

5TB NAS

Synology Disk Station DS508 NAS

BY MUZAFFAR ISMAIL



Synology NAS products have been steadily growing. We reviewed the feature rich single bay version (HWM May 2008) and the dual bay version (HWM November 2008) and now we have the five-bay Synology DS508. Unlike its earlier difficult to open and install predecessors, this five-bay Network Accessed Storage (NAS) is easy to remove, install, hot-swap and even secure. Does it measure-up in terms of performance and features? Read on to find out.

The DS508 looks more like a Shuttle SFF casing than a typical NAS. All black, the square DS508 is more or less the same size but at 4.75kg probably weighs twice as a normal Shuttle casing. The NAS has five bays, each one capable of handling a single 3.5" 1TB hard drive. Eschewing the previous have-to-unscrew-to-open design of its Synology brethren, the DS508 has individual flip open bays which can be removed with ease.

Installing the hard drive is easy, slide in the hard disk (it can only go one way) and then screw it in. Just make sure to use flat headed screws or the bay may get stuck along the way. Each bay has its own keylock and individual LEDs so you can ascertain which hard drive failed and lock or unlock the drive as required. Our review unit

didn't come with a key so we couldn't test how secure it was but it should be tight enough to discourage thieves.

Powered by an 800MHz processor and 512MB worth of RAM, the DS508 is abundant with features. In terms of connectivity alone, you can hook up the NAS via two USB ports, one eSATA port and two Gigabit Ethernet LAN ports. This means you can hook up the NAS to two separate networks, saving costs and centralizing data all at the same time. Like its previous Synology siblings, the DS508 supports remote camera functions and is able to handle up to 10 IP cameras at a time. Apart from the usual fileserver and webserver functions, this NAS can also handle Bittorrents quite nicely.

Our review unit came with a single 500GB hard disk drive but since we also had a couple of free 1TB hard disk drives lying around at the time we popped those in as well. As usual, booting takes some time, but once it is up the DS508 stays up and operational with no problems at all. This could partly be due to the two super silent cooling fans running quietly in the background.

The DS508 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+ and DS209+ are still available for the DS508. This makes the Synology Disk Station DS508 an exceptional upgrade from the smaller three-bay and below NAS as it has plenty of functions to go with the much better and bigger hardware capabilities.

SPECIFICATIONS

Drive Bays	OS	Ports	LAN	Price
5x 3.5" SATA (5TB)	Web Based (AJAX)	USB2.0, eSATA, Network	2x Gigabit	RM 3999

HDD: 5x 3.5" SATA/2 HDD; Supports hot swap and HDD of any capacity up to 1TB for each bay (system is shipped without HDD), Supports Basic, RAID 0, RAID 1, RAID 5, RAID 6)
CPU: 800MHz
RAM Size: 512MB
LAN: 2x RJ-45 (Gigabit)
External HDD Interface: 2x USB, 1x eSATA
Buttons: Power button, reset (on rear panel)
Internal Fan: Yes (x2)
Max IP Camera support: 10
Dimensions/Weight: 203 mm x 242 mm x 177 mm / 4.75kg
Power Supply: External power adapter
Warranty: Three-years
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: **8.5**
 Features: **8.5**
 Value: **8.5**

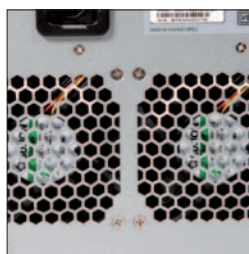
8.5

Out of 10

A great, full featured five bay NAS with individual security for up to 5TB of network accessed storage



The Synology setup screen



The two super silent cooling fans



Individual flip open bays for the hard drives