

Sommer Improves Regulatory Compliance with ExaGrid

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Michael Müller
Systems Administrator
Sommer

Customer Overview

Sommer is a leading manufacturer of aluminum and steel windows, facades, doors and gates. Sommer's products are distributed worldwide and are designed to be highly secure, and burglary, bullet, blast, sabotage and fire proof. Founded in 1890, the company employs 450 people and has been led by the Sommer family for four generations. Sommer is located in Doehlau, Germany.

Meeting Regulatory Compliance Difficult with Tape

The IT department at Sommer must tailor its backup policies and disaster recovery capabilities to meet stringent industry standards, but the manufacturer had difficulty meeting its backup, retention and restore goals with tape. Restoring data from tape was time consuming and the company had difficulty meeting its mandated three month retention period.

"We were having a hard time meeting industry regulations using tape," said Michael Müller, systems administrator at Sommer. "It was difficult to manage and administer so many tapes and restoring data was a long process. We needed a solution that would provide us with fast restores and increased retention."

Sommer's IT department decided to begin looking for an alternative solution that would provide faster backups and restores and enough capacity to cost-effectively store three months of backups on-site. The company initially tried to back up the firm's data to disk but found that disk space quickly became an issue without data compression. The experiment proved to Sommer's IT department that disk-based backup was the right direction and Müller began researching various solutions.

After experimenting with several different solutions, Sommer chose an ExaGrid disk-based backup system. The ExaGrid system works along with the company's existing backup application, EMC NetWorker™.

"The ExaGrid system was extremely cost effective and gave us the backup and restore performance and the retention we needed," said Müller. "ExaGrid's data deduplication technology is very effective at reducing our data and it enables us to make the most of our disk space. The data deduplication is automatic and happens in the background so we never even know it is occurring."

ExaGrid's Data Deduplication Maximizes Retention, Speeds Restores

Sommer is currently experiencing data deduplication rates of over 16:1 and can now keep three months of data on its ExaGrid system.

ExaGrid combines last backup compression along with data deduplication, 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 deduplication is performed post-process after the data is stored to reduce data. When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid's byte-level data deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.



The ExaGrid system provides the fast restore time Sommer needs to easily meet its regulatory demands.

“Restoring data from the ExaGrid system is a painless process. Restoring individual files takes just seconds and performing larger restores is incredibly fast,” said Müller. “We’re now able easily demonstrate our ability to recover from a disaster and we no longer have to deal with massive amounts of tape. It’s been a tremendous time saver for us.”

The ExaGrid system delivers fast restores for both recent and past backups, storing a complete version of the most recent backup using 2:1 compression. All prior backups are stored and compressed using ExaGrid’s data deduplication technology to maximize disk space.

Backup Times Cut in Half, Fast Tape Copy Performance

The ExaGrid system provides fast backup performance and since installing the system, Sommer has been able to cut its backup time in half. The ExaGrid is backed up to tape for long term archival and disaster recovery purposes and the tapes are sent to a secure off-site facility for safekeeping. Sommer clones its backup data from the ExaGrid to tape automatically after it has been de-duplicated.

“The ExaGrid system has really reduced the amount of time our backups take and it delivers extremely fast tape copy performance. Cloning our backups to tape takes no time whatsoever,” said Müller.

Industry-leading Customer Support

ExaGrid’s industry-leading customer support team is staffed by trained, in-house engineers who are dedicated to individual accounts. The ExaGrid system is fully supported and was designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components.

“ExaGrid’s customer support has been amazing. Our support engineer is very responsive and is well versed in both the ExaGrid product and in backup methodologies. He has helped us considerably in making the most of our ExaGrid system,” said Müller. “Installing the ExaGrid system has made

a tremendous difference in our day-to-day backup processes and has enhanced our ability to retain and restore data. It’s been a very good experience.”

ExaGrid and EMC NetWorker

The EMC NetWorker family provides fast and flexible backup and recovery, with an intuitive user interface and policy-based backup engine that helps automate and simplify the entire backup and recovery process. NetWorker’s powerful snapshot management provides instant data protection and rapid recovery by giving you complete control of third-party snapshot tools.

Organizations using NetWorker can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as NetWorker, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running NetWorker, 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 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. The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications, so organizations can retain their investment in existing applications and processes.

ExaGrid servers can be used at primary and secondary sites to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery.

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

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.