

TAG-IT Reduces Backup Times, Increases Storage Capacity Using ExaGrid's Disk Backup and Deduplication Solution

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Masood Ali
Senior Network Engineer
TAG-IT

Customer Overview

TAG Integrated Technologies, LLC (TAG-IT), headquartered in Germantown, Maryland, is owned by Asbury Communities, which is one of the largest senior living providers in the United States. TAG-IT partners with clients in a variety of arenas to select appropriate technologies designed to achieve corporate objectives, reduce costs and provide the return on investment necessary to achieve a competitive advantage. TAG-IT has a diverse and growing customer list ranging from medium business with 25 users to multi-site national organizations.

Cumbersome Tape Backup Forces Change

The IT staff at TAG-IT had been backing up its 188TB of data to tape. With data residing on up to 180 servers, daily backups were taking in excess of 12 hours to complete, and weekly full backups were consuming almost three days.

"Using tape backup had become very painful for us," said Masood Ali, senior network engineer at TAG-IT. "We got to a point where we simply had to look at other backup solutions. We were looking for a robust system to give us read/write capability to do quick restores so that we didn't have to load 20 tapes and wait for them to read back. We were very impressed with the speed of the ExaGrid and the deduplication."

The company sought a solution that would work with their existing backup application, CommVault Simpana.

TAG-IT compared several disk-based backup solutions and chose ExaGrid. According to Ali, "We really wanted to increase the speed and reliability of backups and restores, and cutting the time I spend managing backups has been a huge plus."

Daily Backup Window Reduced by 75%, Restores Done in a Matter of Minutes

Since moving its backups to the ExaGrid,

the IT team at TAG-IT has been quite pleased with the 75% reduction in backup time.

"When we were backing up to tape, our daily full backup was taking over 12 hours to complete," said Ali. "After installing the ExaGrid, our daily full backup is now done in less than three hours. Even better, our weekly backups used to consume up to three days whereas now using the ExaGrid, weekly backups are done in just four or five hours."

Ali is pleased with how quickly restores can now be done. "Using tape, a full restore would have taken me up to two hours. With the ExaGrid, a full restore of a 20GB server takes merely 10 minutes or so. The time that I'm saving with the backups and restores using ExaGrid is very important to me personally."

Fast Post-Process Deduplication is Key Differentiator

"The deduplication gives us the ability to store so much more data," said Ali. "Our deduplication numbers are currently running around 15:1. We're quite pleased with that, and the read/write speed is excellent. I've looked at several systems, and I've never seen this kind of result!"

ExaGrid's turnkey disk-based backup system combines high quality disk storage with byte-level data deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard storage.

EXAGRID[™]

ExaGrid's byte-level data deduplication 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's compatible to the cost of tape backup.

Intelligent Data Protection

Ali was impressed with how easy the ExaGrid was to install as well as ExaGrid's customer support.

"When the ExaGrid arrived, we plugged it in, the ExaGrid technician helped us to configure it, and we were up and running. It doesn't get much more straightforward. The ExaGrid support team has been excellent to work with when we have questions. They are very responsive and knowledgeable."

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.

ExaGrid and CommVault Simpana

CommVault Simpana Backup and Recovery software contains extensive capabilities to simplify the management of backup media resources. Simpana software writes backup data to a broad collection of storage devices, including disk as a media target. This ability to write to magnetic disk as a functional equal of all other media types while exploiting the random access nature of the disk media sets Simpana software apart.

Organizations using Simpana can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as Simpana, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running Simpana, 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.

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.