

SUEZ Evaluates ExaGrid DBBU Appliance, Decides 'We Need That'

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Ed Burijon
IT Manager

Customer Overview

As a global leader in water and wastewater treatment and management, SUEZ is paving the way for a more sustainable future. In North America, that means providing water and waste recycling services to over 7.5 million people across the United States and Canada. By applying the knowledge SUEZ has gained around the world, the company is able to create sustainable and cost effective solutions on a local level that positively impact the communities it serves.

Backup Disk Array Dies, Reliability Overrules Budget

Back in the day, SUEZ Treatment Solutions – like many others – got creative with backup storage. Ed Burijon, IT manager for the SUEZ Virginia site, purchased a NAS box on eBay and filled it with some digital drives.

"It was basically just a RAID-5 array, and it was really fast," said Burijon, "but of course, I didn't have data deduplication or anything fancy. I had it four or five years; this was in the early 2000s. When it worked, it worked well but when it died, it died drastically – I lost everything and had to reformat. It wasn't very reliable in the enterprise sense, but that's what happens when you dollar things to death.

"So, needless to say, those found their way to the shelf and ultimately the recycle bin. They were a great cheap investment, but they didn't do any data deduplication, and they weren't very reliable, even in a RAID-5 array. So we got rid of those, and a local reseller invited us to an ExaGrid event and everything that ExaGrid presented was just amazing. I got to work afterwards and said, 'Wow, we need that.'"

Burijon initially purchased one ExaGrid appliance, adding two more over the last few years, and now has three at his primary datacenter as well as one located at a site in New Jersey.



ExaGrid Deduplication Method 'Impressive'

One of the things that continues to impress, said Burijon, is the deduplication method that ExaGrid uses. "Of course, the level of deduplication depends on the types of files, but it'll squeeze files down quite a bit. It's really impressive to see the ratios. For instance, I have some old Lotus Notes archives, and they're getting deduped at 12.6:1, and I have some SQL data that's getting 30:1."

'Easy' Installation and 'Great' Customer Support

Burijon found the ExaGrid installation easy to do and has been pleased with ExaGrid's customer support model. "Tech support has always been great. ExaGrid assigns a permanent tech to each account, so my tech knows my infrastructure, and he's able to help

Key Benefits:

- Deduplication on SQL data as high as 30:1 maximizes disk storage
- Customer support rep is a valued resource for all things backup, including SUEZ infrastructure and chosen backup app
- Redundant components provide peace of mind and value for the money

more quickly. It's convenient that my ExaGrid customer support rep knows a lot about Symantec. If I'm on the phone with him and have a Symantec question, I don't have to hang up and call Symantec; he can help me with that too."

The system is architected to work seamlessly with all of the most frequently used backup applications, so an organization can retain its investment in existing applications and processes. In addition, ExaGrid appliances can be used at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery.

You Get What You Pay For

The fact that he spends much less time on backup now is a definite plus for Burijon. "Once I set it up, I forget about it. The appliances are very well built, the software is bullet-proof, and the interface is pretty easy to learn. It doesn't take long for users to find their way around pretty quickly. The redundant power supplies are nice too. When one fails, the system keeps going, so there's a lot of redundancy. With ExaGrid, you do get what you pay for."

The ExaGrid system can easily scale to accommodate data growth. ExaGrid's GRID 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 GRID system with capacities of up to a 1PB full backup plus retention and an ingest rate of up to 200TB per hour. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

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.

ExaGrid and Veritas (Symantec) 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.

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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www.exagrid.com

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