

MRSI Backups Receive a Good Bill of Health after Implementing the ExaGrid System

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



MRSI
Mathematical Sciences
Research Institute

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Rupesh Nair
IT Consultant
Marfic Technologies

Customer Overview

MRSI has over 20 years of experience providing emergency physician coding and all related billing and follow up for both physicians and facilities. MRSI’s leadership is involved in both local and national emergency medicine coding and reimbursement issues. MRSI was built by emergency physicians to service their own practices; every client account is identically managed with the same allocation of resources and high operational and compliance standards. MRSI currently processes approximately 4,500,000 ER visits nationally from Massachusetts to California.

Incomplete Backups Lead to Search for New Backup Solution

For months, MRSI had been looking at different approaches to backup in an effort to alleviate incomplete backs and the hassles of dealing with tape. When MRSI realized that it was no longer able to complete its backup jobs with its existing disk-to-disk-to-tape solution, it became obvious that they needed a new backup solution, and its IT department was forced to evaluate and choose a new system quickly.

“The data we back up includes a ton of images which, alone, takes up a lot of space. We got to the point that we simply could not get our backups done,” said Gary Mingolelli, IT Director at MRSI. “We had been looking at a few different disk-based solutions and we decided to go in that direction in an effort to reduce our backup windows and our reliance on tape.”

ExaGrid Works with Existing Backup Application to Provide Cost Savings, Limit Learning Curve

MRSI chose the ExaGrid disk-based backup system to back up its constantly growing data. The ExaGrid system works with MRSI’s existing backup application, Symantec Backup Exec. For disaster recovery purposes, the ExaGrid system is backed up monthly to tape.

“Choosing the ExaGrid system was an easy decision for us. We tested both ExaGrid and a competing solution in our data center and found ExaGrid’s post-process approach to be much faster than the other solution,” said Mingolelli. “The ExaGrid worked right out of the box with our existing backup application, and as an appliance, it fit right into our network so we were able to get it up and running very quickly. The ExaGrid was also extremely cost effective because it enabled us to keep our investment in our backup application and we were able to limit the learning curve that we would have encountered with other systems.”

Backup Times Cut in Half, Data Deduplication Maximizes Disk Space

Since installing the ExaGrid system, Mingolelli has seen MRSI’s backup windows cut in half. “The deduplication process is unbelievable and we can’t believe how quickly our backups are completing. The ExaGrid has completely blown us away,” said Mingolelli. Our backups are now completed quickly and reliably each and every night.

ExaGrid’s data deduplication technology helps MRSI manage its growing amounts of backup data and helps maximize disk space on the system. “The amount of data we backup is growing exponentially and we expect it to double in the next six months, so it’s comforting to have a solution that will scale as our data continues to grow,” said Mingolelli.

EXAGRID™

ExaGrid's GRID computing software makes the system highly scalable, and when plugged into a switch, different sized configurations can be mixed and matched into a single GRID system with capacities of up to a 100TB full backup plus retention. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

CDW Recommends ExaGrid

As a leading provider of technology solutions, CDW has access to products from thousands of vendors. CDW assigns specialists to each customer to help them navigate the sea of options and to deliver solutions that fit the customer's needs perfectly. For MRSI, CDW's Storage Specialist team recommended ExaGrid Systems.

"In the mid-market backup appliance space, no one scales quite like ExaGrid, and that capability was very important to MRSI," said Luke Welling, CDW Storage Specialist. Welling added that "ExaGrid customers aren't shy about sharing their experiences. The level of enthusiasm they express about ExaGrid is a testament to the product and the support they get from ExaGrid."

ExaGrid and Symantec Backup Exec

Symantec Backup Exec provides cost-effective, high-performance, and certified disk-to-disk-to-tape backup and recovery – including continuous data protection for Microsoft Exchange, SQL, 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 Symantec Backup Exec can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as Symantec Backup Exec, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running Symantec 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 onsite backup to disk.

Intelligent Data Protection

ExaGrid's turnkey disk-based backup system combines high quality SATA drives with byte-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's byte-level data deduplication technology stores only the changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies, reducing the amount of disk needed by a range of 10:1 to 50:1 or more, resulting in a solution that is 25 to 30% the cost of standard SATA drives. The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications, so organizations can retain their investment in existing applications and processes.

For more information about ExaGrid, please visit us at www.exagrid.com or call us at 1-800-868-6985.

About ExaGrid Systems, Inc.

Customers worldwide depend on ExaGrid Systems to solve their backup problems—effectively and permanently. ExaGrid's disk-based, scale-out GRID architecture adjusts to increasing backup demands due to constantly growing data volumes. It is the only solution that combines compute with capacity as well as a unique landing zone to permanently shorten backup windows and eliminate expensive forklift upgrades. Learn more at www.exagrid.com.