

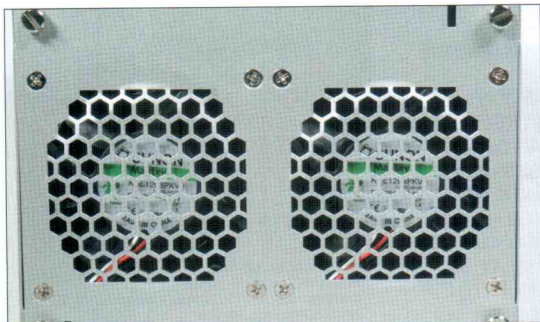


Easy-To-Use NAS

SYNOLOGY DISK STATION DS410J

By Muzaffar Ismail

While Network Accessed Storage or NAS devices have flooded the market for each and every niche possible, many of these devices lack a key feature to making them accessible and thus more desirable. Surprisingly, this key feature is simply - ease-of-use. Most NAS devices are quite easy to setup and install thanks to step-by-step wizards but the moment you start managing the NAS device you suddenly discover that there are no more steps to guide your way. What some NAS vendors have done is to offer NAS devices with fewer options while other NAS vendors have made their interface more user-friendly. Synology falls into the latter category.



The NAS offers two silent fans for quiet yet efficient cooling



While the hard disk drives are all hot-swappable, accessing drive trays is a bit challenging despite the flip-open rear panel

The Disk Station DS410j NAS is a small bread box sized unit with a white plastic and metal casing. The NAS by itself isn't that heavy and feels quite solid, mainly because there isn't any easy-to-open lid. This is because like many other Synology NAS devices its hard disk drive bays are located inside a well sealed casing and must be unscrewed before they can be removed or replaced. As it is, the NAS offers four 3.5" sized hard disk drive bays, each of which can support up to 2TB for a total of 8TB. Synology has simplified the front panel and just put a single power button along with the status LEDs while placing two USB ports and a single RJ-45 Gigabit Ethernet LAN port on the rear panel.

Above the ports on the rear panel, Synology has placed two small but silent cooling fans which reduces power draw, keeps the device quiet and efficiently cools it. The panel where the fans are placed can be unscrewed and flipped open for access to the hard disk drive bays. The hard disk drives are hot-swappable but if you want to do this you still have to remove the casing and unscrew the tray from the frame.

Installation is very easy. Thanks to a new, easier to use interface, the NAS is also a lot easier to maintain. It shouldn't be too hard to maintain for most IT executives. Initial RAID build-up may take some time though, but all you need to do is let the device do it for you. The NAS supports Basic, JBOD, RAID 0, RAID 1, RAID 5, RAID 5+Spare and RAID 6 modes. Features-wise, it offers applications like Surveillance Station 3, Photo Station 3, File Station 2, Audio Station, Web Station, PHP/MySQL, Download Station 2 and an iTunes Server. This allows for IP camera



The new interface is a lot more user-friendly

surveillance, an automatic downloading station for HTTP, FTP, BT and eMule downloads as well as the usual file server, Web server and streaming media server. This NAS device also offers security features including a firewall, auto-blocking and other network security.

The Synology Disk Station DS410j is a very easy-to-setup and easy-to-use NAS device for the SOHO and small office environment with limited IT support. The easy to use interface lowers skill requirements for maintenance and it is secure enough to handle most threats while the 8TB capacity should suffice for even a midrange organization.

SPECIFICATIONS

Drive Bays	OS	Ports	LAN	Price
4x 3.5" SATA	Web Based	USB2.0, Network	1x Gigabit	RM1599

CPU: 800MHz
RAM: 128MB DDR800
HDD: 4x 3.5" SATA/2 HDD; Supports hot-swap and HDD of up to 2TB for each bay (system shipped w/o HDD); Supports Basic, JBOD, RAID 0, RAID 1, RAID 5, RAID 5+Spare, RAID 6
LAN / WAN: 1x RJ-45 Gigabit Ethernet
External HDD: 2x USB
Buttons: Power
Internal Fan: 2x
Power Supply: External power adapter
Warranty: 2-years
Contact: Build Technology Supply Sdn Bhd
Telephone: (03) 7955 3699
URL: www.synology.com

Available at

PLAZA LOW YAT
shopping centre

Verdict:

8.5



Features: 8.5
 PERFORMANCE: 8.5
 Value: 8.5

VERDICT SCORES ARE OUT OF 10.

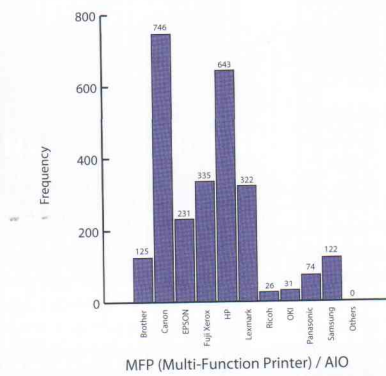
Easy to use and feature-packed
 8TB NAS for the SOHO and small
 organization

MFP (MULTI-FUNCTION PRINTER) / AIO

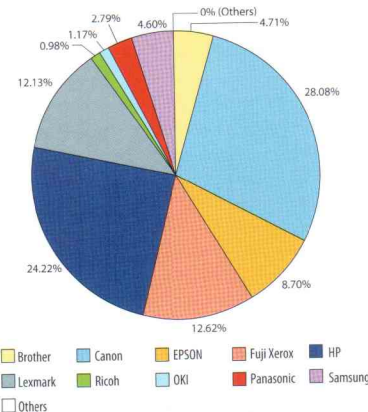
Top 3 Brands

- 1) Canon 2) HP 3) Fuji Xerox

The MFP or AIO is now the smartest choice for users looking for flexibility and features in a small footprint. Being rather affordable these days, these devices have quietly usurped the ubiquitous inkjet printer in many a home in Malaysia. In 2008 our respondents voted for Canon, HP and Lexmark as the three most popular brands for MFPs. This year, when they think of AIOs, our respondents say Canon (28%), HP (24%) and Fuji Xerox (13%).



MFP (Multi-Function Printer) / AIO



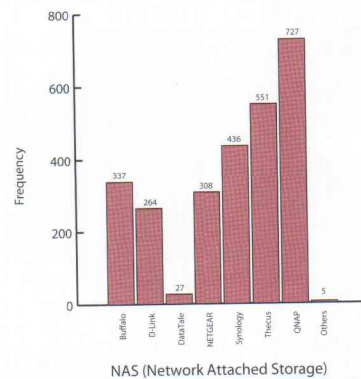
MFP (Multi-Function Printer) / AIO	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Brother	125	4.71
Canon	746	28.08
EPSON	231	8.70
Fuji Xerox	335	12.62
HP	643	24.22
Lexmark	322	12.13
Ricoh	26	0.98
OKI	31	1.17
Panasonic	74	2.79
Samsung	122	4.60
Others	0	0
Total	2655	100

NAS (NETWORK ATTACHED STORAGE)

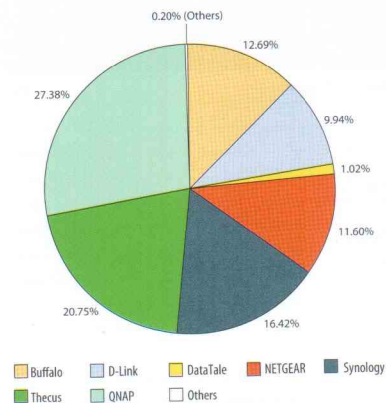
Top 3 Brands

- 1) QNAP 2) Thecus 3) Synology

Another new category in our 2009 survey, NAS or Network Attached Storage is testament to the growing digital media revolution that is fast sweeping Malaysia. With the relatively prevalent broadband services, more and more people are opting to store their downloaded content on NAS devices. So, in our inaugural survey, we find that when our respondents think of NAS they think of these three brands the most: QNAP (27%), Thecus (21%) and Synology (16%).



NAS (Network Attached Storage)



NAS (Network Attached Storage)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Buffalo	337	12.69
D-Link	264	9.94
DataTale	27	1.02
NETGEAR	308	11.60
Synology	436	16.42
Thecus	551	20.75
QNAP	727	27.38
Others	5	0.20
Total	2655	100