ExaGrid® and CommVault Simpana: Simple, Quick, and Cost-Effective Disk-Based Backup and Recovery

Efficient disk-based backup requires close integration between the backup software and the disk device. That is the advantage delivered by the partnership between CommVault® Simpana Backup and Recovery and ExaGrid Systems. Together, CommVault and ExaGrid provide a cost-effective disk-based backup solution that scales to meet the needs of demanding enterprise environments.

CommVault Simpana users may be surprised how quickly they can have their first backup running on the ExaGrid. Many ExaGrid customers take only a few seconds to configure and are fully operational within 30 minutes.

Scalability That Meets Your Business Needs without Costly “Forklift” Upgrades

With ExaGrid’s grid-based architecture, each appliance in the system brings with it not only additional disk, but also additional memory, bandwidth, and processing power – all the elements needed to maintain high backup performance. This keeps your backup window short as your data grows, as growth is accommodated by simply adding additional appliances to the grid. There is no need to replace less powerful appliances with more powerful ones – no forklift upgrades – you simply add more appliances to the grid. You get the shortest possible backup times with the ability to easily keep those times short as your data grows over time.

Faster, More Reliable Backups and Restores

Moving from tape to a disk-based backup appliance from ExaGrid can significantly reduce backup times, helping customers stay within their backup window and avoiding the hassles and delays of backing up to tape. Restores are also much faster and easier, as ExaGrid’s post-processing architecture keeps the most recent backup intact in non-deduplicated form, ready to be rapidly restored when needed.

You can also eliminate offsite tapes by having a copy of your backups offsite on disk using data deduplication to efficiently transfer the data. Achieve faster and more reliable recoveries in the event of primary backup failure or other type of disaster with minimal bandwidth utilized because only the changes traverse the WAN.

Easy to Install, Use, and Manage

With the combination of CommVault Simpana and ExaGrid disk-based backup, you can eliminate the management hassles of tape and also avoid expensive, complex VTL-based solutions. The ExaGrid appliance fits easily into your backup environment behind your existing Simpana backup server. Simply plug in the ExaGrid behind your backup server and point your Simpana backups to the ExaGrid appliance via a NAS (CIFS or NFS) share, and you are ready to begin executing backups. Once installed, backup management is made simple with ExaGrid’s intuitive management interface and reporting capabilities.
ExaGrid and CommVault Simpana

Getting Started
It’s a simple three-step process to point CommVault Simpana backups to ExaGrid’s “plug-and-play” disk-based backup system:

Step 1: Turn It On
ExaGrid is an appliance. No loading software, no complicated assembly. Simply unpack it, rack it, and turn it on.

Step 2: Point and Click to Create a Share
Create share(s) on the ExaGrid system for CommVault Simpana using ExaGrid’s simple web interface. No installation or lengthy configuration process is required.

Step 3: Create or Redirect Backup Jobs
Using CommVault Simpana, simply point the existing backup job(s) to the ExaGrid system's target share.

That’s it for most installations. You may also choose to organize additional backups since the ExaGrid system is easily customized to fit your backup and business processes.

Complementary CommVault Simpana Features
Simpana Backup and Recovery software is the foundation of a modern data management solution, and a modern solution allows users to better manage information assets, recover data more quickly, and ultimately save money over loosely integrated, legacy solutions. CommVault optimized Simpana 9 software in order to protect data and information assets wherever they reside – physical, virtual, and in the cloud. It delivers a truly unified approach that helps users achieve dramatic results.

CommVault Simpana recognizes the ExaGrid system as a magnetic library.
CommVault Simpana supports partial or single file recoveries.
CommVault Simpana software enables auxiliary copy to tape.
CommVault Simpana software provides a data verification tool.

ExaGrid and Simpana Archive
ExaGrid and Simpana customers can also target the ExaGrid appliance with Simpana Archive. The Simpana Archive module runs on the same technology platform as Simpana Backup and Recovery, and utilizes extended content capture options, a search engine, and e-discovery and compliance information management workflows to support long-term information challenges. In addition, Simpana software combines backup, archive and reporting processes into one operation through a feature called Simpana OnePass™. This feature allows you to eliminate complexity and redundant processes to reduce risk, free resources and affordably manage big data file systems. Additionally, Simpana Archive allows you to:

- Eliminate data silos, reclaim primary storage, improve application performance and shrink backup windows.
- Improve access and increase storage efficiencies with a common index and globally deduplicated backup and archive virtual repository.
- Leverage seamless REST integration across one of the broadest cloud ecosystems to reduce cost and effort.
- Enable a single collection and point of access to all corporate information using the Simpana ContentStore to easily meet legal and regulatory requirements.
- Provide valuable insight to help optimize archive policies with integrated reporting and analytics.

CommVault Simpana and ExaGrid work together in a number of complementary ways:
- CommVault Simpana and ExaGrid provide complementary deduplication, together offering maximum data reduction benefits.