There are many reasons to keep a complete set of backups at an offsite location. This can be accomplished by making offsite tape sets or by replicating data from the primary site disk-based backup system to a second site disk-based backup system. As more and more organizations turn away from tape to disk as their primary backup media, however, a significant portion of them will not only seek to eliminate tape for onsite retention, but for their offsite retention as well.

Four Reasons to Do Offsite Backups with ExaGrid

**Industry-Leading Data Deduplication**
A system's deduplication rate is the determining factor in the amount of data that is reduced and the amount of disk that is required. But deduplication rate also impacts the amount of bandwidth that is needed to maintain a second site for a given backup window since it is only the data that has changed that is sent over a WAN to an offsite system. The poorer the deduplication rate, the more data must be sent to maintain the offsite backup, and the more bandwidth is required for a given backup window. Deduplication rates can vary greatly, and ExaGrid achieves the highest deduplication rates and requires the lowest bandwidth to maintain an offsite system.

**Fast Restores for Disaster Recovery**
In addition to looking at the deduplication rate, it is also important to note whether the offsite system stores only deduplicated data or whether it stores some form of already rehydrated data in order to offer quick disaster recovery restores. Any system that does inline deduplication only stores the deduplicated data and therefore results in slower disaster recovery (DR) times. In contrast, ExaGrid performs adaptive deduplication, which makes the most recent backup available in its complete form. The result is that the data is ready to quickly restore.

**Protection Against Primary Site Data Loss**
Fast restores are important, but the ability to rapidly restore your data from an offsite system in the case of a disaster is perhaps more important. With an offsite ExaGrid system, the data that is replicated to that system can also be used to restore any lost or corrupt data on the primary site. ExaGrid owns the patent for this technology such that if anything happened to any of the backup data at the primary site, the offsite system can be used to restore or replace the lost or corrupted data. This creates an added level of safety.
Eliminate Tape Everywhere with an Offsite ExaGrid System

Dedicated Auditing Function
While the ability to restore data in the case of a disaster or other cause of data loss is indeed comforting, ExaGrid provides further confidence with a dedicated function that allows you to demonstrate DR restores for an internal or external audit. This gives you a way to prove that your DR process works before an actual disaster.

Getting Started
It’s a simple process to install an offsite ExaGrid system and connect it to your existing system for replication:

**Step 1: Initialize the offsite ExaGrid appliance**
Install a new ExaGrid appliance at the offsite location and initialize the new ExaGrid as a ‘spoke’ (your existing primary site ExaGrid can serve as the ‘hub’); enter the IP address of the hub site (your current single-site system) to which the spoke is to be joined.

**Step 2: Point your original, single-site ExaGrid to your new offsite ExaGrid**
Go to your primary site ‘hub’ system and point to the offsite ‘spoke’ system simply by entering the IP address of the offsite ExaGrid appliance.

**Step 3: Replicate your data**
You can now replicate data from your hub ExaGrid to your ‘spoke’ site (and vice versa, if desired), and gain all of the benefits of an offsite ExaGrid system!