

Differentiating between the Dell EMC Data Domain and ExaGrid EX Systems

Deduplication backup target appliances remain a critical component of the data protection infrastructure for many enterprises. While storing protected data in the cloud may be fine for very small businesses or even as a final resting place for enterprise data, deduplication backup target appliances continue to function as their primary backup target and primary source for recovering data. It is for these reasons that enterprises frequently turn to deduplication backup target appliances from Dell EMC and ExaGrid to meet these specific needs that are covered in recent DCIG Pocket Analyst Report.

The Dell EMC Data Domain and ExaGrid families of deduplication backup target appliances appear on the short lists for many enterprises. While both these providers offer systems for small, midsize, and large organizations, the underlying architecture and features on the systems from these two providers make them better suited for specific use cases.

Their respective data center efficiency, deduplication, networking, recoverability, replication, and scalability features (*to include recently announced enhancements*) provide insight into the best use cases for the systems from these two vendors.

Purpose-built, deduplication systems from both Dell EMC Data Domain and ExaGrid have widespread appeal as they expedite backups, increase backup and recovery success rates, and simplify existing backup environments. They offer appliances in various physical configurations to meet the specific backup needs of small, midsize, and large enterprises while providing

virtual appliances that can run in private clouds, public clouds, or virtualized remote and branch offices.

Their systems significantly reduce backup data stores and offer concurrent backup and replication. They also limit the number of backup streams, display real-time deduplication ratios, and do capacity analysis and trending. Despite the similarities that the systems from these respective vendors share, six differences exist between them in their underlying features that impact their ability to deliver on key end-user expectations. These include:

1. **Data center efficiency** to include how much power they use and the size of their data center footprint.
2. **Data reduction** to include what deduplication options they offer and how they deliver them.
3. **Networking protocols** to include connectivity for NAS and SAN environments.
4. **Recoverability** to include how quickly, how easily, and where recoveries may be performed.
5. **Replication** to include copying data offsite as well as protecting data in remote and branch offices.
6. **Scalability** to include total amount of capacity as well as ease and simplicity of scaling.

[DCIG](#) is pleased to make a recent DCIG Pocket Analyst Report that compares these two families of deduplication backup target appliances available for a [complimentary download](#) for a *limited time*. This succinct, 4-page [report](#) includes a detailed product matrix as well as insight into these six differentiators between these two solutions and which one is best positioned to deliver on these six key data center considerations.

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2014 Features Checklist Modified 2 January 2015

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Product
Dell EMC Data Domain Systems
See a full feature checklist on our website: www.dcig.com

Product
ExaGrid EX Systems
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- Summary Comparison**
- Dell EMC Data Domain's Advantages**
 - Deduplication efficiency
 - Scalability
 - ExaGrid's Advantages**
 - Data center efficiency
 - Recoverability
 - Scalability

Dell EMC Data Domain and ExaGrid EX Systems: Commonality

Proven built-in deduplication systems from both Dell EMC Data Domain and ExaGrid have widespread appeal as they simplify backup, restore, recovery, and compliance. They also address in-cell and physical configurations. These systems meet the specific backup needs of small, medium, and large enterprises while providing efficient solutions that can run in private clouds, public clouds, or virtualized networks and branch offices.

These systems significantly reduce backup data volume and other associated backup and application. They also limit the number of backup streams, simplify test file backup, restoration, and do capacity analysis and trending.

Six Key Differentiators between Data Domain and ExaGrid EX Systems

Despite the similarities that the systems from these respective vendors share, six key differences exist between them in their underlying features.

DEDUPLICATION EFFICIENCY

Proven consumption and the size of the data center footprint consumed by each system helps make their use in today's

and other virtualized data centers. Systems from both vendors offer highly efficient deduplication algorithms so they consume lesser amounts of backspace (DUE) for a given amount of capacity. However, the efficient approaches to deduplication used by these two product lines heavily influence the systems' overall consumption. Data Domain systems consume approximately 10% less space and generate 20% less heat than comparable ExaGrid systems' deduplication.

DEDUPLICATION APPROACH

Data Domain deduplicates data into and offers a dedupe ratio. It's based on the given organization's the flexibility to deduplicate data on master and/or media streams as well as on clients. This software reduces processing overhead from the Data Domain systems and reduces the amount of backup data sent over the network. ExaGrid deduplicates data only after the data lands on its systems.

NETWORKING PROTOCOLS

Systems from both providers get their start in the marketplace using common file protocols (SMB/CIFS) and NFS. Since then, the systems have increased their port counts to offer more networking options to handle edge appliances networks. Of the two providers, only Data Domain has added Fibre Channel (FC) connectivity to its systems.

To access and download this report at no charge **for a limited time**, simply follow this [link](#) and complete the registration form on the landing page.