



zorggroep Maas & Waal Improves Backup Performance with ExaGrid-Veeam Solution

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



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Eric Ten Thije
ICT System Engineer



THE
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Key Benefits:

- ExaGrid resolves backup window issues for zMW
- zMW ICT staff can restore data quickly and easily from ExaGrid-Veeam solution
- ExaGrid-Veeam deduplication ‘greatly reduced’ amount of disk space zMW uses

Customer Overview

zorggroep Maas & Waal (zMW) is a regional, certified HKZ healthcare provider offering comprehensive care, housing, and welfare services for the Land van Maas and Waal region of the Netherlands. zMW operates care centers and nursing homes with rehabilitation and day treatment departments, in addition to offering care and services in patients’ homes.

New Solution Needed to Resolve Backup Performance Issues

The ICT staff at zorggroep Maas & Waal (zMW) had been backing data up to tape and disk using Veritas Backup Exec, eventually adding Veeam to the backup environment as well. The staff constantly struggled with slow backups and trying to keep up with storage capacity.

“We decided to look into other options, and PSIS, our MSP who provides third-line support, told us that they had an amazing hardware product for us to try – ExaGrid. Once we researched ExaGrid, we decided to install it,” said Eric Ten Thije, ICT system engineer at zMW. The ExaGrid system is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with all of the most frequently used backup applications, so an organization can retain its investment in existing applications and processes.

ExaGrid Eliminates Backup Window Spillover into Workweek

The ICT staff now use Veeam to back up zMW’s data to an ExaGrid system. Ten Thije backs up VMs which contain a wide variety of server data, such as Microsoft Exchange servers, application servers, and file servers. Then select data, such as Exchange mailboxes and document files, is archived to tape and stored offsite for disaster recovery (DR).

Ten Thije finds that backups are much quicker since switching to the new solution. “Our weekly backups used start on Friday and wouldn’t finish until Tuesday afternoon. Now, we start those backups on Friday and



they are finished on Saturday morning. We’re very happy with the backup performance from our ExaGrid system. We used to experience many problems when we backed up to tape, such as corrupted files or interruptions of backup jobs, but now we don’t have to worry about issues like that. Backups take a lot less time to manage since we’ve switched to ExaGrid.”

ExaGrid writes backups directly to a disk Landing Zone, avoiding inline processing and ensuring the highest possible backup performance, which results in the shortest backup window. Adaptive Deduplication performs deduplication and replication in parallel with backups while providing full system resources to the backups for the shortest backup window. Available system cycles are utilized to perform deduplication and offsite replication for an optimal recovery point at the disaster recovery site. Once complete, the onsite data is protected and immediately available in its full undeduplicated form for fast restores, VM Instant Recoveries, and tape copies while the offsite data is ready for disaster recovery.



ExaGrid-Veeam Solution Simplifies Process of Restoring Data

Since Ten Thije has found that restoring data is a simple, quick process with the ExaGrid-Veeam solution. "When we needed to restore from tape, we had to search for the correct tape in the vault and then run an inventory to find the file. Restoring data from our ExaGrid system using Veeam is much easier. We've even been able to run a VM from ExaGrid's Landing Zone when we found corrupted databases in SQL. This prevented any interruptions from the workday while we got the SQL servers running again, and it only took a few minutes. It's a great feature from ExaGrid!" he said.

ExaGrid and Veeam can instantly recover a VMware virtual machine by running it directly from the ExaGrid appliance in the event that the primary storage VM becomes unavailable. This is possible because of ExaGrid's Landing Zone – a high-speed disk cache on the ExaGrid appliance that retains the most recent backups in complete form. Once the primary storage environment has been brought back to a working state, the VM running on the ExaGrid appliance can then be migrated to primary storage for continued operation.

ExaGrid-Veeam Combined Deduplication

Ten Thije has been pleased with the data deduplication that the ExaGrid-Veeam solution provides. "Deduplication has greatly reduced the amount of disk space we use," he said.

Veeam uses the information from VMware and Hyper-V and provides deduplication on a "per-job" basis, finding the matching areas of all the virtual disks within a backup job and using metadata to reduce the overall footprint of the backup data. Veeam also has a "dedupe friendly" compression setting which further reduces the size of the Veeam backups in a way that allows the ExaGrid system to achieve further deduplication. This approach typically achieves a 2:1 deduplication ratio.

ExaGrid is architected from the ground up to protect virtualized environments and provide deduplication as backups are taken. ExaGrid will achieve up to 5:1 additional deduplication rate. The net result is a combined Veeam and ExaGrid deduplication rate of upwards to 10:1, which greatly reduces the amount of disk storage required.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides tiered backup storage with a unique Landing Zone and scale-out architecture. The Landing Zone enables the fastest backups, restores, and instant VM recoveries. The scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scalable system and ensures a fixed-length backup window as data grows, eliminating expensive and disruptive forklift upgrades.

Learn more at www.exagrid.com.

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. ExaGrid fully leverages Veeam's built-in backup-to-disk capabilities, and ExaGrid's adaptive data deduplication provides additional data 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 adaptive deduplication to further shrink backups.

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