

Naval Medical Logistics Command Procures Effortless Backup with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Dave Penrod
Systems Administrator

Key Benefits:

- NMLC stores vital data with confidence on ExaGrid
- Data is restored in minutes from system's landing zone
- ExaGrid support quickly solves critical issues
- NMLC easily maintains 'set it and forget it' system

Customer Overview

The Naval Medical Logistics Command (NMLC) has formal agreements with the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard to provide medical logistics and materiel management information and medical mobilization planning assistance and has the responsibility as technical manager of the Navy's direct healthcare services contracting program. As the Navy Medicine center of logistics expertise, it designs, executes, and administers individualized state-of-the-art solutions to meet customers' medical materiel and healthcare service needs.

NMLC Backs Up Vital Data with ExaGrid

NMLC has been using ExaGrid for many years with optimal results. According to Dave Penrod, NMLC's system administrator, "It's running great. It's backing up our jobs, it's smooth, and we're happy with it." NMLC uses Veritas Backup Exec as its backup application.

According to Penrod, the data stored is all mission critical: "The data we back up is all vital data, including archived mail that goes back for years, department files, and important project files that users save to their shared drives. So pretty much all data that people have is all backed up."

Finding the Right Balance

NMLC uses on- and offsite ExaGrid appliances that cross-replicate. Penrod has found ExaGrid's customer support team to be very helpful, particularly on one occasion when his assigned ExaGrid engineer helped him leverage his system more efficiently: "We had been automatically backing up on weekdays and weekends, and one automated health report showed 'Backup jobs completed: 0.' I looked into it and saw that our primary was full - it had no more disk space. That was a stopping point.

"We immediately contacted ExaGrid, and our assigned customer support engineer walked us through taking backup jobs from the primary ExaGrid to be backed up to our offsite system. He set it up in retention mode, which allowed us to continue to back up our jobs at a pace where things were operating as normal."



Penrod is impressed by how quickly backup jobs run using ExaGrid, noting that incrementals take just a couple of hours and weekly fulls take under six hours. "As far as backing up our data, the system is pretty seamless. It simply runs according to schedule and that's what we like about ExaGrid - it's pretty much automated, which is really nice."

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. 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.

EXAGRID

Data Restores Done in Minutes

Penrod has found the restore process to be very straightforward. "Whenever we get a trouble ticket that indicates data corruption - whether it be a project file, Word document, Excel document, or even a PST that's corrupted because it's too large - we go into Backup Exec and within five to ten minutes from start to finish, the data is recovered."

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

'Set it and Forget It'

Automated email reports can be set up to easily monitor backup windows and deduplication rates. Penrod appreciates how effortless the maintenance of the ExaGrid system really is. "Set it and forget it - the system is pretty self-automated. It just runs by itself, and you can leave it be. Upkeep doesn't require too much time and effort. We get health reports that the system automatically forwards to us regularly, just about every day, even on the weekends."

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 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.

Intelligent Data Protection

ExaGrid's turnkey disk-based backup system combines enterprise SATA/SAS drives with zone-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is far more cost effective than simply backing up to straight disk. ExaGrid's patented zone-level deduplication reduces the disk space needed by a range of 10:1 to 50:1 by storing only the unique bytes across backups instead of redundant data.

Adaptive deduplication performs deduplication and replication in parallel with backups while providing full system resources to the backups for the fastest backups and, therefore, the shortest backup window. As data grows, only ExaGrid avoids expanding backup windows by adding full appliances in a GRID. ExaGrid's unique landing zone keeps a full copy of the most recent backup on disk, delivering the fastest restores, VM boots in seconds to minutes, "Instant DR," and fast tape copy. Over time, ExaGrid saves up to 50% in total system costs compared to competitive solutions by avoiding costly "forklift" upgrades.

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.

United States: 2000 West Park Drive | Westborough, MA 01581 | (800) 868-6985

United Kingdom: 200 Brook Drive | Green Park, Reading, Berkshire RG2 6UB | +44 (0) 1189 497 051

Singapore: 1 Raffles Place, #20-61 | One Raffles Place Tower 2 | 048616 | +65 6808 5574

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