



Performance Two-Bay NAS

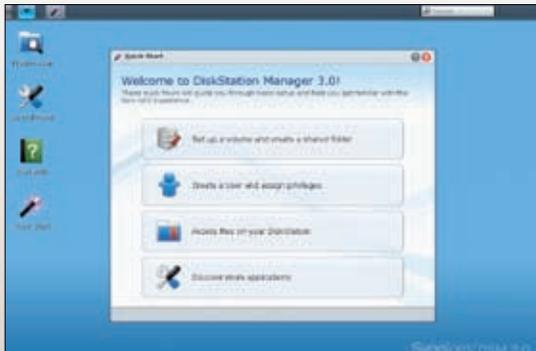
SYNOLOGY DISKSTATION DS211+ NAS

By Muzaffar Ismail

Fast response time is an important part of any computer system even networked storage systems like those found in servers or NAS. Users need such systems that can transfer files almost instantaneously and this is even more important when dealing with mission-critical digital data. While servers have generally provided this faster response time, NAS or Network Attached Storage devices don't or at least aren't well known for it. Newer NAS devices like the Synology DiskStation DS211+ NAS are quickly changing this perception though.



Despite its compact size, the NAS offers plenty of external storage options on the rear panel



The DSM 3.0 interface is very easy to use

The DS211+ NAS is quite compact, with a black metal casing and removable glossy surface front cover. It has two 3.5" bay trays which can be easily removed or used to install 2.5" hard disk drives as well. This allows it to support up to 4TB of storage capacity using two 3.5" 2TB SATA hard disk drives and 1TB of storage capacity using two 2.5" 500G SATA hard disk drives.

Installation is fairly simple but hard disk drives need to be screwed onto the tray before you can insert or remove them. The NAS takes up very little space and features one USB2 port and one SD card reader on the front along with two USB2 ports, one RJ-45 LAN port and one eSATA port on the rear. The two bays allow the DS211+ NAS to support JBOD, RAID 0 and RAID 1 modes but you can also use Synology's proprietary hybrid RAID mode which is a bit more flexible. Hard disk drives are hot-swappable to boot.

All you need to do is slot in a hard disk drive and turn it on as the NAS takes care of everything else. You may need to access the browser-based settings menu and create a proper RAID volume or manage users but the DSM 3.0 interface is easy to use. Setting up the initial RAID volume may take some time but once this is done, the NAS performs much faster than other standard two-bay NAS devices as it easily transfers 1GB worth of files in 45 seconds. When fitted with two 3.5" hard disk drives, this NAS does become a bit warm after prolonged use but it is also very quiet and has very low energy draw compared to a server with the same performance.

Other features like iSCSI support, a download station for HTTP, FTP and Bittorrent downloads along with an IP camera surveillance station add further value to the DS211+'s standard NAS files server capabilities. It also has multimedia features as well including a media streaming server along with a photo station, audio station and a

web server. The new DSM 3.0 management software is simple to use and doesn't require too much technical know-how to fully utilize while the browser-based interface makes it a lot easier to access.

When combined together with the great performance and compact form factor, the Synology DiskStation DS211+ should make for a very good two-bay NAS for SMBs that require extra fast response time on top of steady but stable performance.

SPECIFICATIONS

Drive Bays	OS	Ports	LAN	Price
2x 3.5" SATA / 2x 2.5" SATA	DSM 3.0	USB2, eSATA, Network	1x Gigabit	RM1599

Model: Synology DiskStation DS211+
CPU / Memory: 1.6GHz / 512MB
HDD: 4TB (2x 2TB 3.5" SATA HDD) / 1TB (2x 500GB 2.5" HDD), Doesn't come with hard disk drives; supports iSCSI
LAN / WAN: 1x RJ-45 Gigabit Ethernet
External HDD: 3x USB, 1x eSATA
Extra Features: 1x SD card reader
Buttons: Power, Reset to factory default button, USB Copy button
Power Supply: External power adapter
Warranty: 2-years
Contact: Build Technology Supply Sdn Bhd
Telephone: (03) 7955 3699
URL: www.synology.com

Available at

PLAZA LOW YAT
shopping centre

Verdict:

8.5

SILVER
HWM
MALAYSIA

Features: 8.5
Performance: 8.5
Value: 8.5

VERDICT SCORES ARE OUT OF 10.

A good, full featured two-bay NAS with extra fast performance