USB Station DS-106j DS107e DS107 DS107+ DS207 DS207+ CS407e CS407 RS407

Synology DS-207+

Synology is one of those brands that have found the perfect balance in products and pricing. Only recently they opened Telnet support which provides customers to add custom programs so the NAS servers better integrate with some media players that do not support SMB. Progress however is not only made in small updates of which some are still pending (read our Synology review), but also in hardware.

Latest models from Synology are the DS-107+ and DS-207+. If the update valid another product range remains to be seen so we take off looking at that in this short review. For most of the comments concerning build, setup, interface and such, you can refer to the DS-106/CS-406 review as nothing changed in this version of the product beside the central CPU and Memory. The "plus" series run on a 500MHZ (both DS-107+ and DS-207+) while the latter one DS-207+ holds 128MB memory. The DS-107+ can be both 64MB and 128MB. That and the fact the DS-207+ having an eSATA connector, is the only difference.

Synology range of products use the same interface for all units so from the internal admin panel difference won't be noticed. These apply mainly in the amount of disks used and therefore also everything concerning disk management can be different. All the rest, ranging from integrated programs, user management and configuration is the same. Basically, the models differ in the amount of hard drives supported and therefore also in the amount of disk space these can hold. The positive approach of this is where Synology is able offering just about any size for your needs.

The DS-207+ differences and Performance

Based on the results of our previous review with the DS-207, we measured about 18MBps in read performance and 11MBps in write performance. The DS-207 is loaded with 64MB memory and runs on a CPU only half the power of the DS-207+ at 266MHZ.

With the DS-207+ doubling the power and memory, at least some of the extra power (and cost) should translate into reaching more Read/Write performance overall. The following results are measured on the DS-207+ against the normal ds-207 version.

	Read	Write
DS-207 (€290)	18	11
DS-207+ (€329)	31	21
Performance Gain ds-207+	42%	48%
Price Difference DS-207+	12%	

Conclusion

Looking at the price difference between the DS-207 and DS-207+ we can see a difference in pricing of about 12% making the DS-207+ the more expensive alternative. This is obvious considering the higher specs of 128MB memory and the CPU clocking off at 500MHZ.

In exchange, that extra amount delivers almost a 50% increase in read and writes plus an extra eSATA connector that will come in handy eventually. Choosing between these two for media purpose is thus also very easy: The DS-207+ (or DS-107+) should be your choice considering it's better performance which benefits about everything that has to do with media streaming, above the more generic models from Synology without the + performance.

Low extra cost, serious increase in performance. Don't see what's not to like with that approach.

Synology Servers Comparison
http://www.synology.com/enu/products/compare_spec.php