# Building a Successful Disaster Recovery Plan

## Customer Overview

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) provides multidisciplinary planning, design, engineering, and consulting for some of the nation's most complex infrastructure and development initiatives. With over 850 employees in 17 offices on the East Coast, VHB serves public and private clients with an approach that blends land development, transportation, and environmental expertise to ensure successful projects.

Since its founding in 1979, VHB's unique method for solving client problems has focused on the integration of service offerings coupled with a deep understanding of the full context of each project. Based in Watertown, Massachusetts, VHB has grown from a boutique traffic firm to a major player on the East Coast, managing small projects to large, multi-million dollar developments.

## Raising Questions After a Near-Disaster

VHB had been considering moving to a disk-based backup solution for their headquarters location when a hurricane swept through its field office in Richmond, Virginia, flooding the first floor. Fortunately, VHB's server equipment was on the second floor, and since the data was replicated in Watertown, the information was all intact.

"After we were sure everyone was safe and sound, we were relieved that the data was safe from the field office. Then we thought about our headquarters operation and realized that we weren't as comfortable with our disaster recovery plan there," said Greg Bosworth, Director of IT.

VHB had been replicating data between many of its smaller offices without full-time IT people, but realized they needed a more solid plan for its headquarters. VHB selected an ExaGrid two-site system to replace a tape library it had been using for backup, and another single-site system to back up Exchange data in Watertown. The two-site system is spread between VHB's headquarters in Watertown and its data center in Boston.

"One of the things we really liked about ExaGrid was that it is built with industry-standard hardware, so it was very low-risk," said Bosworth. "The scalability of the system is a

great feature. I'm not looking at three terabytes and trying to figure out what to do next. I know the system can expand to fit our needs."

## VHB Reduces Their Backup Window by Two-Thirds, Eliminates Tape

Another goal in moving to disk-based backup was to reduce the backup windows facing the IT staff each day. Bosworth estimates that the backup windows have now been reduced by two-thirds with ExaGrid. The staff also saves considerable time and the major headaches associated with dealing with tape.

"With the single ExaGrid system, were able to take out our old tape library, which was using twenty tapes a month," Bosworth said. "Also, the ExaGrid works with our existing BrightStor ARCServe and RepliStore systems, so transitioning was easy.

After moving their backups to ExaGrid, the IT staff at VHB also enjoys faster restores. "Just being able to go and quickly get a backup of a folder and bring it back saves us time over dealing with tape" Bosworth said.

VHB is a company that stakes its business on its team approach, and found dealing with ExaGrid to be a good match. "ExaGrid's team came in and set the system up quickly and the whole

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> Director of IT, VHB

process was really seamless," Bosworth said. "The entire team has been very knowledgeable and great to work with."

## 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 data reduction technology stores only the changes from backup to backup instead of storing full file copies, reducing the amount of disk space needed to at least 20 to 1, and resulting in a solution that is 25 to 30% the cost of standard SATA drives.

ExaGrid is easy to install and use and works seamlessly with popular backup applications, so organizations can retain their investment in existing applications.

ExaGrid can be used at a primary site and at a second site to supplement or eliminate offsite tapes with a live data repository or for disaster recovery. When a second site is used, the cost savings are even greater because ExaGrid's byte-level data deduplication technology moves only changes, requiring minimal WAN bandwidth.

For more information about ExaGrid, please visit our website 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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