



Feature-Rich NAS

SYNOLOGY DISKSTATION DS211 NAS

By Muzaffar Ismail

After Synology's previous super-fast Network Attached Storage or NAS device offering, the Synology DiskStation DS211+ (HWM January 2011) we have for this month the Synology DS211 NAS. How does it measure up compared to the Plus series model? Read on and find out.

Instead of the open individual bay design of it Plus series model, the DS211 follows Synology's enclosed NAS device design. This means that while the DS211 has two 3.5" SATA hard disk drives with both being hot-swappable, the drives are enclosed in the casing. If you want to install, remove



The rear panel features two USB2 ports that are compatible with USB wireless dongles



The DSM 3.0 interface is designed to look and work like a standard operating system interface for easier usage

or hotswap the drives you're going to have to unscrew and remove the outer casing as well as remove the screws affixing the drives to the chassis. This design is more secure, but it does make it a bit more difficult to access drives.

The casing is all white with a glossy surface finish and control panel in front. Taking up very little space, it is compact and stands upright. The front panel has a USB2 port for quick and easy file transfers along with buttons to do this and to turn on the power. On the rear, the DS211 features a large yet silent cooling fan, two more USB2 ports and a RJ-45 LAN port. While the DS211 supports the standard USB2 external storage and USB2 printers, it also supports USB2 wireless dongles, allowing you to make this NAS available on your wireless network.

Featuring support for up to 2TB SATA 3.5" hard disk drives for each bay, the DS211 can deliver a total storage capacity of 4TB. It also has RAID 0, RAID 1 and JBOD support so you can opt for standard storage, RAID 1 protected storage or RAID 0 performance storage. Other features include iSCSI support, an automatic download function and an IP camera surveillance feature. Like other Synology NAS, the DS211 also offers secure files server functions, firewall security, a media server for photo, audio and video streaming and apps for Android smartphones and the iPhone.

Performance is very good, with a 4.5GB file taking up to one minute and 49 seconds to transfer while 1GB worth of files and folders took a minute to transfer. While this isn't as fast as the plus series model, it is still quite fast compared to similar two-bay NAS devices of the same class. Thankfully, installation and maintenance are very easy to do. Just plug in everything and let the NAS do the rest. Anyone with the manual can do this while the DSM 3.0 interface makes it a whole lot easier to manage its various features.

The Synology DS211 NAS is a very good two-bay NAS device for SMBs who need a feature-rich no-fuss fileserver with up to 2TB RAID 1 capacity. While some of the features like iSCSI are just icing on the cake, other features like the IP Camera Surveillance function and smartphone apps make this NAS invaluable as a more affordable method of keeping a video record of your office or doing other tasks involving centralized storage.

SPECIFICATIONS

Drive Bays	OS	Ports	LAN	Price
2x 3.5" SATA / 2x 2.5" SATA	DSM 3.0	USB2, Network	1x Gigabit	RM1199

Model: Synology DiskStation DS211
CPU / Memory: 1.6GHz / 256MB
HDD: 4TB (2x 2TB 3.5" SATA HDD) / 1TB (2x 500GB 2.5" HDD with disk holder), Doesn't come with hard disk drives; supports iSCSI
LAN / WAN: 1x RJ-45 Gigabit Ethernet
External HDD: 3x USB2
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



Features: 8.5
Performance: 8.0
Value: 8.5

VERDICT SCORES ARE OUT OF 10.

A robust no-fuss feature-rich two-bay NAS for SMBs