

# The University of New Hampshire Relies on ExaGrid to Maintain Backup Storage Grades

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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**Robert Rader**  
Storage and Backup  
Administrator  
University of New Hampshire

## Key Benefits:

- Seamless integration with Veeam and Veritas NetBackup
- Data deduplication ratio is 2x that of past solution
- 25% time savings in administering backup
- Assigned customer support engineer provides 'rare' level of service
- System easily expands to accommodate growing UNH data

## Customer Overview

The University of New Hampshire is a public research university, providing comprehensive, high-quality programs of distinction to over 15,000 students annually. Its primary purpose is learning—students collaborating with faculty in teaching, research, creative expression and service. UNH has a national and international agenda and serves the state through continuing education, cooperative extension, cultural outreach, economic development activities and applied research.

## Backup Capacity Drives Decision to Select ExaGrid

In 2012, UNH's main goal was to boost the backup capacity in their increasingly complex environment. The university used VTL tape backups, and the time and cost required to manage backups was reaching a tipping point. UNH needed an affordable, well-rounded solution for their main backup to complement their virtualization efforts. UNH decided on ExaGrid to do the job. Currently UNH has a two-site ExaGrid solution, supporting both Veeam and Veritas NetBackup.

"As our primary backup repository, ExaGrid continues to be simple and easy to manage after all these years. The ExaGrid system allows me to pay attention to other things, and the fact that it's quiet is very important to me in my role," stated Robert Rader, storage and backup administrator at the University of New Hampshire.

Retention is fairly static as the university keeps incrementals of all production data for two weeks, full backups of all data for six weeks, and monthly archives of financial and business critical data for one year.

## ExaGrid Supports Data Growth Easily

"Data growth was the main driver for switching to ExaGrid. Our previous solution limited us in terms of expanding capacity to accommodate data growth. We needed something that was more expandable and flexible," said Rader.

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.

"We're getting twice the deduplication ratios of our old solution. On average, we're getting about 10:1," said Rader.

## Assigned Support Engineer Makes All the Difference

"One thing about ExaGrid that stands out compared to similar vendors is having an assigned support specialist. It's nice to know somebody by name and have a specific person to email with a question. It's very rare to find this level of service today," said Rader.

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.

"Installation went smoothly and upgrades are so much easier than our old solution. ExaGrid is much easier to maintain on a weekly, monthly, and long-term basis. It takes far less time to administer it - perhaps 25% less, if not more! It's the set-and-forget aspect that I enjoy most," said Rader.

## GRID Architecture Provides Superior Scalability

ExaGrid's scalable GRID architecture will enable the University of New Hampshire to continue to expand their system easily over time.

ExaGrid uses a GRID-based configuration, so when the system needs to expand, additional appliances are attached to the GRID, bringing with them not only additional disk but also processing power, memory, and bandwidth. This type of configuration allows the system to maintain all the aspects of performance as the amount of data grows. In addition, as new ExaGrid appliances are added to the GRID, the ExaGrid automatically load balances available capacity, maintaining a virtual pool of storage that is shared across the GRID.

## ExaGrid and Veeam

The combination of ExaGrid's and Veeam's industry-leading virtual server data protection solutions allows customers to utilize Veeam Backup & Replication in VMware, vSphere, and Microsoft Hyper-V virtual environments on ExaGrid's disk-based backup system. This combination provides fast backups and efficient data storage as well as replication to an offsite location for disaster recovery.

The ExaGrid system fully leverages Veeam Backup & Replication's built-in backup to disk capabilities and ExaGrid's zone-level data

deduplication for additional data reduction (and cost reduction) over standard disk solutions. Customers can use Veeam Backup & Replication's built-in source-side deduplication in concert with ExaGrid's disk-based backup system with zone-level deduplication to further shrink backups.

## ExaGrid and Veritas NetBackup

Veritas NetBackup delivers high performance data protection that scales to protect the largest UNIX, Windows, Linux, and NetWare environments. With complete protection from remote office to center to vault, NetBackup offers a single console for all backup and recovery operations. Organizations using NetBackup can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups. ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as NetBackup, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores. In a network running NetBackup, 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.

## 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](http://www.exagrid.com).

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