

Dual Bay RAID

Synology Disk Station DS209+

BY MUZAFFAR ISMAIL



The previous single bay Synology NAS (HWM May 2008) that we reviewed was an interesting device which offered plenty of corporate functionality at a fraction of the cost of a normal NAS. However, it was limited by the fact that it only had a single bay and thus could not provide RAID capabilities for backup and support. This month we have a dual bay NAS from Synology that promises the same corporate functionality as its single bay predecessor with RAID capabilities.

If you were familiar with how the first Synology NAS (the Synology Disk Station DS107+) looked like that you'll probably know exactly how the DS209+ looks like as well. This is because the DS209+ looks more or less like a bigger, thicker version of the DS107+, albeit to fit the extra drive and in black instead of white color this time around. Like its single bay predecessor the front of the DS209+ has a single USB port and an eSATA port. The back panel features an internal fan vent, two more USB ports, power connection, LAN port, a Kensington lock and reset button. The internal fan has three speeds and works intelligently, using less power when things are idle.

Installation is less of a hassle this time around

as the side of the casing slides-off fairly easily. You still need to screw-in the hard disk and then attach the requisite SATA cables from the hard disk to points on the case. Since this device has two bays, putting-in two hard disks is rather tight but still manageable. This time around, our review copy didn't come with its own hard disk so we stuck in our 10K RPM Raptor X and another 7200 RPM hard disk to test the NAS's RAID capabilities.

The DS209+ uses web-based management software. The software is AJAX based and should work with most web browsers. On top of RAID capability and a number of other extra backup systems most of the functions that were there for the DS107+ are still available. This includes an FTP server, a file server, a photo and media server, a USB printer server and a video recording server for IP cameras. Surprisingly, even with a 10K RPM Raptor X connected, transfer speeds between the hard disk and another computer on the network was much slower. However, this slow connection means better reliability in the long run. The enclosure does get a little warm, but thankfully it isn't that noisy.

The Synology Disk Station DS209+ is an impressive upgrade to an already impressive

product. The additional bay adds RAID functionality on top of the ability to do a number of functions most NAS don't provide for. This also means that now you can have 2TB of NAS space so you can hook-up the drives into any of the relevant RAID configurations for automatic backup making the DS209+ a good device for the organization looking to upgrade from its previous single bay NAS.

SPECIFICATIONS

Drive Bays	OS	Ports	LAN	Price
2x 3.5" SATA (2TB)	Web Based (AJAX)	USB2.0; Network *	1x Gigabit	RM 1799

HDD: 2x 3.5" SATA/2 HDD; Supports hot swap and HDD of any capacity (system is shipped without HDD), Supports RAID 1 for mirrored hard disk backup
LAN: 1x RJ-45
External HDD Interface: 3x USB, 1x eSATA
LED Indicators: Power, Status, LAN, Hard-disk 1, Hard-disk 2
Buttons: Power button, reset (on rear panel)
Internal Fan: Yes (3 speed, smart fan)
Dimensions/Weight: 60 (H) mm x 63 (W) mm x 218 (D) mm / 0.81kg
Power Supply: External power adapter
Warranty: One-year
Contact: Build Technology Supply Sdn Bhd
Telephone: (03) 7955 3699
URL: www.synology.com

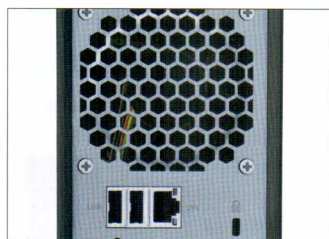
Available at
PLAZA LOW YAT
 shopping centre

HWM'S VERDICT

Physique: **8.0**
 Features: **8.5**
 Value: **8.5**

8.5

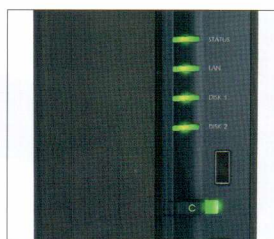
Out of 10



2 more USB ports on the back



The unit has a slightly bigger and thicker form factor



Single USB port on the front

A good, dual bay NAS with plenty of automatic functions

