

# Synology DS411 NAS

Can Synology explain what makes a NAS box worth as much as a basic PC?

## DETAILS

- £368.99 (with no drives)
- [www.synology.com](http://www.synology.com)
- Ethernet Network

I'll admit from the outset that I'm a big fan of Synology equipment, and I've run one of its DS409 NAS boxes for a couple of years now. As a happy user of that equipment, I was curious to see where it's taken that successful concept in the new DS411.

From the outside, the DS411 is almost identical to its DS409 forefather, featuring the same buttons on the front, and rear access for the insertion of up to four SATA hard drives. The DS411 can also accept up to 3TB drives, offering a potential 12TB of network accessible storage, or less if you decide to use one of its RAID redundant drive modes.

That makes it ideal for both home and small business use, because you can pack plenty of storage capacity into this unassuming and low maintenance server solution.

So what would tempt me to switch from the DS409 to this? Well, initially there didn't seem much difference. They both use the latest DiskStation Manager 3.1 interface, which comes with all manner of useful tools and applications. These allow you to configure the DS411 as a web server, print server, DLNA facility and a dozen other useful tasks. What's especially nice about the Synology NAS boxes is the range of management and backup options, which allow you to synchronise data with the box and other computers for mutual security.

Where the DS411 really differs is the embedded computer that the box contains, which is now based on a 1.6GHz Intel Atom and 512MB of DDR3 memory. The extra CPU power and greater bandwidth this platform offers is directly reflected in



the performance the DS411 can achieve.

Tested with four 1TB drives, the new DS411 can easily saturate a one gigabit network and achieve a read speed of more than 100MB per second. Writing is about half that speed, but that's still very good for what isn't traditional server class hardware.

For home use, this is more than good enough, unless you've a family at home that contains more than 10 people. For businesses, this would be perfect for a five or six person operation, and for those with more people I'd have one to back up a more powerful server and create a live copy of data for emergencies.

Many of you might like the specification and extensive features of the DS411, but are put off by the price. What can I say? If you want an exceptionally well designed, built and reliable NAS box then it isn't going to be £100. This one is an investment, but one



that I think you'd find paid off over time.

Could it be better? I'd like to see a lower plastic content in the case, and maybe USB3 connections for attaching external storage, but in most other respects it's almost perfect.

Synology has come from obscurity and forged a reputation as the NAS box manufacturer to respect. The DS411 does nothing to sully that standing.

**mm Mark Pickavance**

**Fast and flexible network storage from a reputable source**



- CPU frequency: 1.6 GHz
- Max internal capacity: 12TB (4x 3TB HDD, drives not included)
- Memory: DDR3 512MB
- Ports: 1xGigabit LAN, 1xeSATA, 2xUSB2
- Size (HxWxD): 184x168x230mm, Weight: 2.23Kg