

SYNOLOGY

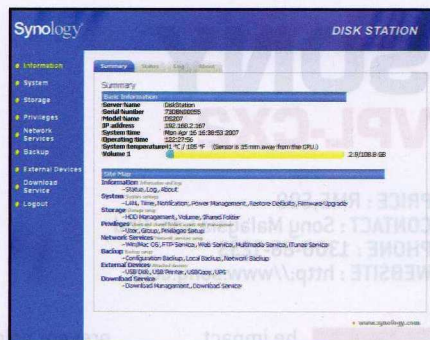
DISK STATION DS207

PRICE : RM1,599

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In large enterprise environments, it may make sense to deploy a centralized storage solution over the corporate network. But here comes Synology from Taiwan who would like to offer you storage consolidation, networking and much more for home and small-office users.

The DS207 is primarily a server box that serves up 750GB of storage across networks up to 1000Mbps. It supports up to 2 SATA drives internally, which can be run end-to-end or RAID mirrored for redundancy. The glossy white box looks right at home with the rest of today's Mac-ish devices. We found it to be rather well designed overall, with accessible buttons and informative status lights across the front. On the back, a built-in fan keeps the drives cool. There are three USB ports that allow the DS207 to serve files to USB devices, or read files from other USB storage devices. The USB port in the front has a Copy button that will copy the contents of a connected USB device to the DS207.

As a storage solution, the DS207 provides a lot of control and management. You can partition your storage and allocate quotas on a per-user basis over Windows and AppleTalk. But beyond that, the DS207 also serves up media streams to Digital Media Adapters, FTP and Apache Webserver onto the Internet. In other words, the DS207 is a NAS, file-server, media server and web-server all rolled into one.

But wait, there's more! The DS207 also has a web-based photo gallery and Bittorrent client/download manager. The photo gallery displays your photo galleries via an interface that looks very much like Flickr. The download manager, on the other hand, is a service that lets users queue downloads to the DS207. This can either be simple HTTP/FTP downloads or torrent files. Once queued, the DS207 will download the files to an assigned folder on its own. The administrator can schedule these downloads so as not to interfere with working-hours, for example.

Compared to Enterprise-class NAS,

Synology claims to provide an affordable alternative to premium NAS solutions. But that doesn't mean they're cheap. Far from it. At RM1,599 without any hard disks, we don't expect NAS like this to show up in the typical home environment. For business however, A full-featured NAS like the Synology DS207 might make sense, considering the various services it offers built-in. But considering its other features like photo gallery and especially Bittorrent downloading, the DS207 could also be an attractive buy for users who can afford such luxury. **JN**

