



If you're in the market for additional network attached storage, you're in for a treat. A slew of new, value-priced options in numerous configurations are available.

Synology Cube Station CS-406

Compared to the Linkstation Pro, the Synology Cube Station CS-406 is an entirely different beast. Going beyond file sharing, you can host a web site, photos and run virtually any web-based application right off this terabyte server. Do note, however, that the price is only for the enclosure and supporting firmware, not the drives. A similarly configured rack mount version of the CS-406, the Rack Station CS-406, is also available.

For connectivity, it offers a single Gigabit Ethernet port and two USB 2.0 ports to connect additional storage and USB printers. The Cube Station supports four SATA 3.5-inch drives and supports RAID 0, 1 to 5. Software included a FTP server, web server, photo station, download station, PHP5.1.2 and MySQL 1.1.15.

Opening the enclosure to load new SATA drives was not as easy as I would have liked.

→ NETWORK ATTACHED STORAGE

SYNOLOGY CUBE STATION CS-406

OVERALL RATING
★★★★☆

\$1,099
(enclosure only)

The cables are packed in taut, quite messy and a little cumbersome to manage.

The Cube Station comes equipped with a whisper-quiet fan, and for good reason. Four 7200rpm SATA drives can generate enough heat to fry the logic board so be careful.

We tested the Cube Station with the industry standard Iometer application set for a small network of 5 CPUs running a random read/write test and achieved approximately



Function-rich applications
Fast read/write access



Drives not hot-swappable
Price does not include drives

QUALITY ★★★★★

FEATURES ★★★★★

USABILITY ★★★★★

VALUE ★★★★★

SPECIFICATIONS

Transmission Speed 10 / 100 / 1000 Mbps

RAID support Non-RAID, Raid 0, 1 - 5

WAN/LAN Port Connector RJ-45

Drive Capacity 4x 3.5-inch SATA drives (>1TB)

Interface 2USB 2.0 Hi-Speed ports

Dimensions 230X168X184mm

Weight 2.23kg

OS Support Windows® XP, 2000, Me, NT 4.0, 98 SE, Linux (SMB), MAC OS 9 onwards

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an average of 7.63MB/s write speed and 6.99MB/s for read access for a 64Kb file which is impressive.

Overall, the low latency and high responsiveness make the Cube Station a strong contender as a dedicated file server appliance. The price of \$1,099 is a little steep for an enclosure but the function-rich setup and robust RAID performance makes this an easy choice if you need it. *By Sri Narayanan*