



Maine State Legislature Installs ExaGrid System



USA

Key Benefits:

- Backup window reduced from 20 hours to 8
- Gained valuable time to focus on other projects
- Fantastic customer service
- Seamless integration with Veritas Backup Exec

“Our tape backups were running approximately 20 hours a day, which left us no time to perform restores or to rerun failed backups jobs. With the ExaGrid system, we can run more backup jobs at the same time and as a result, our backups are completed in about eight hours.”

Scott Lewis
Systems Engineer

Customer Overview

The Maine State Legislature is composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The fundamental functions of the legislative branch are to consider, debate and establish public policy, provide the means and resources for its implementation and review its administration. To accomplish these functions, the lawmakers are supported by non-partisan offices that handle the various tasks. These include the Office of the Executive Director, Revisor of Statutes, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, Law and Legislative Library, Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability and the Office Information Technology. The Legislature has several critical applications used to draft and track legislation through the process, determine fiscal impact, provide impact analysis and capture voting information. In addition, the Legislature has standard business applications including Office and email.

Quest to Improve Speed and Reliability of Backups Led to ExaGrid

The Maine Legislature had been backing up its data to a pair of tape libraries but long, problematic backups were consuming far too much time. Initially, the IT staff considered replacing one of the tape libraries in an effort to boost speed and reliability but decided to look more closely at disk-based backup.

“When we realized that we could purchase a disk-based backup system from ExaGrid for about the same price as a new tape library, we decided to seriously consider going in that direction. We liked what we saw in the ExaGrid, and it really was a no-brainer, especially considering its cost effectiveness and the fact that we could use it with Backup Exec,” said Scott Lewis, systems engineer at the Maine State Legislature. “With the ExaGrid, we’ve gained faster backups and much better reliability. We’ve also been able to reduce our reliance on tape.”

The ExaGrid system works along with the Legislature’s existing backup application, Veritas Backup Exec. “The ExaGrid system works well with Backup Exec. Our backups run much more reliably with the ExaGrid-Backup Exec combination than they did with tape, and because we were able to stay with Backup Exec, we got up to speed quickly,” Mr. Lewis said.

Shorter Backup Times, Faster Restores

Mr. Lewis said that since installing the ExaGrid system, backup jobs run far more efficiently than they did with the Legislature’s old tape library, which ran nearly nonstop.



“Our tape backups were running approximately 20 hours a day, which left us no time to perform restores or to rerun failed backups jobs. With the ExaGrid system, we can run more backup jobs at the same time and as a result, our backups are completed in about eight hours,” said Mr. Lewis. “The increased number of simultaneous backup streams that we can send to the ExaGrid has removed our bottleneck and gives us the window we need to handle restore requests.”

Industry-Leading Customer Support

“We’ve had a fantastic experience with ExaGrid’s customer support. Our support engineer is experienced, and he’s familiar with our environment and with us. He’s taken the time to work through some issues we had initially, and things have been running smoothly ever since,” said Mr. Lewis.

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.

Smooth Scalability with Scale-out Architecture

"Backups are only part of my job," Mr. Lewis said. "Having the ExaGrid system in place allows me to focus on other projects and enables me to do my job more effectively."

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.

ExaGrid and Veritas Backup Exec

Veritas Backup Exec provides cost-effective, high-performance 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 Tiered Backup Storage 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 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 ExaGrid for backup to disk.

Intelligent Data Protection

ExaGrid's turnkey disk-based backup system combines enterprise drives with zone-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is far more cost effective than simply backing up to disk with deduplication or using backup software deduplication to disk. ExaGrid's patented zone-level deduplication reduces the disk space needed by a range of 10:1 to 50:1, depending on the data types and retention periods, by storing only the unique objects across backups instead of redundant data. Adaptive Deduplication performs deduplication and replication in parallel with backups. As data is being deduplicated to the repository, it is also replicated to a second ExaGrid site or the public cloud for disaster recovery (DR).



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.