

Plastipak Gains Faster Backups and Restores with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Jon Mayled
Manager, International IT
Operations
Plastipak

Customer Overview

Plastipak Packaging is an industry leader in the design and manufacturing of high quality rigid plastic containers, with customers including some of the world's most recognized and respected brands such as Proctor & Gamble, Kraft Foods and Pepsico. Headquartered in Plymouth, Michigan, Plastipak has manufacturing operations throughout the United States, South America and Europe.

Cost-effective ExaGrid System Eliminates Long Backups and Tape Management Issues

Because Plastipak is a fast growing organization with manufacturing sites worldwide, it's absolutely critical that its IT operations be designed for peak efficiency. The firm's manufacturing facility in Luxembourg houses its European datacenter, where its IT staff was struggling to keep up with routine backups using a tape library. Tired of long backup windows and managing tape, Plastipak began looking for a new solution and chose ExaGrid.

"We considered purchasing a new tape library to solve some of our backup problems and then realized that we could buy the ExaGrid system for about the same cost. Disk-based backup is far superior to tape and we'll save even more money over time because we'll eliminate ongoing tape expenses," said Jon Mayled, manager of international IT operations at Plastipak. "In addition, we were able to easily integrate the ExaGrid system into our environment and leverage our existing backup application."

The ExaGrid system is located in Plastipak's datacenter in Luxembourg and works with the company's backup application, Veritas Backup Exec™. Plastipak backs up manufacturing, financial and other business data from the Luxembourg plant onto the ExaGrid by performing full backups each weekend and incremental backups each night. Prior to installing the ExaGrid system,

the company performed full backups to tape each evening. Daily backups took in excess of eight hours to complete, and with continued data growth the window required to complete the backup was continually shrinking. The introduction of the ExaGrid solution reduced these daily backup times to two hours and has given Plastipak the ability to backup the ExaGrid appliance to tape each week for 'off site' disaster recovery purposes.

30 to 1 Data De-duplication Increases Retention

ExaGrid incorporates data de-duplication technology to reduce the amount of information stored and the system is currently achieving nearly 30 to 1 data de-duplication. Plastipak is able to keep 60 days of backups on the system with room for growth.

"We are amazed at ExaGrid's data de-duplication technology," said Mayled. "We are able to keep two months of data on the system so we can be ready for restores at any time. With tape, restores were a lengthy process but they are nearly instantaneous with the ExaGrid system."

ExaGrid combines last backup compression along with data de-duplication, which stores changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies. This unique approach reduces the disk space required by a range of 10:1 to 50:1 or more, delivering unparalleled cost savings and performance. ExaGrid delivers extremely



fast backup performance because data is written directly to disk, and data de-duplication is performed post-process after the data is stored to reduce data. When used to replicate data between two or more sites, ExaGrid systems are extremely efficient because only the byte-level changes are moved across the WAN, so only about 1/50th of the data needs to traverse the WAN. Additional site licenses are not required for second site ExaGrid systems.

As Plastipak's data grows, the ExaGrid can easily be expanded to handle additional data. 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 60TB full back-up plus retention.

Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

"I've worked for Plastipak for 15 years and I've been through numerous tape drives. Over the years I've experienced many problems with tape and tape drive failures, particularly in disaster recovery moments," said Mayled. "The ExaGrid really does eliminate all of the problems associated with backups, including long backup windows, difficult restore processes and the day-to-day management of tape. It's a very simple, clean way to protect valuable data at a price point comparable to tape."

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.

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.

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 de-duplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication technology stores only the changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies, reducing the amount of disk space 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.

ExaGrid is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications, so organizations can retain their investment in existing applications.

ExaGrid can be used at a primary site and at a second site to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with a live data repository or for disaster recovery. When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid's byte-level data de-duplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

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