



Two-Bay Powerhouse

SYNOLOGY DS710+ NAS

By Muzaffar Ismail

SOHO to small businesses will often find that their Network Attached Storage (NAS) options are limited. More often than not, these two-bay NAS devices are just home-based models revamped to fit entry-level small businesses. Thankfully, this is not the case with the Synology DiskStation DS710+ NAS. This device may offer two 3.5" bays but the amount of functionality and flexibility that it offers rivals some of the larger, more expensive NAS devices out there.

The DS710+ has a black casing with mostly plastic chassis and fittings. This makes for a more lightweight device while the small footprint means you can place it beside your computer or anywhere in the office with no problems. While it only has a small fan to cool it, the NAS is designed such that cool air flows in from the back, passes by the hot hard disk drives and goes out via the vent at the bottom front of the casing. This design allows for a rather silent fan and is quite effective as the casing stays cool even under load.

This NAS has two 3.5" bays, both of which can be latched and are hot-swappable. Removing the bays, you will notice that contrary to usual design, the bays are all plastic and allow you the ability

to use 2.5" hard disk drives. When equipped with two 3.5" hard disk drives the NAS can deliver up to 4TB of storage capacity or 1TB of storage if you want to use more energy efficient 2.5" hard disk drives. When these have been filled up, the NAS also offers expansion or backup through two USB ports and an eSATA port on the back for external hard disk drives. You can also hook up a USB attached printer for a print server. Another USB port is located at the front so you can do direct copy from your USB flash media storage. If you really need extra storage capacity and don't mind the extra cost, you can hook up the NAS to a Synology DX510 which offers five 3.5" bays for an additional 10TB.

Setup is very easy using the Synology Assistant while transfer speeds are extremely fast for such a NAS device. Transferring 1GB of data took a bit more than one minute, something which usually takes up to four minutes for other NAS devices. Functionality is great with the DSM 2.2 interface which includes an updated Download Station 2, DLNA/UPnP media server, Surveillance Station 4 and many more. All the updates include more supported formats like the ability to download RapidShare and RSS using the

Download Station 2 or view even more image formats and movie formats in other media servers. This NAS supports Basic, JBOD, RAID 0 and RAID 1 modes along with iSCSI Target.

The Synology DiskStation DS710+ is a very fast, full featured and very flexible two-bay NAS, making it ideal for the dynamic SOHO and small scale business. It's a bit more expensive than the usual two-bay NAS device but its performance more than outweighs this.

SPECIFICATIONS

Drive Bays:	OS:	Ports:	LAN:	Price
2x 3.5" SATA / 2x 2.5" SATA	AJAX-based Management UI	USB2, Network	1x Gigabit	RM2099

Model: Synology DiskStation DS710+
CPU: 1.67 GHz, 1GB (64bit@DDR800)
HDD: 4TB (2x 3.5" HDD) / 1TB (2x 2.5" HDD); supports Basic, JBOD, RAID 0, RAID 1, supports iSCSI Target
LAN / WAN: 1x RJ-45 Gigabit Ethernet
External HDD: 3x USB, 1x eSATA
Buttons: Power, Reset to factory default button, USB Copy button
Power Supply: External power adapter
Warranty: 3-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.

Excellent, performance-level two-bay NAS for the dynamic SOHO or SMB



The new DSM 2.2 interface is user-friendly



The rear interface offers plenty of expansion possibilities and functionalities with both an eSATA port and two USB ports