Wink Companies Dramatically Improves Backup Times With Disk-based Backup

Wink Companies, LLC

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>
> **Adam Schwartzberg**
> **Network Administrator**
> **Wink Companies, LLC**

Customer Overview

Wink Companies, LLC is a multi-discipline professional design firm established in 1970. Wink's corporate office is located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with full-service branch offices in St. Charles and Lafayette, Louisiana; and Biloxi, Mississippi. A closely-held family corporation, Wink provides the full range of services including: engineering in all disciplines including project management and project controls, architecture, land surveying and construction management to clients in the industrial, commercial and government/institutional sectors.

Long Backup Windows and Tape Headaches Lead to Search for Faster, More Reliable Solution

Wink Companies, LLC operates a central datacenter at its corporate headquarters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with additional offices in New Orleans and Lafayette as well as Biloxi, Mississippi. Wink's data included typical company-related files and documents but also included highly sensitive customer files such as CAD designs and other engineering files that were required by law to remain available up to several years. Using Symantec Backup Exec to back up to tape, backup windows grew to 20-24 hours a day and tape failures became more common.

In addition, managing tapes became increasingly frustrating. According to Wink Network Administrator Adam Schwartzberg, he used to spend hours every week exporting tapes, documenting the exports, sending them off to Iron Mountain, checking tapes back in and logging those, re-importing those tapes and delivering them to remote sites so the tapes could be imported there as well – overall a "huge management headache."

"We couldn't continue to operate the way we were. Our backups were running around the clock and it wasn't uncommon to experience issues like tape jams and failures," said Schwartzberg. "After some extensive research, we decided that disk backup with deduplication would allow us to greatly improve our backup times and phase out our reliance on tape."

Leveraging Existing Backup Application, ExaGrid System Speeds Backups and Reduces Stored Data at the Cost of Tape

Wink's IT department decided that it no longer made business sense to continue to spend more on outdated and unreliable tape media. It was important for Wink to not only find a more reliable and scalable solution for data retention but also one that was comparable in cost to tape. After thoroughly researching various tape and disk solutions, Wink selected ExaGrid's disk-based backup with deduplication solution over several competing solutions. The ExaGrid system works seamlessly with Wink's existing backup application, Symantec Backup Exec.

"Cost and the ability for us to be able to use our existing backup infrastructure were huge," said Schwartzberg. "Instead of just throwing all that away, we wanted to preserve our existing investment and ExaGrid allowed us to do just that."

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™

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.

Since implementing ExaGrid, Wink has seen dramatic results. The company's backup window has been cut from 20-24 hours to now only about four hours. In addition, Wink's IT department saves about 6 hours each week that used to be spent on manually processing and managing tape.

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Scalability to Grow as Company Grows, Top-Notch Customer Support

The ExaGrid system can easily be scaled to meet increased demand. 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 backup plus retention. Once virtualized, they appear as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic.

ExaGrid's trained, in-house engineers provide dedicated support to individual accounts.

"Our experience with ExaGrid's customer support has been phenomenal," said Schwartzberg. "The team is very knowledgeable and responsive. You never have to hunt down your support rep or go through a long phone tree. There is a dedicated person for our company who knows our system and needs inside and out."

ExaGrid and Symantec Backup Exec: a Powerful Combination Using ExaGrid along with Symantec Backup Exec provides cost-effective disk-to-disk-to-tape backup and recovery – including continuous data protection for a wide variety of data types from databases, Microsoft Exchange, SQL, file servers, and workstations. In addition, Backup Exec's cutting-edge granular recovery technology (GRT) enables you to recover critical data, individual email, documents, files and objects, in a matter of seconds.

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 deduplication, delivering a disk-based solution that is more cost effective than standard SATA drives. 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 is 25 to 30% the cost of standard SATA drives.

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**.