitions or understanding how anything works on the ExaGrid system, he's been very patient with me and answered my questions," said Mark.

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'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.

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-Veeam Combined Dedupe

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 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**.