



Adding Scalable ExaGrid System Helps Manage Storage Capacity for Nampak's Backup Environment

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Murendeni Tshisevhe
Data Backup Engineer



SOUTH AFRICA

Key Benefits:

- Adding ExaGrid to backup environment resolves storage capacity issues
- ExaGrid chosen for its scale-out architecture
- ExaGrid integrates well with Veritas NBU and supports OST
- 'Impressive' restore speeds from ExaGrid
- ExaGrid support is helps keep system up-to-date and is helpful, patient, and proactive

Customer Overview

Headquartered in Gauteng, South Africa, Nampak is Africa's largest packaging manufacturer and offers the most comprehensive product range, manufacturing packaging in metal, glass, paper and plastic. The company is comprised of numerous divisions that specialize in their own unique packaging materials products and machinery. Individually, the group's divisions are industry-leading suppliers to the key targeted markets they serve. Combining forces collectively within Nampak's operating units enhances the company's strength in products while reinforcing Nampak as a global supplier of packaging solutions.

Adding ExaGrid Resolves Storage Capacity Issues

Nampak relies on global technology integrator and managed services provider, Dimension Data, to manage its data protection, including backup and recovery. Murendeni Tshisevhe, data backup engineer at Dimension Data, uses Veritas NetBackup to back up Nampak's data to a Veritas deduplication appliance but found the lack of scalability of this solution became problematic as the storage reached capacity on the Veritas appliance.

"We decided to look for a backup storage solution that we can add onto if we reach storage capacity again. We liked ExaGrid's scale-out architecture which allows us to easily add more appliances when we need to," said Tshisevhe. "We also wanted a solution that was tried and tested like ExaGrid, as Nampak's environment is fast-paced and we can't afford any downtime."

Nampak installed two ExaGrid Tiered Backup Storage appliances installed at its primary data site and one at its DR site. Tshisevhe still backs up data to the Veritas appliance and then replicates those backups to ExaGrid appliances which replicates data to the DR site. Adding ExaGrid has resolved the storage capacity issues Nampak once faced.

The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with all of the most frequently used backup applications, so an organization can retain its investment in existing applications and processes.



An ExaGrid system can easily scale to accommodate data growth. ExaGrid's 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 system with capacities of up to a 2.7PB full backup plus retention and an ingest rate of up to 488TB 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 Integration with Veritas NetBackup

Tshisevhe has found that ExaGrid works well with Nampak's existing backup solution, Veritas NetBackup (NBU). Tshisevhe uses Veritas NetBackup OpenStorage Technology (OST) to optimize the integration.

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ExaGrid supports Veritas' OST to provide deeper integration between Veritas' backup applications and ExaGrid's Tiered Backup Storage appliances with deduplication and replication. This integration provides better backup performance and reliability as compared to CIFS or NAS and balances backup traffic across the network interfaces of all ExaGrid appliances in a scale-out system.

Fast Backup and Restore Performance

Tshisevhe back up Nampak's data on a regular schedule and is happy with the backup performance. He also tests the restores each month to ensure that the backups are working properly and that the data is always available. "We have never had any difficulties restoring data and the speed of the restores has been impressive, especially considering that they are usually being tested during the workday when there is pressure on the network bandwidth since all of the departments are in the office working," 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 so that an RTO and RPO can be easily met. Available system cycles are utilized to perform deduplication and offsite replication for an optimal recovery point at the disaster recovery site. Once complete, the onsite data is protected and immediately available in its full unduplicated form for fast restores, VM Instant Recoveries, and tape copies while the offsite data is ready for disaster recovery.

Proactive ExaGrid Support Keeps System "One Step Ahead"

Tshisevhe appreciates the level of support that ExaGrid provides. "Our assigned ExaGrid support engineer has been very helpful and willing to teach best practices about ExaGrid as I was new to the product when it was first installed. Even when I have had many questions, he has always been patient, and is very knowledgeable and professional. He is also proactive and makes sure that our firmware is up to date, and I am grateful for that and feel that we are always one step ahead in terms of protecting our backup environment" he said. "One of best

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides tiered backup storage with a unique disk-cache Landing Zone, long-term retention repository and scale-out architecture. ExaGrid's Landing Zone enables the fastest backups, restores, and instant VM recoveries. The retention repository offers the lowest cost for long-term retention. ExaGrid's scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scalable system.

Learn more at www.exagrid.com.

advantages of using ExaGrid is its Retention Time-Lock feature which also gives peace of mind about our data protection." 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 level 2 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 appliances have a network-facing disk-cache Landing Zone Tier where the most recent backups are stored in an unduplicated format, for fast backup and restore performance. Data is deduplicated into a non-network-facing tier called the repository where deduplicated data is stored for longer-term retention. The combination of a non-network facing tier (tiered air gap) plus delayed deletes with ExaGrid's Retention Time-Lock feature, and immutable data objects, guards against the backup data being deleted or encrypted.

ExaGrid and Veritas NetBackup

Tiered backup storage requires close integration between the backup software and the backup storage. Together, Veritas NetBackup (NBU) and ExaGrid backup storage provide a cost-effective backup solution that scales to meet the needs of demanding enterprise environments. Veritas has certified ExaGrid backup storage on three levels: as a target sitting behind NBU appliances; for use with NBU Accelerator; and for OST support. Customers deploying ExaGrid Tiered Backup Storage along with their NBU software can get 3X faster backups and 20X faster restores, dramatically reduced backup windows, and can significantly lower the cost of storage.

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