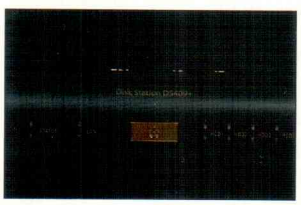
SYNOLOGY DISK STATION DS409+ 4-BAY NAS

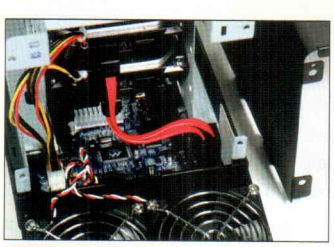
STATIONARY SYNOLOGY NAS

By Muzaffar Ismail

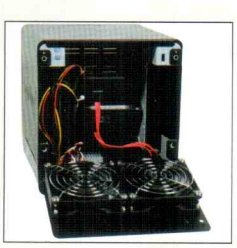


Network Accessed Storage or NAS are easily the better choice for small and medium scale businesses as opposed to Storage Area Networks or SAN which have traditionally been used by larger organizations with dedicated datacenters. NAS are generally smaller, cheaper, easier to maintain and are flexible devices that offer full fledged server and fileserver capabilities at a fraction of the requirements of a similar SAN device.

Hotswappable NAS are generally easier to access as you need to take out and slot in the new drives. There are pros and cons to this as although it does allow on the fly hard disk drive swapping, it also makes it all that much easier to just take out a hard disk and steal the information without anyone knowing about it. For this reason NAS that do not offer hotswapping are also generally more secure. The Synology Disk Station DS409+ falls into this category, offering four bays for 3.5" SATA hard disk drives. Each bay supports up to 1.5TB sized hard disk drives for a total of 6TB in storage space, or 4.5TB if you're running the system in a RAID configuration.



Installing drives is not an easy task as you have to screw in the drive and then attach the cables



The NAS's rear cover flips open for easy cleaning of the two cooling fans

The DS409+ looks like a shaved down small form factor computer casing, all black with finned front cover. The front panel mainly consists of status LEDs and the single power button for easy usage. The NAS has two USB ports for printers and other devices as well as an eSATA port for expansion using portable hard disk drives. The DS409+ only has one LAN RJ-45 port so it can only support a single network. The DS409+ has two silent internal fans to help keep the device cool and stable.

Installing a hard disk drive is not easy as you have to open up the casing, screw in the hard disk to the chassis and attach the bundled SATA cables to the requisite ports. Removing or replacing a hard disk drive is just as tedious but at least you know your hard disk drives are secure. To access it you need to use the bundled software to set it up first. Afterwards it's just a matter of accessing the browser based management software on the system itself.

In terms of performance, the DS409+ does quite well with very fast transfer speeds. Thanks to the two silent internal fans the casing stays cool despite having a full load of four 3.5" SATA hard disk drives. Like other Synology products, the DS409+ offers plenty of other features aside from standard fileserver functions. This includes remote camera functions, webserver functions as well as automatic bittorrent support. The DS409+ uses web-based management software and should be quite resistant to virus attacks. These factors coupled with its secure but stationary nature makes it a good choice for SMBs looking to do an all in one upgrade of their current fileserver solution as it is easy to maintain and has plenty of extra features after the initial setup.

SPECIFICATIONS

Drive Bays	OS	Ports	LAN	Price
4x 3.5" SATA	Web Based (AJAX)	USB2.0, eSATA; Network	1x Gigabit	RM2999

HDD: 4x 3.5"SATAI/2 HDD; Supports hot swap and HDD of up to 1.5TB for each bay (system is shipped without HDD), Supports Basic, RAID 1, RAID 5, RAID 6, RAID 5+ Spare Data Protection)
CPU: 1.06GHz
RAM: 512MB
LAN: 1x RJ-45 (Gigabit)
External HDD Interface: 2x USB, 1x eSATA
Buttons: Power button, reset (on rear panel)
Internal Fan: Yes (x2)
Dimensions/Weight: 230 mm x 184 mm x 168 mm / 2.23kg
Power Supply: External power adapter
Warranty: 2-years
Contact: Build Technology Supply Sdn Bhd
Telephone: (03) 7955 3699
URL: www.synology.com

HWM'S VERDICT

Performance:	8.5
Features:	8.5
Value:	8.5

8.5
Out of 10

A secure but stationary four bay NAS with plenty of extra server features

HWM SILVER AWARD