Section 508 Compliance

In 1998, US Congress amended the Workforce Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d) to require Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities.

Section 508 Electronic and Information Technology requires that when Federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, Federal employees with disabilities have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access and use by Federal employees who are not individuals with disabilities, unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency.

Section 508 also requires that individuals with disabilities, who are members of the public seeking information or services from a Federal agency, have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to that provided to the public who are not individuals with disabilities, unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency.

Section 508 establishes general technical standards Subpart B for the following:

- Software Application- Operating Systems (1194.21)
- Web-based Information or Applications (1194.22)
- Telecommunications Products (1194.23)
- Video and Multimedia Products (1194.24)
- Self Contained, Closed Products (e.g, information kiosks, calculators, copiers and fax machines)(1194.25)
- Desktop and Portable Computers (1194.26)

Section 508 provides for a number of exceptions as well:

§ 1194.3 General exceptions.

(a) This part does not apply to any electronic and information technology operated by agencies, the function, operation, or use of which involves intelligence activities, cryptologic activities related to national security, command and control of military forces, equipment that is an integral part of a weapon or weapons system, or systems which are critical to the direct fulfillment of military or intelligence missions. Systems which are critical to the direct fulfillment of military or intelligence missions do not include a system that is to be used for routine administrative and business applications (including payroll, finance, logistics, and personnel management applications).

(b) This part does not apply to electronic and information technology that is acquired by a contractor incidental to a contract.

(c) Except as required to comply with the provisions in this part, this part does not require the installation of specific accessibility-related software or the attachment of an assistive technology device at a workstation of a Federal employee who is not an individual with a disability.

(d) When agencies provide access to the public to information or data through electronic and information technology, agencies are not required to make products owned by the agency available for access and use by individuals with disabilities at a

location other than that where the electronic and information technology is provided to the public, or to purchase products for access and use by individuals with disabilities at a location other than that where the electronic and information technology is provided to the public.

(e) This part shall not be construed to require a fundamental alteration in the nature of a product or its components.

(f) Products located in spaces frequented only by service personnel for maintenance, repair, or occasional monitoring of equipment are not required to comply with this part.

ExaGrid and Section 508

ExaGrid is a manufacturer of disk-based backup and recovery Systems. ExaGrid provides the best level of data deduplication and has implemented data deduplication in a way that provides three times the backup performance and five times the restore and VM boot performance. First, ExaGrid has a unique landing zone where backups can land straight to disk without any inline deduplication processing. Backups are fast and the backup window is short. Deduplication and offsite replication occur in parallel with the backups. Deduplication and replication never impede the backup process, as they always are second order priority. ExaGrid calls this "adaptive deduplication."

Organizations come to us because we are the only company that implemented deduplication in a way that fixed all the challenges of backup storage. ExaGrid's second generation product offers a unique landing zone and scale-out architecture providing the fastest backup resulting in the shortest fixed backup window, the fastest local restores, fastest offsite tape copies and instant VM recoveries while permanently fixing the backup window length, all with reduced cost up front and over time.

ExaGrid's Graphical User Interface (GUI) is accessed via standard web browsers such and Microsoft's Internet Explorer, and others. ExaGrid achieves its Section 508 compliancy through the use of these browsers. More detailed information can be found here: https://enterprise.microsoft.com/en-us/articles/industries/government/section-508-vpats-for-microsoft-products/

Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems
Section 1194.22 Web-based internet information and applications
Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products
Section 1194.24 Video and Multi-media Products
Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products
Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers
Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria
Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support