

SYNOLOGY

DiskStation DS411j



**COMPUTER
SHOPPER**
BEST BUY

£262 inc VAT

From www.lambda-tek.com/componentshop

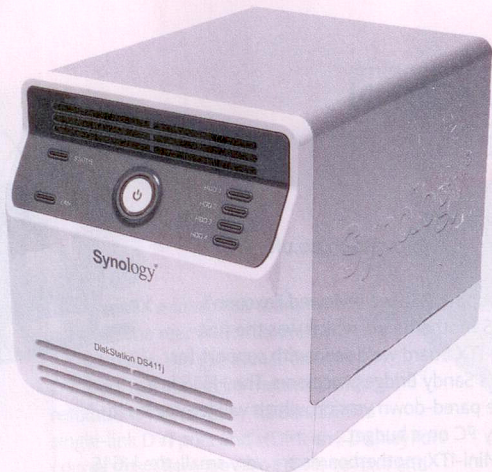
Synology's DS411j NAS accepts up to four 3½in disks, which are available in higher capacities and at lower prices than 2½in laptop disks. Fitting disks is straightforward. The back panel is easy to remove and the disks fit quickly into mounting trays that slide into place.

Configuring the DS411j is just as simple. The setup wizard gets you up and running in minutes and lets you access the web interface to adjust the settings. The interface resembles a Mac or Linux desktop, so it's organised logically and allows you to find and adjust settings quickly.

Setting up user accounts, shared folders and permissions to define which users can access which folders is especially easy thanks to the clearly labelled tabbed windows. If you can't find what you need, a handy Google-style search box lets you search for settings by keyword, and you can even save Windows-style shortcuts to your most frequently used settings on the desktop. This is especially handy given the large number of extra features.

We had no trouble using the DS411j as an iTunes server or sharing a USB printer or the contents of a USB disk over our Gigabit Ethernet network. When we used it as a UPnP media server, HD video playback was sluggish until we increased the size of the jumbo frames being sent across our network.

There are numerous other features, such as the option to



use the DS411j as a web and email server and even as a repository for IP camera footage. It can also download files from the web or BitTorrent. Confusingly, the option to restrict which users can use this download manager is in a separate Applications Privileges control panel.

It's also one of the fastest NAS devices we've seen. When fitted with a pair of 3TB disks and configured as either a RAID 0 or 1 array, it copied large files at speeds of around 37MB/s overall, and small files at average speeds of around 17MB/s. Despite this speed, it wasn't noisy. The pair of small

cooling fans were only just audible in a quiet room.

When configured as a RAID 0 array with a pair of 3TB disks, 6TB of storage will be available, but you'll lose all your data in the event of a disk failure. RAID 1 protects against this at the expense of storage – only 3TB would be available.

The DS411j isn't cheap, but it's fast, feature-packed and easy to assemble and configure. If you want excellent performance and plenty of features, it's money well spent.

Alan Lu

SUMMARY

VERDICT The fast, well-equipped DS411j is expensive, but it's the best-value four-disk NAS enclosure you can get

NETWORK STORAGE ENCLOSURE Takes up to four SATA2 hard disks, 10/100/1,000Mbit/s Ethernet, 2x USB2 ports, UPnP media, iTunes, print, USB disk, web, FTP servers, two-year RTB warranty, 184x168x230mm
POWER CONSUMPTION 24W standby, 27W active
PART CODE DS411J
DETAILS www.synology.com

PERFORMANCE (see page 62)

