

Moto Speeds up Backups with ExaGrid

Customer Overview

Moto is the leading motorway service area provider in the UK. Based in Toddington, Bedfordshire, Moto has 44 locations throughout the UK and 6,000 employees. Moto is a growing company with large amounts of data to protect. With service areas operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, it's particularly critical that the company's information is backed up within defined backup windows so that network performance isn't affected during peak business hours.

System Performance Affected by Lengthy Nightly Backups

The IT staff at Moto had been backing up the company's data to tape, but nightly backups began exceeding 12 hours and had started to threaten system and network performance. Moto's IT department also had issues with tape reliability and occasionally experienced difficulty restoring information.

When Moto invested in a new ERP system, the firm's IT department worried that the system's fast growing database would exhaust the capacity of its tape backup system and decided that the time was right to look at a new approach to backup.

ExaGrid Works with Existing Backup Application to Streamline Processes

Moto selected a two-site ExaGrid disk-based backup system to work alongside the company's existing backup application, CA ARCserve™ Backup. Moto runs Citrix® software at each of its 43 locations and centrally backs up information at its datacenter located in one of its service areas. A second ExaGrid system was installed at a second service area for disaster recovery and data is replicated between the two sites.

"The ExaGrid system was extremely well priced and provided the data de-duplication and scalability we were looking for," said Simon Austin, systems architect at Moto. "Were able to completely eliminate tape by installing a second ExaGrid system and we now have a more comprehensive disaster recovery plan."

Data De-duplication Rates as High as 34 to 1, Speeds Transmission of Data Between Sites

At Moto, ExaGrid's data de-duplication technology is currently providing data de-duplication ratios as high as 34 to 1 on some shares. Moto estimates it has room for a year of data retention on its ExaGrid system.

"ExaGrid's data de-duplication is extremely efficient at reducing our data," said Austin. "It also makes the data sent between sites move very quickly because it transmits only changes. It's been extremely impressive."

ExaGrid combines last backup compression along with data de-duplication, 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 de-duplication 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 de-duplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

Prior to installing the ExaGrid system, the IT staff at Moto had been performing full backups of the firm's data each night over the course of eight to ten hours. Since installing ExaGrid, Moto has been able to streamline its backup processes and now performs incremental backups nightly and full backups each weekend.

"We felt that it was too risky to perform incremental backups during the week using tape. We simply didn't trust it," said Austin. "However, the ExaGrid system is so reliable that we decided to run incrementals during the week and full backups on weekends only. We're very comfortable with our backup procedures now and things run much more smoothly."

GRID Architecture Provides Easy Scalability

For Austin, scalability was also an important factor in choosing ExaGrid. ExaGrid's GRID architecture provides easy scalability, so the system can grow as the company's backup requirements grow.

"With tape, we constantly had to double and triple check everything, but with ExaGrid, we no longer have to worry about our backups. We have a high degree of confidence in the system and we know that our backups are completed each and every night. The ExaGrid system has been extremely cost-effective and has enabled us to streamline our operations."

Simon Austin
Systems Architect
Moto



When plugged into a switch, additional ExaGrid systems virtualize into one another, appearing as a single system to the backup server, and load balancing of all data across servers is automatic. “When we purchased the system, we knew that our data was going to continue to grow rapidly and it was important to make sure that any system we brought in-house would be able to scale seamlessly to meet our needs,” said Austin. “ExaGrid’s GRID architecture will enable us to easily expand the system to accommodate larger amounts of data in the future.”

Knowledgeable Customer Support, Turnkey Solution

ExaGrid’s customer support staff are all in-house ExaGrid employees experienced in backup technologies and products.

“ExaGrid’s customer support has been brilliant,” said Austin. “ExaGrid’s support engineers have a high level of understanding of our environment and of their own product. It’s been pleasure to work with them.”

The ExaGrid system is a turnkey solution designed and manufactured for maximum uptime with redundant, hot-swappable components that are all supported by ExaGrid. “With tape, we constantly had to double and triple check everything, but with ExaGrid, we no longer have to worry about our backups. We have a high degree of confidence in the system and we know that our backups are being completed each and every night,” said Austin. “Using ExaGrid for our backups has been extremely cost-effective for us and has enabled us to streamline our operations.”

ExaGrid and CA ARCserve Backup

CA ARCserve Backup delivers reliable, enterprise-class data protection across multiple hardware and software platforms. Its proven technology — unified by a single, easy-to-use interface — enables multi-tiered protection driven by business goals and policies. Organizations using ARCserve Backup can look to ExaGrid as an alternative to tape for nightly backups.

ExaGrid sits behind existing backup applications, such as ARCserve Backup, providing faster and more reliable backups and restores.

In a network running ARCserve Backup, 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 space 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 secondary sites and at a second site to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with live data repositories for disaster recovery.

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

ABOUT EXAGRID

ExaGrid is the leader in cost-effective disk-based backup solutions. A scalable system that works with existing backup applications, ExaGrid is ideal for companies looking to quickly eliminate the hassles of tape backup while reducing their existing backup windows. ExaGrid’s innovative approach minimizes the amount of data to be stored by providing standard data compression for the most recent backups along with byte-level data deduplication technology for all previous backups. Customers can deploy ExaGrid at a primary site and at a second site to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with a live data repository or for disaster recovery.

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