



FOUR BAYS

SYNOLOGY HYBRID RAID, RAID BASIC

JBOD, 0, 1, 5, 5 + HOT SPARE, 6, 10

8/10

\$472 diskless



# Synology DiskStation DS413

Affordable yet potent.

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

✓ Comprehensive feature set, excellent write performance, clear interface.

✗ UI's depth can be overwhelming, plastic construction.

It might specialise in the business end of town, but that doesn't mean Synology has no idea about smaller NAS solutions. The DS413 is a little four-bay beauty that doesn't cost an arm and a leg, yet leverages the company's expertise to deliver an extremely well-rounded device.

Costs are kept low by the simple construction. The entire chassis is built from plastic, including the drive bays, so you'd be wise to treat it with kid gloves. A single eSATA and twin USB 3.0 ports deliver fast external backups, while a couple of diagnostic LEDs on the front provide the most basic of troubleshooting information.

There's no need to install any software to access the DS413 – just point your browser to [find.synology.com](http://find.synology.com) and you'll be whisked through a wizard. The first step of the install is always a download of the NAS firmware, ensuring that the device is always up to date.

Heading into the Synology DiskStation Manager interface reveals a UI that looks much like the Windows desktop, with the system settings displayed in a format that looks identical to the Windows 'Control Panel'. Digging into these reveals some serious NAS services despite the consumer-oriented price, including iSCSI, NFS, SSH, LDAP and AFP support. Backup options are voluminous and additional add-ons bring extra media functionality such as cloud access, as well as iTunes and DLNA servers. While the personal cloud features work well enough, they're not quite as slick as Netgear's efforts.

The 1GHz dual-core CPU might not be the fastest, but navigating the comprehensive menus is fast, with only a slight delay between pages. Network performance was respectable, with write speeds performing around the middle of the pack, while reads were toward the upper end.

The DS413 is a value-packed four-bay NAS for serious network users. It's rather pricey compared to simpler home network NAS devices, but for those who can use the advanced features, it's a real steal.