

Detailed Product Description

ExaGrid Intelligent Hyperconverged Storage for Backup

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
ExaGrid Basic Concept.....	2
ExaGrid Technology Overview.....	3
ExaGrid Appliance Models.....	4
Scalable Architecture – Scale-Out.....	5
Designed for Performance	8
Data Deduplication	8
Data Backup Performance	8
Data Restore Performance.....	10
Support for Heterogeneous Backup Applications and Utilities	11
Advanced Backup Features	12
Veritas OST.....	12
Veeam Accelerated Data Mover	13
Veeam SOBR	14
Oracle RMAN Channels	15
Reliability and Redundancy.....	16
RAID6 Internal Storage with Consistency Checking	16
Flash-Backed RAID Cache	16
Backup Data Checksums with Automatic Repair	16
Deduplicated Metadata Transactional Consistency.....	16
Internal Database Backups and Self-Describing Metadata	17
Logging Filesystem	17
Data Security.....	18
Insulation from Ransomware.....	18
Periodic Assessments Using Beyond Trust’s Retina Network Vulnerability Scanner	18
Offsite Data Protection for Disaster Recovery.....	19
Total Cost of Ownership.....	21
Cost Effectiveness Up Front.....	21
Cost Effectiveness as Data Grows.....	22
Summary	23
About ExaGrid	25

Executive Summary

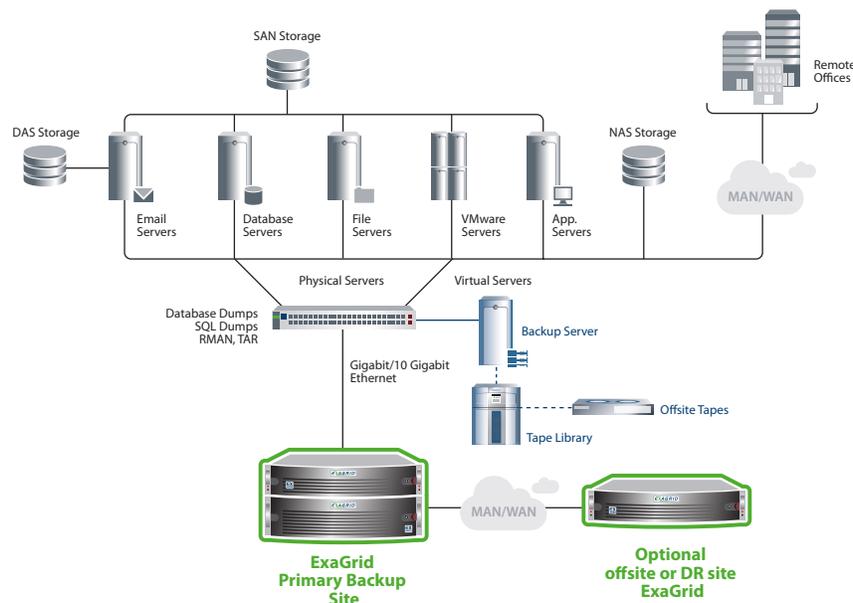
ExaGrid delivers better backups using the only hyper-converged secondary storage (HCSS) for backup with data deduplication purpose-built for all leading backup applications that leverages a unique architecture optimized for performance, scalability and price. ExaGrid customers achieve the fastest backup times as data is written at the speed of disk and the most recent backups are stored in their complete unduplicated form for fast restores, fast VM instant recoveries, and fast offsite tape copies. ExaGrid delivers the fastest backup performance for the shortest backup window and maintains a fixed length backup window as data grows by adding full appliances into a scale-out system.

ExaGrid makes backup better with:

- Fast backup resulting in the shortest backup window
- Fastest restores
- Instant VM recoveries in seconds to minutes
- Fastest offsite tape copies
- A fixed length backup window as data grows, eliminating expensive future forklift upgrades
- Fast, reliable, and up-to-date offsite disaster recovery
- Linear scalability – scale-out
- Low cost up front and over time as data grows
- No forklift upgrades or product obsolescence

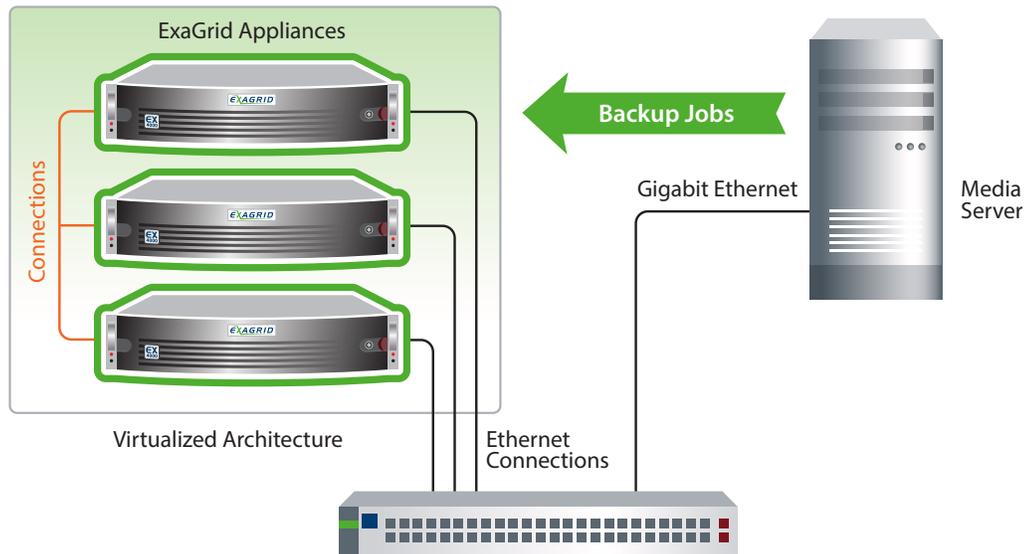
ExaGrid Basic Concept

ExaGrid appliances work seamlessly with industry-leading backup applications and database utilities by presenting themselves as standard NAS shares (CIFS or NFS), a Veeam Data Mover target, or Veritas OST target. ExaGrid appliances are easily integrated into existing backup environments, as illustrated below.



ExaGrid Sits Behind the Existing Backup Server and Replaces Tape Onsite or Offsite

ExaGrid Technology Overview



ExaGrid Appliances Connect to Form a Single Scale-Out System

ExaGrid appliances are comprised of Intel processors, RAID6 + Hot Spare storage using enterprise class SATA or SAS drives, and ExaGrid software. See the *ExaGrid Technical Specification* for more details.

Each appliance plugs into a switch and is virtualized into a shared system with a single user interface, global deduplication, and automatic load balancing. The media server is connected to the same switch and sees the appliances as one or more NAS shares, Veeam Data Mover targets, or Veritas OST targets. Since each appliance includes the appropriate amount of processor, memory, landing zone disk, deduplicated repository disk, and bandwidth for the rated data size, performance increases as more appliances are added to the system.

ExaGrid Appliance Models

The product line's multiple appliance models can be combined into a single scale-out system with a configuration of up to 32 appliances in a single system for a total of 4.6PB raw capacity, 4PB of usable capacity, and supports a full backup of up to 2PB, total backup logical data capacity of 32PB.

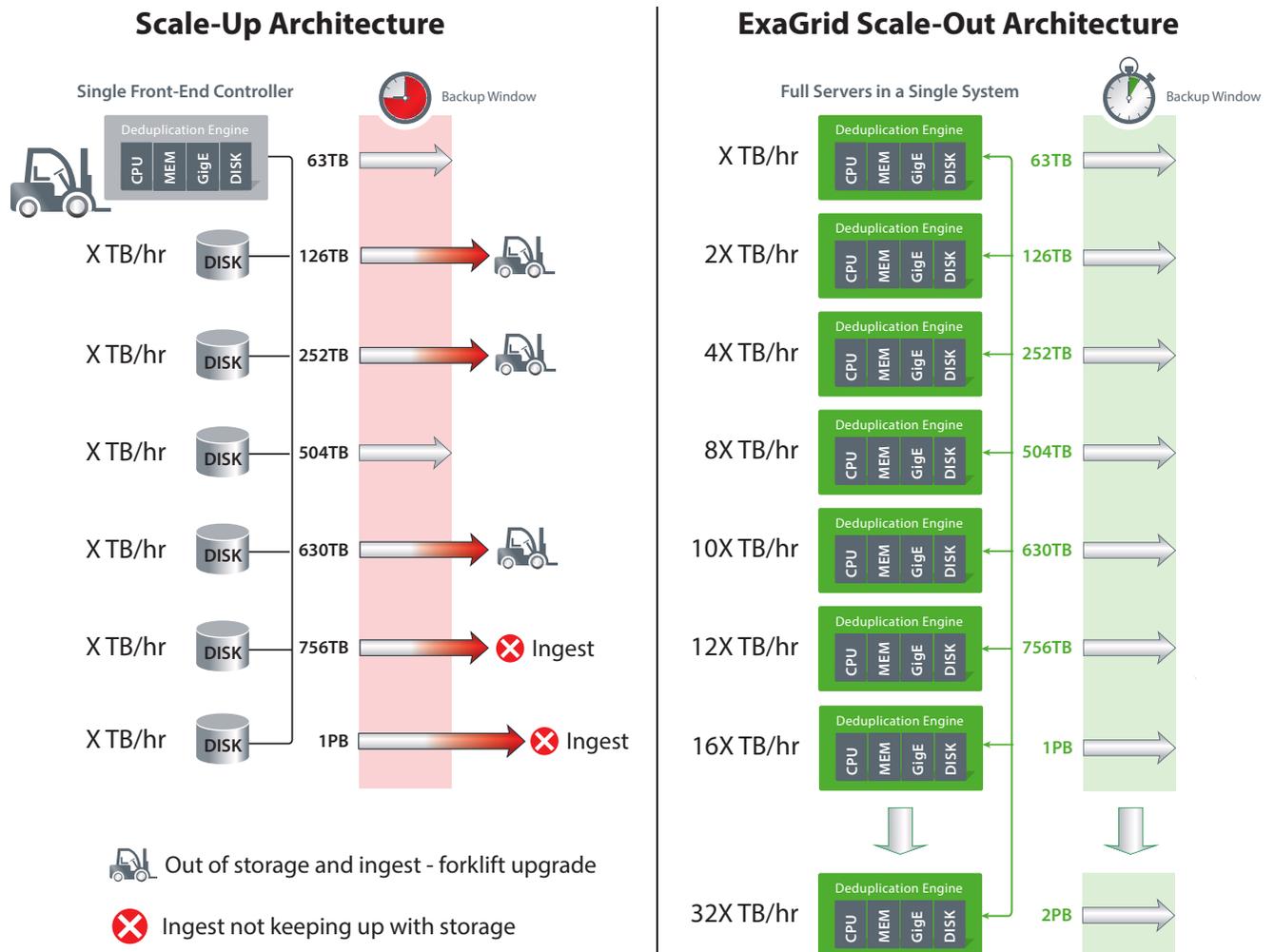
ExaGrid Model	Raw Capacity (TB)	Usable Capacity (TB)	Capacity for Weekly Full (TB)	Capacity for 16 Weekly Fulls (TB)	Max Backup Thruput (TB/hr)
ExaGrid Appliances					
EX3000	12	6	3	48	0.72
EX5000	16	10	5	80	1.08
EX7000	20	14	7	112	2.40
EX10000E	32	20	10	160	2.40
EX13000E	40	28	13	208	2.40
EX21000E	60	42	21	336	4.32
EX32000E	84	66	32	512	7.56
EX40000E	96	78	40	640	8.00
EX63000E	144	126	63	1008	13.50
ExaGrid Appliances with Encryption					
EX7000-SEC	20	14	7	112	2.40
EX10000E-SEC	32	20	10	160	2.40
EX13000E-SEC	40	28	13	208	2.40
EX21000E-SEC	60	42	21	336	4.32
EX32000E-SEC	84	66	32	512	7.56
EX40000E-SEC	96	78	40	640	8.00
EX63000E-SEC	144	126	63	1008	13.50
	TB / PB	TB / PB	TB / PB	PB	TB/hr
Example System Configurations					
EX80-G	192 TB	156 TB	80 TB	1.3	16
EX126-G	288 TB	252 TB	126 TB	2.0	27
EX252-G	576 TB	504 TB	252 TB	4.0	54
EX378-G	864 TB	756 TB	378 TB	6.0	81
EX504-G	1.2 PB	1.0 PB	504 TB	8.1	108
EX630-G	1.4 PB	1.3 PB	630 TB	10.1	135
EX756-G	1.7 PB	1.5 PB	756 TB	12.1	162
EX882-G	2.0 PB	1.8 PB	882 TB	14.1	189
EX1008-G	2.3 PB	2.0 PB	1.0 PB	16.1	216
EX2016-G	4.6 PB	4.0 PB	2.0 PB	32.2	432

Scales to 32 appliances in a single scale-out system (2PB full backup @ 432TB/hr.)

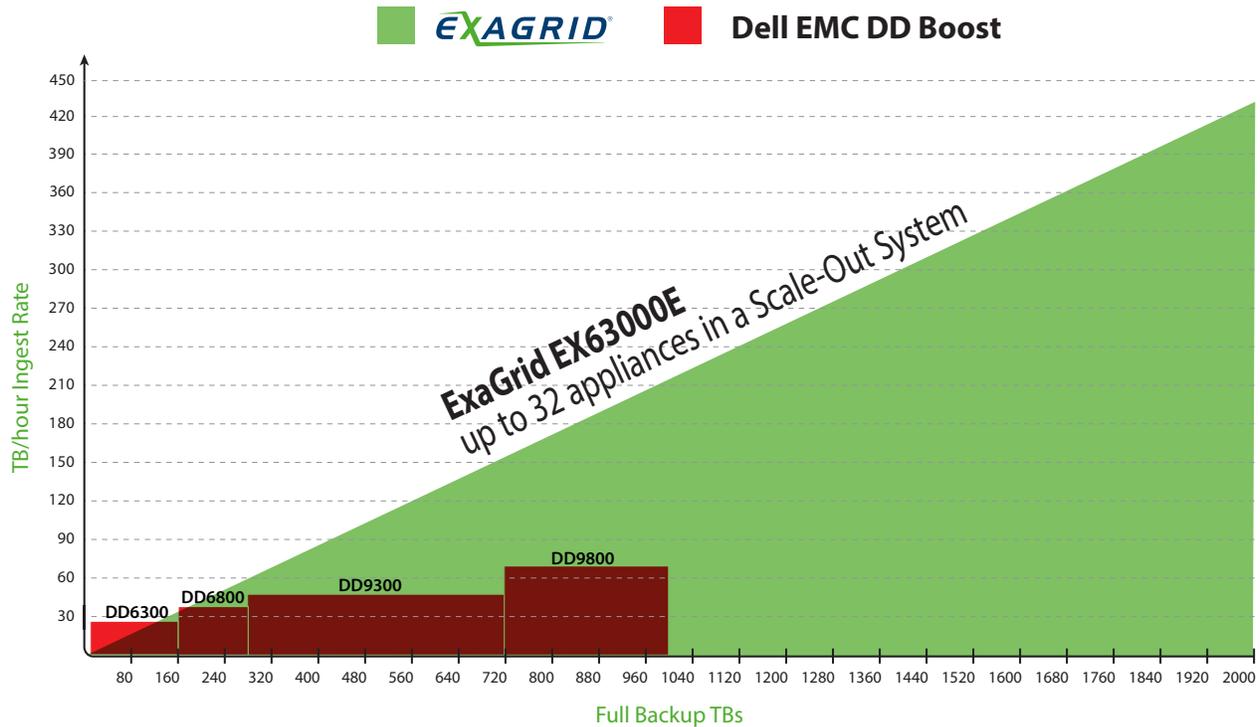
Scalable Architecture – Scale-Out

The typical business or organization is seeing data growth of 30% a year which doubles data every 2.5 years. This data growth presents challenges to IT to ensure their backup system can scale easily to support that growth. With scale-up disk backup solutions that have a front-end server/controller architecture and add just disk shelves as data grows, you start with a short backup window, but as data grows, the backup window expands because only disk is added but no additional deduplication processing resources. Eventually, the backup window expands to a point where you must replace the front-end server with a more powerful server via a costly “forklift upgrade.”

In contrast, ExaGrid’s scalable approach with global deduplication adds full servers—including memory, processor, and bandwidth as well as disk. The figure below shows the differences between how the two different architectures cope with data growth over time.

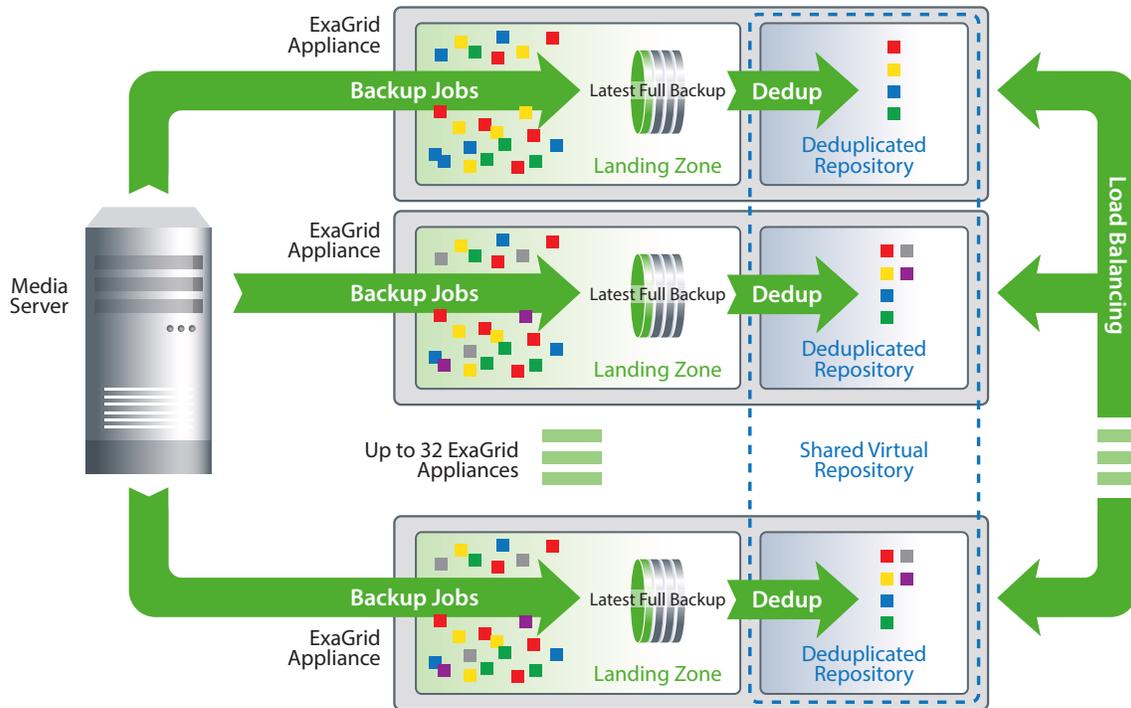


Scale-out vs Scale-up Backup Storage



This unique approach provides the following benefits:

- **No Expansion of Backup Windows as Data Grows** – By adding full appliances, ExaGrid maintains consistently fast backup performance and a fixed length backup window as data increases.
- **Seamless Scalability with No Forklift Upgrades** – ExaGrid's scale-out approach avoids forklift upgrades by adding modular capacity with full servers to the existing system in full backup increments of 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 21, 32, 40, or 63TB with up to 32 appliances in a single system that scales to 2PB.
- **No Obsolescence of Previous Model Systems** – All ExaGrid appliances can be seamlessly added to any existing ExaGrid deployment and can be mixed and matched with older appliances of any size, thereby eliminating obsolescence. Adding a new ExaGrid appliance is as simple as plugging it in and pointing backup jobs at the appropriate target.



ExaGrid disk backup appliances include scalable computing software, which allows them to virtualize and share data storage capacity with one another. This scalable system (shown above) can expand as data grows by adding appliances, providing up to 4.6PB raw capacity, 4PB usable capacity, and allowing full backups of up to 2PB in a single scale-out system. Multiple systems can be used at a single location, and up to 16 separate locations can be managed through a single user interface.

Designed for Performance

Data Deduplication

ExaGrid's innovative approach to data deduplication minimizes the amount of data to be stored by using zone-level data deduplication across all received backups.

ExaGrid's zone-level technology stores only the changed data at a granular level from backup to backup instead of storing full copies. ExaGrid uses zone stamps and similarity detection.

This unique approach reduces the disk space required by an average of 20:1 and from 10:1 up to 50:1 depending on data type, delivering unparalleled performance for the fastest backups and restores.

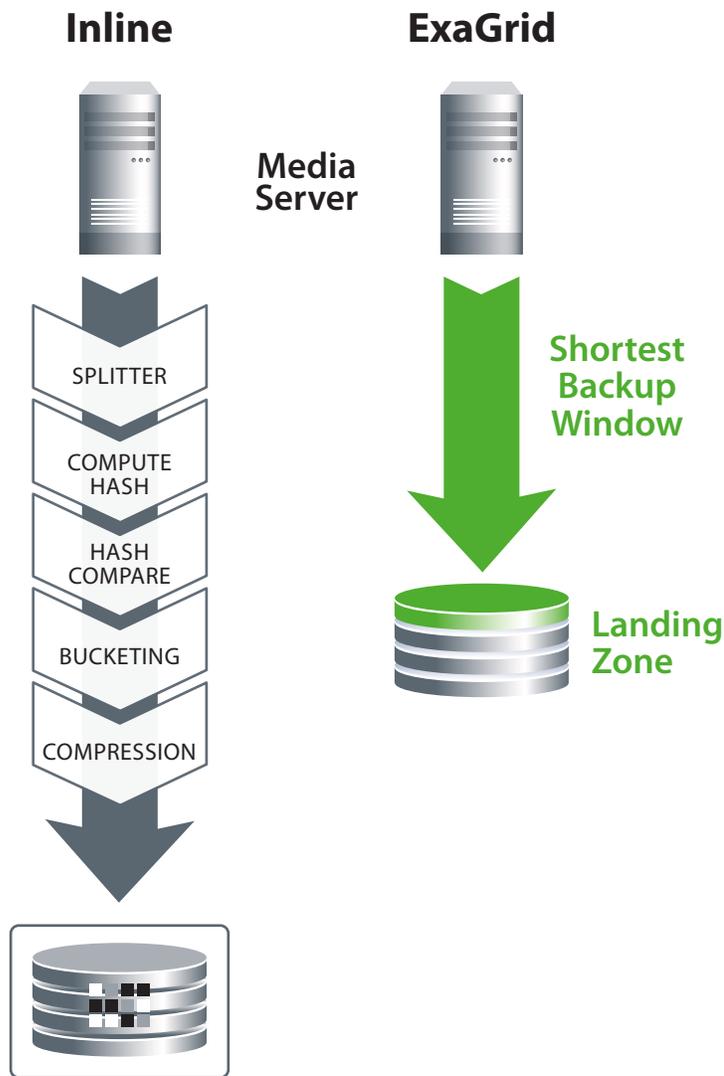
Data Backup Performance

The ExaGrid appliance performs deduplication in parallel with backups by using idle system cycles. Termed "adaptive deduplication," this approach keeps deduplication out of the backup path, resulting in faster backups and a shorter backup window. Adaptive deduplication gives full system resources to backups for the shortest backup window and uses idle cycles to perform deduplication and offsite replication, allowing data to be replicated offsite for a strong offsite recovery point (RPO) for update to data for disaster recoveries.

ExaGrid supports data deduplication globally across all targets and all appliances in a scale-out system. Global deduplication ensures that all data is deduplicated regardless of the number of targets and/or the number of appliances in a system. In addition, global deduplication allows organizations the flexibility to redirect backup jobs to any target, on any appliance, at any time while maintaining data deduplication globally across the entire system.

Once the backup job is complete and off the network, the data is protected and immediately available to be restored. When deduplication and replication are complete, the data is ready for restore on the ExaGrid appliances at the disaster recovery site. As shown in the figure below, backup data is written directly from the backup server to ExaGrid's disk landing zone at the highest possible rate with no inline processing to interfere, resulting in the shortest possible backup window.

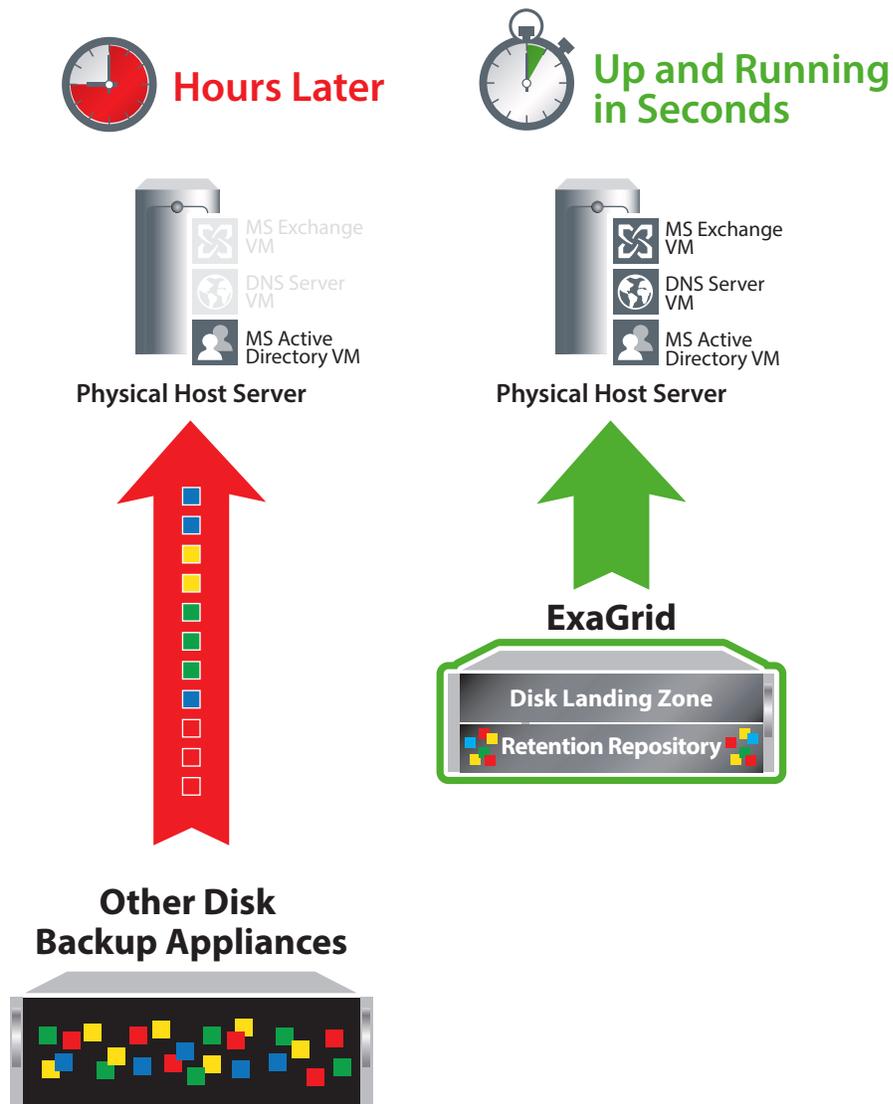
Backup Performance



Data Restore Performance

Because ExaGrid’s appliance allows each full backup to first land on the landing zone before deduplication, the system maintains the most recent backup in its full, undeduplicated form for fast restores, Instant VM recoveries in seconds to minutes, and fast offsite tape copies. Since over 90% of restores and 100% of instant VM recoveries and tape copies are done from the most recent backup, this approach avoids the overhead incurred from “rehydrating” data during critical restores. As a result, restore, recovery, and copy times from an ExaGrid system are an order of magnitude faster than solutions that only store deduplicated data.

Restore Performance

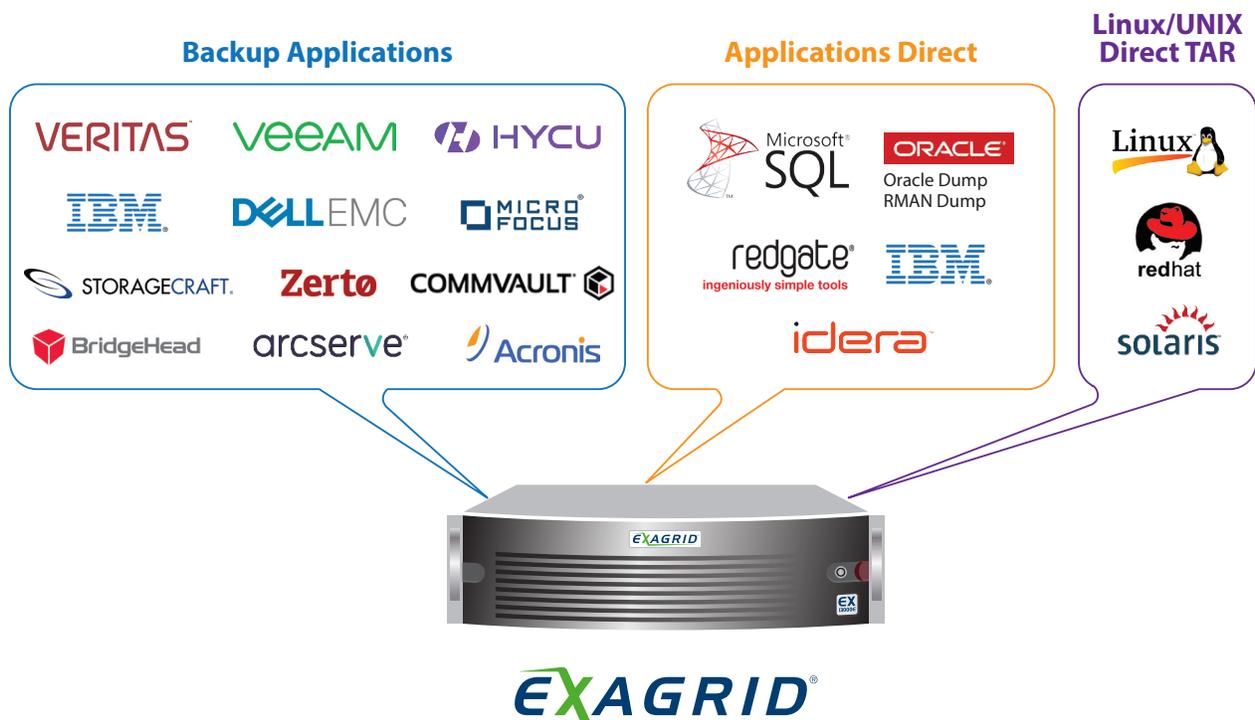


Support for Heterogeneous Backup Applications and Utilities

Customer environments are made up of many backup approaches, backup applications, and utilities and different disk-based backup approaches support these in different ways. Customers may have any number of backups occurring in their environment, including traditional backup applications such as Veeam, Veritas NetBackup, Commvault, IBM TSM (Spectrum Protect), Dell EMC NetWorker, and many others as well as specialized VMware and Hyper-V backup utilities, direct-to-disk SQL dumps, Oracle RMAN backups, and specific UNIX utilities such as UNIX TAR.

ExaGrid is able to support backup data from multiple sources, including a variety of backup applications and database dump utilities. Performing deduplication in the backup software limits the ability to have all data from all sources stored and deduplicated in a single target device. Unless 100% of your backup data passes through that particular backup application, a purpose-built disk-based backup appliance such as ExaGrid's is the best choice to meet the requirements of your entire environment

In contrast, backup application software solutions that have incorporated deduplication by definition only support their own backup application, with its own backup server software and its own backup client agents. These solutions are not able to support backup data from other backup applications or utilities. For example, if you have a physical environment, for backup applications that employ data deduplication but want to use a separate utility for VMWare and also do direct database dumps, only the data running through the physical system's backup application will be deduplicated. Also, deduplication in backup



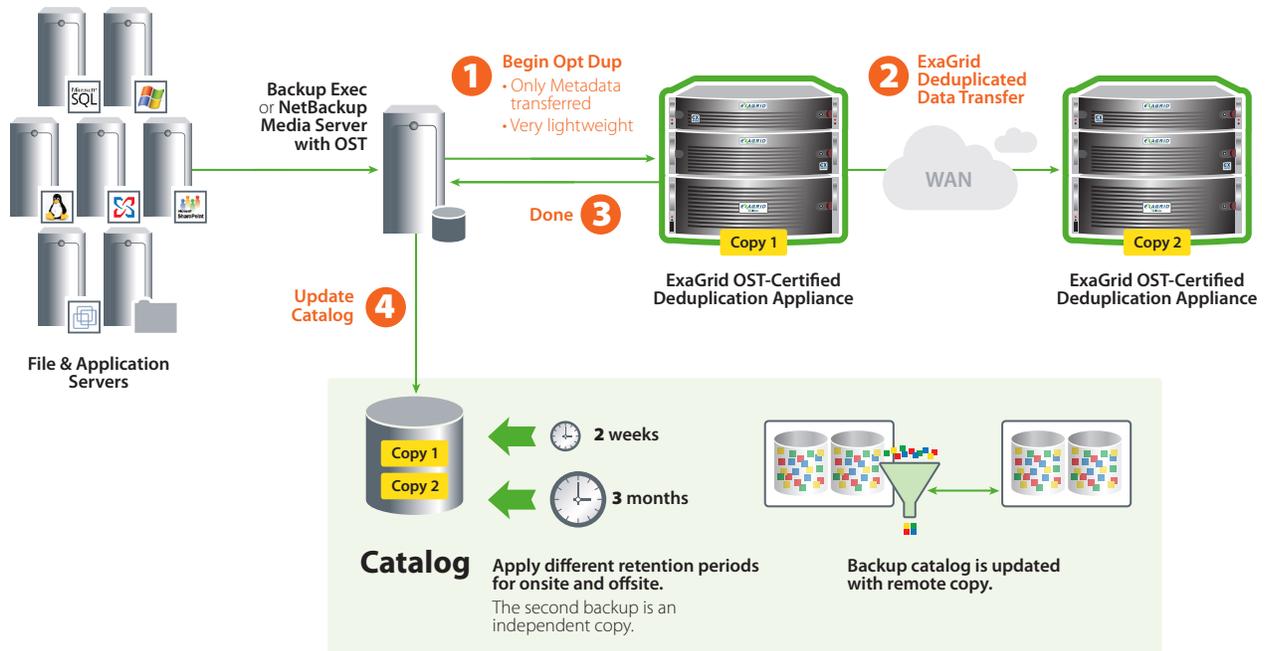
software ranges from 2:1 to 10:1 and therefore uses a lot more disk and bandwidth as retention grows versus target-side deduplication appliances that employ far more aggressive deduplication algorithms, since with appliances, resources are dedicated to the task. Dedicated appliances achieve ratios on average of 20:1, using one-quarter to one-third the disk and bandwidth.

Advanced Backup Features

Veritas Open Storage Manager (OST)

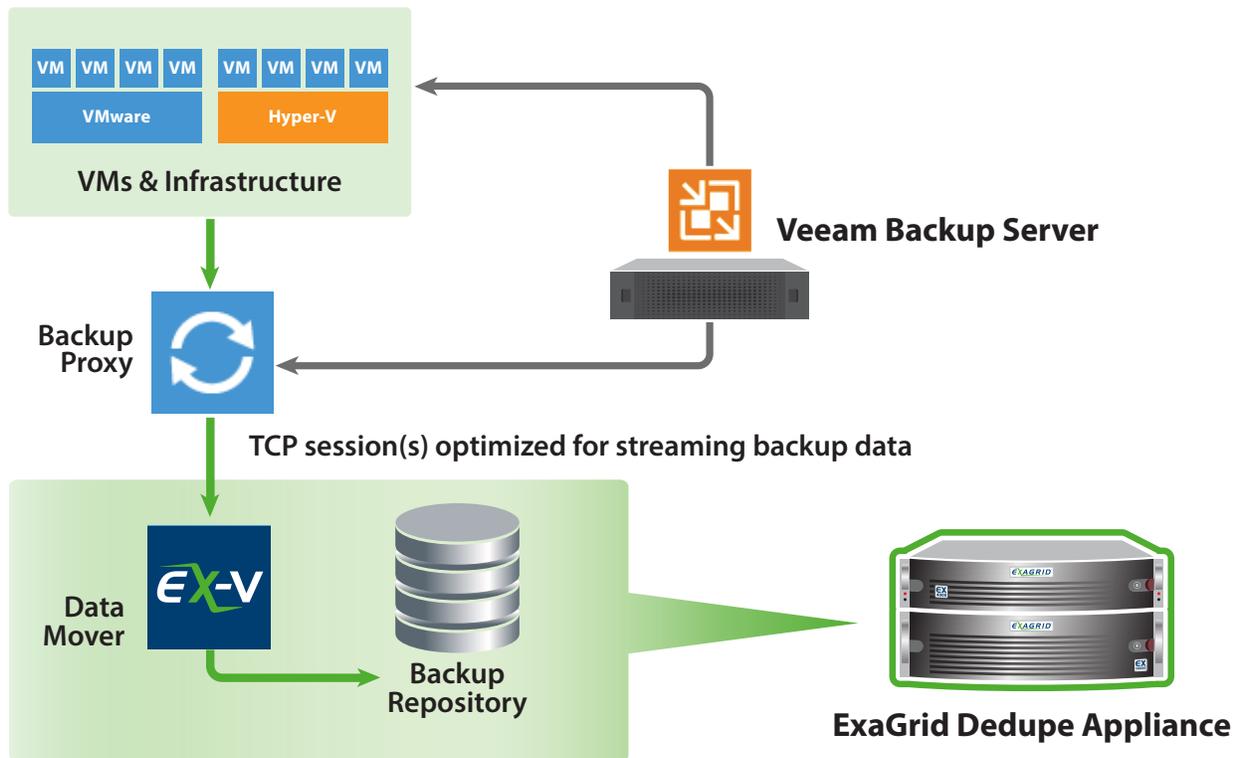
An important consideration when looking at disk-based backup solutions is how well a particular solution supports advanced backup application features such as Backup Exec GRT (Granular Restore) and Veritas' OST (Open Storage Technology) for Backup Exec and NetBackup. Some solutions do not integrate well with these features; poorly implemented GRT solutions, for example, may take hours to restore an individual e-mail or may not work at all.

Veritas' Open Storage is another popular feature that allows for more integrated offsite data protection, and it is important to check whether these features are supported if you are using Veritas NetBackup or Backup Exec. OST allows for faster performance, better management, and unbalanced onsite and offsite retention.

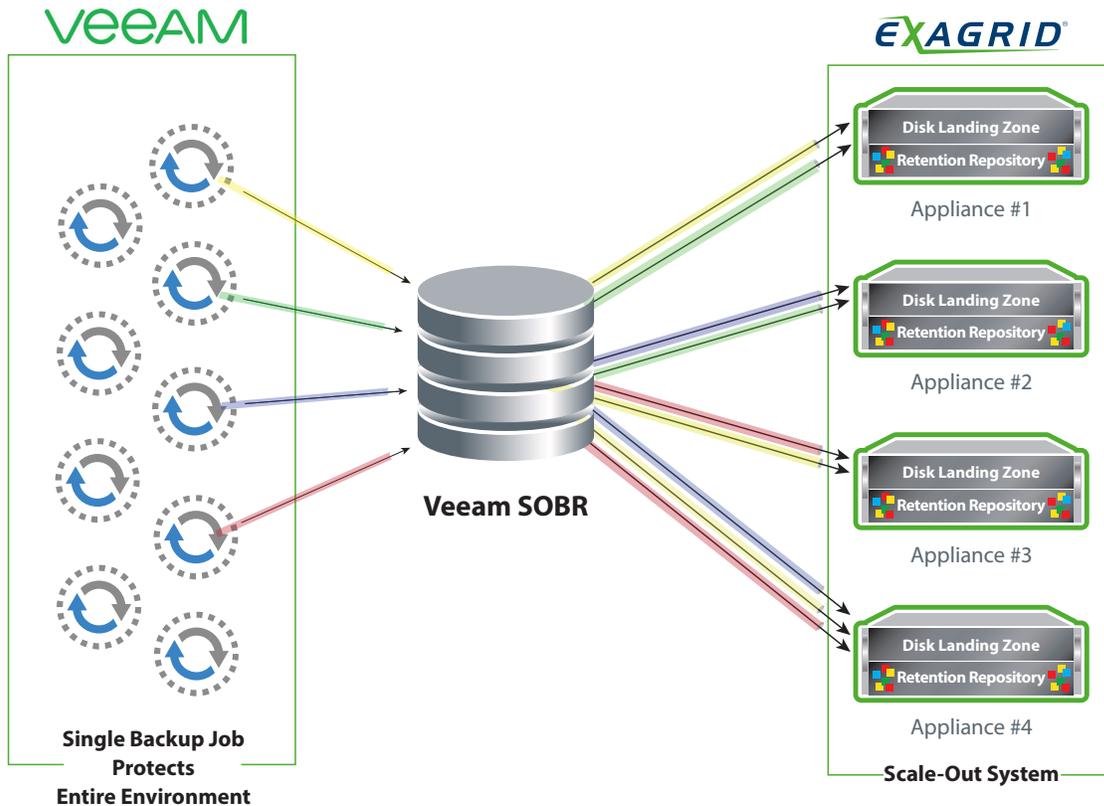


Veeam Accelerated Data Mover

Most of Veeam’s unique features such as Sure Backup, Virtual Lab, Instant VM Recovery, Copy and Replicate, and other advanced features require an unduplicated copy on disk. Only ExaGrid provides this with its unique landing zone. All other solutions only store deduplicated data. In addition, ExaGrid includes an integrated Veeam data mover with each appliance called the “ExaGrid-Veeam Accelerated Data Mover.” This improves all backup and restore processes and also allows a synthetic full to be created directly on the ExaGrid system for increased performance.



Veeam Scale-Out Backup Repository (SOBR)



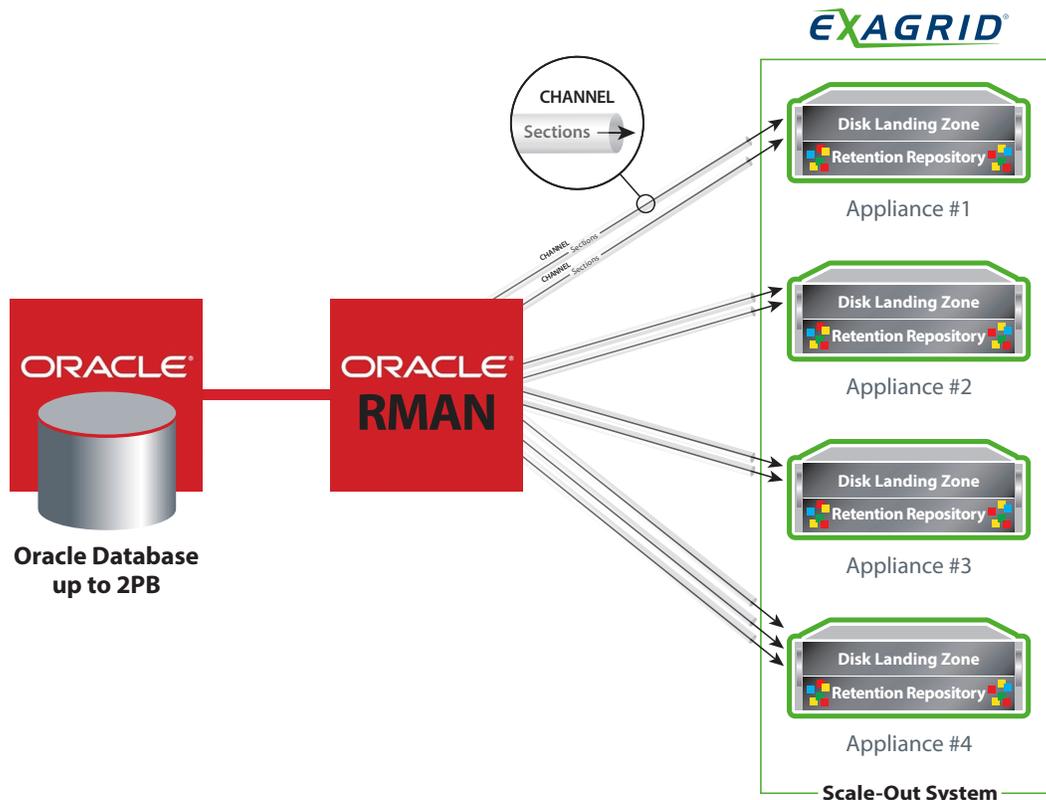
Veeam's Scale-Out Backup Repository (SOBR) allows backup administrators using Veeam to direct all jobs to a single repository made up of ExaGrid shares across multiple ExaGrid appliances with global deduplication in a scale-out system, automating job management to ExaGrid appliances. ExaGrid's support of SOBR also automates the addition of appliances into an ExaGrid system as data grows by simply adding appliances to a Veeam repository group. The combination of Veeam SOBR and ExaGrid's appliances in a scale-out system creates a tightly integrated end-to-end backup solution that allows backup administrators to leverage the advantages of scale-out in both the backup application as well as the backup storage. The combination of Veeam backups to the ExaGrid landing zone, the integrated ExaGrid-Veeam Accelerated Data Mover, and ExaGrid's support of Veeam SOBR is the most tightly integrated solution on the market for a scale-out backup application to scale-out backup storage.

Oracle RMAN Channels

ExaGrid supports Oracle RMAN Channels targeted at multiple NAS shares across multiple appliances with global deduplication in a scale-out system. RMAN Channels automatically writes “sections” in parallel to all NAS shares and automatically redirects the next “section” based on available targets. RMAN Channels with ExaGrid has six major advantages.

1. Oracle database can be up to 2PB in size and can be backed up in parallel to a single ExaGrid scale-out system.
2. The database backup performance is accelerated as the sections are backed up in parallel across multiple appliances in a scale-out system.
3. The database backup performance is maximized as each new section is automatically sent to the highest performance availability NAS shares and/or appliance, resulting in the best possible performance based on NAS share and appliance ingest availability.
4. If any appliance fails, the segments are automatically redirected to the active appliance, providing for automatic failover.
5. The most recent database is stored in an unduplicated form in the ExaGrid landing zone, allowing for fast restores while still allowing for storage efficiency as all long-term retention data is stored in deduplicated form. This avoids the lengthy data rehydration process of inline scale-up appliances that only store deduplicated data.
6. As the database data grows, the backup window stays fixed in length as full appliances are added into a scale-out system bringing compute with capacity. This eliminates the forklift upgrades associated with inline scale-up deduplication appliances.

Database Backup Performance



Reliability and Redundancy

Organizations using a disk-based backup appliance to hold their invaluable backup data should carefully consider how the appliance is architected for reliability and redundancy. Compromises in a product's architecture or implementation may reduce product cost, but those savings are quickly dwarfed by the risk and real cost to an organization of a loss of some or all backup data.

ExaGrid's architecture and implementation have multiple facets of reliability and redundancy, allowing organizations that are considering disk-based backup appliances to make informed vendor selections.

RAID6 Internal Storage with Consistency Checking

All ExaGrid internal storage is accessed using an industry-leading PCI RAID controller at the RAID6 level of disk protection with a global "hot spare" disk. Since RAID6 keeps stripe parity on two disks, each ExaGrid appliance can tolerate the loss of up to two disk drives at the same time. The first lost disk drive will initiate a parity rebuild operation using the global hot spare as well as informing the backup administrator and (optionally) ExaGrid customer support of the failure. A replacement disk drive is dispatched quickly, typically allowing replacement of the failed disk the next business day. Loss of second disk does not result in loss of data since the remaining parity disk allows for data regeneration; this extends even longer the time available to replace the failed disk(s).

During normal operation, the RAID controller does consistency checking of the data on its disks in the background, correcting any disk media errors using the parity disks.

Flash-Backed RAID Cache

The industry-leading PCI RAID controller has onboard writeback cache backed up by a super-cap powered flash memory. Unexpected loss of appliance power does not result in backup data loss because any in-process writes to any disk are preserved until power is restored.

Backup Data Checksums with Automatic Repair

As backup data is deduplicated, checksums are added to the deduplicated data as it is placed into the internal storage area, called the "repository." These end-to-end checksums cover the deduplicated backup data itself, and are used to verify the backup data during processing and as it is read from disk. The deduplicated backup data can optionally be replicated to a remote site; these checksums are used to validate the replicated data as well.

The ExaGrid software continually scrubs the repository data, confirming checksums and automatically repairing any deduplicated data that does not match its checksum using data from remote site(s). This automatic repair of deduplicated data is covered by one of ExaGrid's patents.

Deduplicated Metadata Transactional Consistency

Metadata that tracks all of the deduplicated data is kept in a database and on internal storage. Software techniques are used to ensure transactional integrity of all metadata changes, including flushing filesystem pages into the flash-backed RAID onboard cache. The data flow of deduplicated backup data is protected end-to-end by the combination of checksums (above) and metadata transactional consistency.

Internal Database Backups and Self-Describing Metadata

The database used to keep metadata that tracks deduplicated data is periodically dumped to internal storage. These dumps are used to quickly restore the metadata database in the case of massive failure. The database dumps are used as an optimization; the metadata kept on disk is self-describing and can be used to completely rebuild the deduplicated data in the internal repository both at the local and remote ExaGrid sites.

Logging Filesystem

Backup data is kept in the ExaGrid internal storage on an industry-standard logging filesystem where file activity is logged for integrity and quick repair after an unclean shutdown.

Data Security

The data security capabilities in the ExaGrid product line, including optional enterprise-class Self-Encrypting Drive (SED) technology, provide a high level of security for data at rest and can help reduce IT drive retirement costs in the data center. All data on the disk drive is encrypted automatically without any action required by users. Encryption and authentication keys are never accessible to outside systems where they can be stolen. Unlike software-based encryption methods, SEDs typically have a better throughput rate, particularly during extensive read operations.

Data can be encrypted during replication between ExaGrid systems. Encryption occurs on the sending ExaGrid system, is encrypted as it traverses the WAN, and is decrypted at the target ExaGrid system. This eliminates the need for a VPN to perform encryption across the WAN.

Active Directory Support

ExaGrid integrates with Active Directory for centralized credentials management and authentication.

Insulation from Ransomware

When ransomware strikes, it is critical to have backups insulated from the malicious encryption/damage since they may be your last line of defense. ExaGrid helps insulate backups in the following ways:

1. Comprehensive access security
 - ExaGrid shares can be accessed only from designated backup/media servers. While those servers may also be subject to rampant ransomware, the fewer servers that have access to your backups, the better.
 - SMB signing can be enabled for ExaGrid shares, requiring Windows account credentials to be authenticated and authorized before access is granted to an ExaGrid share, further reducing the chance of malicious access to backups.
 - Veeam Accelerated Data Mover shares require a separate Veeam password and are accessible only via SSH, which also reduces the chance of malicious access to Veeam backups.
 - All accounts used to manage the ExaGrid software are protected using non-default passwords. This includes the backup “admin” account, the special ExaGrid customer support account, and root access.
2. ExaGrid software is updated at least quarterly with the latest appropriate CVE fixes, reducing the ways ransomware can gain access to ExaGrid servers. Software may be updated more frequently as dictated by CVE severity.
3. Each ExaGrid server runs a proper firewall and a customized Linux distribution that opens just the ports and runs just the services necessary for receiving backups, web-based GUI, and ExaGrid-to-ExaGrid replication.
4. Communications between ExaGrid servers is secured using Kerberos authorization and authentication, protecting from a “man in the middle” attack from malicious users or software.

Periodic Assessments Using Beyond Trust’s Retina Network Vulnerability Scanner

A complete vulnerability assessment is run periodically against ExaGrid’s software using the Retina Network Vulnerability Scanner. This tool is the security industry’s most respected and validated vulnerability assessment tool. Audit risks identified by Retina are evaluated by ExaGrid engineering and appropriate resolution is applied.

Offsite Data Protection for Disaster Recovery

ExaGrid appliances can easily maintain offsite backups through the use of an offsite ExaGrid appliance in conjunction with a primary site ExaGrid appliance.

Backing up your data to an ExaGrid appliance at your primary site dramatically reduces the amount of disk space required to store all of that data due to its high-performance data deduplication capability. In a multi-site ExaGrid environment, the onsite ExaGrid system is only sending deduplicated data—the backup data bytes that change between each backup—over the wide area network (WAN) to the offsite ExaGrid appliance. The offsite ExaGrid appliance is ready for data restore and fast recovery in the event of a disaster or other primary site outage.

Replication between ExaGrid systems across a WAN can be scheduled for the day of the week and multiple times throughout each day. Each scheduled period allows for bandwidth throttling which limits replication to only use the assigned bandwidth. The combination of scheduling flexibility and bandwidth throttling allows for the maximum efficiency of WAN bandwidth used for replication. Replicated data can be encrypted over the WAN using a customer's VPN or by utilizing the ExaGrid built-in replication encryption.

ExaGrid supports various DR options:

Private Cloud

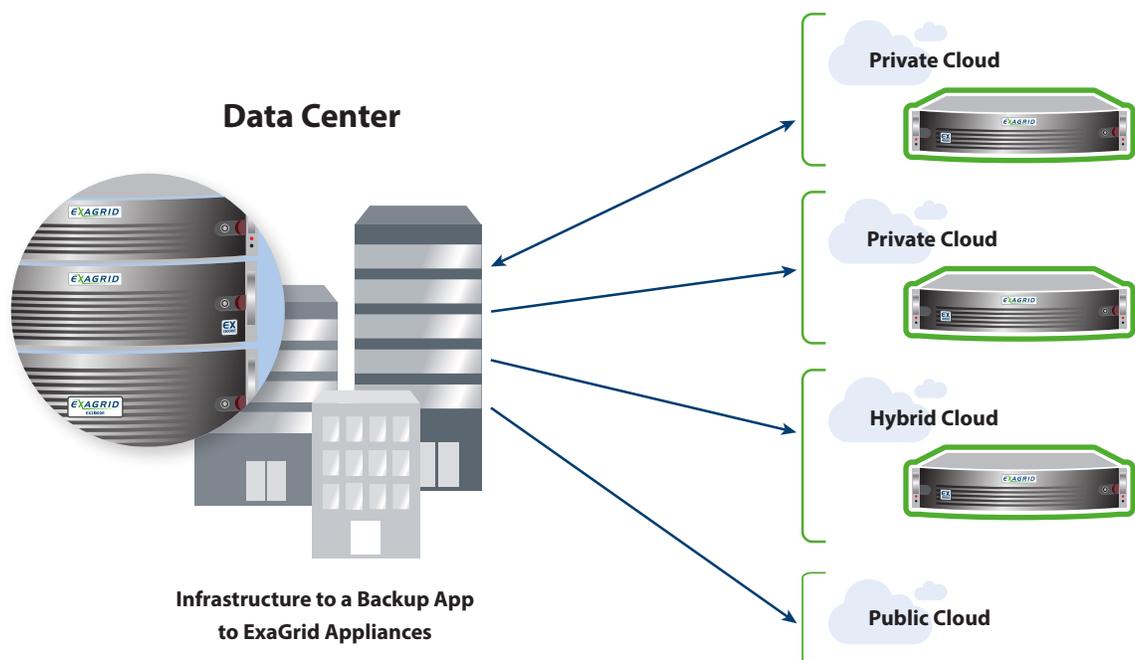
- Replicating to an ExaGrid at a customer's second data center (DR site)
- Replicating to an ExaGrid at a third-party hosted data center (DR site)

Hybrid Cloud

- Replicating to an ExaGrid owned and operated by an ExaGrid third-party DR provider or ExaGrid reseller and billed by the GB per month using OPEX budget

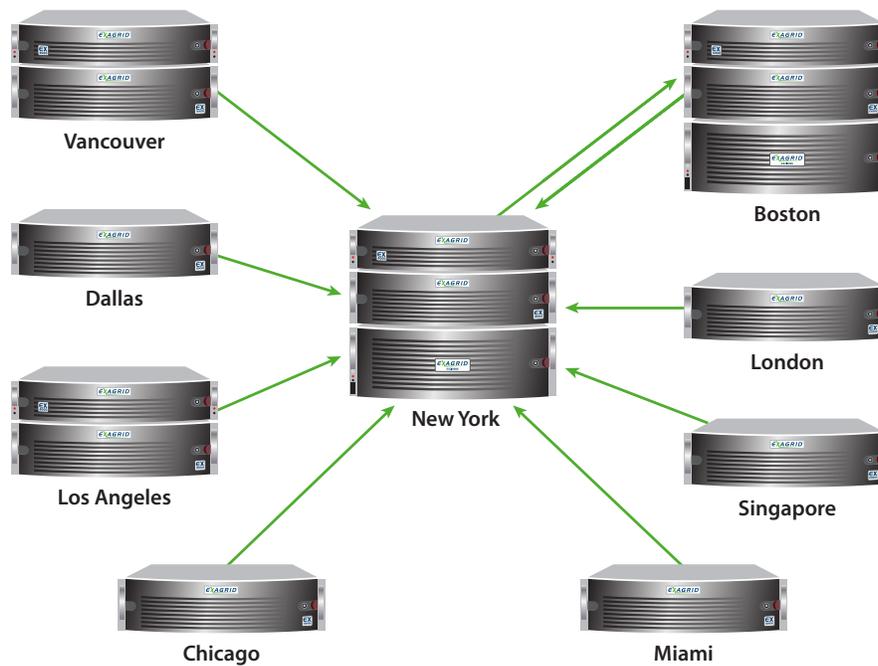
Public Cloud

- Replicating to an ExaGrid VM in a public cloud (e.g., AWS), where DR data is stored in the public cloud and billed by the GB per month using OPEX budget



ExaGrid supports three models for private cloud DR sites at a customer's offsite data center:

- **Unidirectional replication to offsite for disaster recovery** – In this use case, the entire offsite system can be configured for repository, allowing for a half-size system to be used offsite. ExaGrid is asymmetrical in this use case where all other solutions are symmetrical.
- **Cross protection** – In this use case, data is backed up at both the offsite and onsite systems and cross replicated such that each site becomes the disaster recovery site for the other.
- **Multiple data center sites** – ExaGrid can support up to 16 sites in a single star topology with 15 spokes to a hub. Full systems or individual shares can be cross replicated such that data center sites can serve as disaster recovery sites for each other.



Total Cost of Ownership

Backup and disaster recovery is one area of IT spending which—though critically necessary—is typically viewed purely as cost. While backup is an extremely important area, organizations look to achieve appropriate protection so data is not lost while, at the same time, accomplishing this at the lowest possible cost. ExaGrid is the only vendor that has responded by creating a product that truly meets this different economic model warranted for backup spending. Backup spending has followed the same spending pattern as other IT infrastructure spending, which includes:

- Expensive forklift upgrades when a system is outgrown due to data growth
- Repurchasing of entire systems when an existing system simply “wears out”
- Complete rip-and-replace when a backup system becomes obsolete due to product end of life

ExaGrid redefines the economics of backup by helping you contain costs at every point in the life cycle—up front and as data grows over time.

Cost Effectiveness Up Front

With ExaGrid disk-based backup appliances, backups are written directly to a disk landing zone, avoiding inline processing and ensuring the highest possible backup performance resulting 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 strongest offsite recovery point (RPO). 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 Boot and Recoveries, and tape copies while the offsite data is ready for disaster recovery. This allows ExaGrid to be more cost effective up front than an inline/block deduplication system.

In contrast, other appliances that use inline, block-level deduplication rely on a top-tier processor with large amounts of very fast memory and disk just to keep up with backup data. The premium cost of these components means higher cost compared to ExaGrid appliances. In addition, since the inline scale-up appliances have a fixed and limited ingest, in order to increase ingest, they need to use compute from elsewhere in the environment. To this end, they deploy software on media servers and certain application servers in order to do some of the deduplication work away from the inline appliance. Not only is deploying agents frowned upon by most IT organizations, but even with this approach, the ExaGrid will still be three times the ingest performance, and with ExaGrid there are no agents to deploy or manage.

When comparing ExaGrid appliances to non-appliance-based deduplication systems, such as deduplication via the backup application software, it is important to keep in mind that using deduplication in the backup application software typically requires greater resources on the backup server—more processing power, more memory, and more disk. Software deduplication merely shifts the backup performance bottleneck to the media server. Using data deduplication in the backup software uses more disk and bandwidth over time and does not allow for backup environment flexibility such as using a separate utility for virtualized backup, direct TAR backups, and direct database dumps such as SQL dumps or Oracle RMAN dumps.

Cost Effectiveness as Data Grows

ExaGrid's integrated landing zone with unique architecture—full appliances in a scale-out architecture is the most cost-effective to scale as data grows. Each ExaGrid appliance added to the system includes a full server with additional processor, memory, bandwidth, and disk resources. Total backup capacity keeps pace with continued data growth over time by simply adding ExaGrid appliances to the system. There are no forklift upgrades and no additional future costs to consider.

Other appliances that use inline, block-level deduplication do not support a scale-out architecture and are therefore more costly to scale. Instead of adding capacity by adding full servers, only disk shelves are added over time as data grows. But, at some point, the single front-end controller becomes a bottleneck due to its fixed processor, memory and bandwidth resources and can no longer handle the backup load. Eventually, the entire front-end server must be replaced with the next higher capacity unit in a “forklift upgrade.” In fact, you may have to spend as much for the front-end controller upgrade as you originally spent on the original system, including disk shelves. In addition, all data is always deduplicated. For each restore, recovery, and copy request, the data has to be put back together, or “rehydrated,” which can take hours to days.

In addition, unlike other appliances that go “end-of-life” in as little as 18 months and are incompatible with newer models from the same vendor, ExaGrid's scale-out architecture allows you to “mix and match” different capacities and generations of appliances within a single system. Only ExaGrid protects your backup investment from obsolescence.

Summary

When organizations evaluate the backup solution and company that can best meet their backup needs and address their challenges, more and more IT organizations are finding that ExaGrid offers not only the fastest backup and restore performance and best scalability but also a total cost of ownership that is typically at least half that of other solutions.

Only ExaGrid's unique architecture and adaptive deduplication provides:

1) Shortest Backup Window

- Back up straight to disk for high performance.
- All other solutions perform inline deduplication, slowing the backups down.
- All other solutions slow further if you additionally turn on replication and/or encryption as it takes resources from the processor performing the deduplication.
- Each appliance has additional bandwidth so that as data grows, so does the throughput.
- All other solutions have a front-end controller with fixed bandwidth up front and over time.

2) Fixed Length Backup Window

Each appliance has capacity and also compute to handle the increased deduplication load.

- All other solutions only add capacity and have fixed compute up front and over time.
- Each appliance has additional bandwidth so that as data grows, so does the required network bandwidth.
- All other solutions have a front-end controller with fixed bandwidth up front and over time.

3) No Forklift Upgrades

Capacity is always accompanied by compute to bring additional resources as data grows.

- All other solutions have a front-end controller with fixed compute and only add capacity.

4) Pay as You Grow

Up to 32 appliances can be mixed and matched in a single system – buy what you need as you need it.

- All other solutions have a front-end controller – either overbuy up front or require a forklift upgrade later.

5) No Obsolescence

Appliances of all sizes and all ages can be used in a single scale-out system. Newer appliances work in the same system as older appliances.

- All other solutions have countless models over the years, leaving customers hanging.

6) Fast Onsite Restores

Unique landing zone keeps the most recent backups in their full form for fast and immediate restores.

- All other solutions only store deduplicated/dehydrated data that needs to be reassembled for every restore.

7) Fast Offsite Tape Copy

Unique landing zone keeps the most recent backups in their full form for fast and immediate tape copy.

- All other solutions only store deduplicated/dehydrated data that needs to be reassembled for every tape copy.

8) Fastest Onsite VM Instant Recovery

Unique landing zone keeps the most recent backups in their full form in order to boot a VM directly off the ExaGrid landing zone for Instant Recovery.

- All other solutions require a lengthier process to rehydrate the offsite disaster recovery data.

9) Fastest Disaster Recovery

Offsite data is stored in a unique format optimized for fast DR performance.

- All other solutions require a lengthier process to rehydrate the offsite DR data.

10) Asymmetrical Onsite and Offsite Systems

If the replication is one way to a DR site and there are no backups at the DR site, the ExaGrid system can be tuned to 100% repository, allowing for a half-size system at the DR site which saves valuable budget dollars.

- All other solutions require the exact same size system at both sites.

11) Distributed Architecture

There are multiple appliances in a single scale-out system each with processor, memory, bandwidth, and disk. If an appliance fails, backup jobs targeted at the remaining appliances in the system will continue to run.

- All other solutions will be 100% inoperable as there is a single head-end controller, and if the head-end controller goes down, the entire system is unavailable.

12) Supports Heterogeneous Environments

- Multiple backup applications, utilities, and dumps can be sent to a single ExaGrid. A customer can have one backup application for their physical environment, a separate backup application for their VM environment, and also do direct database dumps such as SQL dump or Oracle RMAN.

About ExaGrid

ExaGrid provides hyper-converged secondary storage for backup with data deduplication, a unique landing zone, and scale-out architecture. ExaGrid's landing zone provides for the fastest backups, restores, and instant VM recoveries. Its scale-out architecture includes full appliances in a scale-out system and ensures a fixed-length backup window as data grows, eliminating expensive forklift upgrades. Visit us at www.exagrid.com or connect with us on LinkedIn to read what our customers have to say about their own ExaGrid experiences and why they now spend significantly less time on backup.



United States: 350 Campus Drive | Marlborough, MA 01752 | (800) 868-6985

United Kingdom: 200 Brook Drive | Green Park, Reading, Berkshire RG2 6UB | +44 (0) 1189 497 051

Singapore: 1 Raffles Place, #20-61 | One Raffles Place Tower 2 | 048616 | +65 6808 5574

ExaGrid reserves the right to change specifications or other product information without notice. ExaGrid and the ExaGrid logo are trademarks of ExaGrid Systems, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective holders.

©2019 ExaGrid Systems, Inc. All rights reserved.