

DESKTOP  
OPERATING  
ENVIRONMENT

HYBRID  
RAID

EXPANDS UP  
TO 15 BAYS



\$1,032

9  
10

# Synology DiskStation DS1511+

A desktop away from the desktop.

📍 [www.synology.com](http://www.synology.com)

✓ Outstanding feature set; fast; a pleasure to use.

✗ Initial setup is a bit painful.

If we could choose a NAS to use in our business environment, it would be a difficult decision between this DiskStation DS1511+ and the Thecus 4200PRO. Both have their strengths, and here are the Synology's. Firstly, it runs itself like a server and not a NAS. Lots of the NAS devices here run services most often found on a server, but this device actually has an OS with a recognisable desktop. There are windows, a start menu and installable apps, all available through the web browser. Secondly, the feature set is astounding. This NAS includes everything from multi-camera surveillance recording support, support for 3TB hard disk drives, web site hosting, downloadable app expansion and even hardware NAS expansion to give you 10 more bays connected through the included eSATA ports. The disks are looked after by Synology's Hybrid RAID, which allows you to expand the storage on the fly, without having to migrate your data off the unit and rebuild a new RAID. So you don't need to start with all 5 drive bays populated; you can start with a couple then whack in more as needed. The DS1511+ will let you integrate it in. There's the usual support for users, groups, quota-ing and Active Directory. LAN trunking is supported if you push a lot of data (and your switch also supports the function). Like the QNAP, the Synology NAS needs its firmware pre-installed using a Windows app before you can access the NAS proper – and it's not a trivial process, especially for plug and play types. Physically, the DS1511+ takes up a similar amount of space than most 4-bay NAS devices and, thanks to its 2 rear fans, runs quieter than most. Performance was extremely good, with a write speed of 46MB/s and a read back of 60MB/s. That's best-in-show.