

Swish and Exagrid Reduce Backup and Recovery Time for a Defense Agency, Accelerating Mission Success

Agency at the forefront of developing technology that gives warfighters and allies a decisive edge, improves operations with industry's fastest backup and restore solution.

This defense agency's mission is to develop technology solutions that enable and protect the nation's warfighters. With over 13,000 soldiers, civilian employees, and contractors; over 10,000 of which are engineers and scientists, it is one of the DoD's largest technology developers. Key tenets of their mission are speed of delivery and the integration of technology into existing systems that give warfighters and allies a decisive edge in battle.

The Problem

Over the years, the agency had grown to encompass disparate backup solutions to accommodate diverse data types. They needed to consolidate, simplify management, and minimize complexity while reducing the overall time to backup. Already processing petabytes of data, which was continually growing, necessitated a scalable and robust solution. Backup performance was also a problem. As data was growing, backups were regularly exceeding the agency's scheduled backup window. They needed to increase backup speed and volume. Synergy with various backup software platforms was also a concern due to the different backup solutions in play. They knew that changes had to be made, but they needed a backup storage vendor that could work with various backup platforms. Lastly, the agency needed to reduce the growing number of man-hours spent on backup and recovery to reallocate time for mission priorities resulting in improved staff productivity and significant cost savings.

Swish

Swish, a provider of technology solutions and services for government agencies, was brought in to assess the situation and make recommendations. Swish suggested Exagrid which is known for having the fastest backup and restore speeds in the industry. Swish brought deep expertise and proven experience with Exagrid implementations and knew that it was right for this agency. With a scale-out platform that increases performance as it grows, industry-leading compression values, and a flexible framework for ever-growing data sets, Exagrid fit the agency's needs.

"The system was more cost-effective than some of the other solutions we looked at. It was less expensive to acquire and we were able to use it along with our existing backup application and tape drive. It was also more advantageous to purchase the ExaGrid system in terms of licensing and maintenance. We were able to set the system up ourselves and it's easy to manage and administer."

Dana McCutcheon IT Specialist Federal
Mediation & Conciliation Service



The Solution

Exagrid, which supports over 20 different backup vendors, integrated seamlessly with their existing backup strategies. This meant that upgrading their backup storage did not mean having to change their backup software. Because Exagrid backs up straight to disk, backup times were reduced by over 65%. Additionally, the agency experienced significantly increased restore speeds because Exagrid leaves the backup data in its full unduplicated form, ready for restore. With intelligence built into the storage, the agency knows immediately if a job fails. If capacity becomes a concern, Exagrid scales out easily, increasing compute, throughput, and capacity with the ability to write multiple streams to multiple storage devices simultaneously. They now spend less man-hours on backup and recovery which decreases costs and improves efficiency. An added benefit was Exagrid's unique *Retention Time-Lock for Ransomware Recovery*. This provides an always-on malware protection capability not previously available in their environment. Leveraging built-in replication technology, the customer can easily enable offsite data storage. Lastly, before the agency brought Swish in for consultation, they were looking at two competing backup storage options and were amazed to find Exagrid offered a better solution at a lower cost.

Summary

Swish was very confident in recommending Exagrid, an enterprise secondary storage solution with award-winning restore speeds. By consolidating backup and restore targets with Exagrid, the agency has significantly reduced backup time, attained unprecedented restore rates, acquired scalability, increased security, and reduced man-hours with more successful completed backups. Exagrid has been working with federal government agencies for over ten years and has installations throughout the DoD and other defense and civilian federal organizations. Swish takes pride in partnering with only the best solutions in the industry and vendors that understand the unique needs and requirements of government agencies.

Swish is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and HUBZone certified Small Business provider of technology solutions and engineering services to the U.S. Federal Government with a focus on high-quality outcomes for our clients. Swish's focused practice areas include Cybersecurity, Performance Engineering, IT Modernization and DevSecOps. To learn more, please visit: www.swishdata.com

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