GADGETS MAGAZINE

THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST TECH LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

sensitive information because their files are hosted on their own storage center. Other applications are media management apps with tagging and library-building functions that allow better organization of files, and a download center that supports active download queues even when all users are away.

Thanks to the DS1517+'s super-fast file transfers, it's much easier to share files between co-workers. Couple that with a smartly designed, browser-based UI and you have yourself a winner.

VALUE ★★★★½

Now, the only hiccup in the DS1517+'s perfection is that that perfection comes with a higher price tag than the average in its class, but only slightly higher. It also has to be noted that since Synology does not create their own hard drives, there are no package deals that would include even one disk drive. That being said, at PHP 46,500, you're getting great value with quality parts that form a quality product with quality add-ons.

BOTTOMLINE

The only difficult thing I had to do when I reviewed the DS1517+ was to part with it. There's a cube-shaped hole in my heart now.

GADGETS MAGAZINE EDITOR'S PICK

Synology DiskStation DS1517+

Reviewed by Robby Vaflor

It's pretty hard to get someone excited over a box (unlike what Action Jack Barker from Silicon Valley will have you think); but Synology managed to do so with the DS1517+.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Like I said, it's a box; but it's a really nice box. It's made with a mix of brushed metal and matte, hard plastic all coated in a nice black. The front has two large bevels that taper to the sides, and each of the five bays are easily accessible. The light indicators are actually bigger than usual (which I appreciate) and are easy to understand. All the ports are easy to find at the back. What the issue is with a lot of NAS devices out there is that they're so intimidating to use, and the folks at Synology remedy that by giving people a straightforward product that can be used by anyone from freelance photographers to medium business owners and startups. Everything you need is there, purposely marked for your convenience. And the fact that it allows modular extensions like extra racks (up to 10 more bays) and a PCIe slot for M.2 SSD cache support just speaks highly of this product's minimalism in design and utility in function.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The keyword for the DS1517+ is speed. It carries an Intel Atom C2538, 64-bit processor with four cores clocking 2.4 GHz and is supported by an AES-NI hardware encryption engine. It has two memory slots which comes pre-installed with either 2 GB or 8 GB DDR3 of RAM which can be upgraded to 16 GB total. This translates to really fast performance, providing a sequential throughput of 1,165 mbps read speed and 527 mbps write speed with a

RAID 5 configuration and 10 Gigabit Ethernet link-aggregation enabled.

The DS1517+ has five drive bays with support for 3.5- and 2.5-inch SATA HDDs, as well as 2.5" SATA SSDs with a maximum internal raw capacity of 10 TB. This gives users the ability to have a maximum of 50 TB of storage with various RAID configurations. With two, five-bay expansion units, this capacity is tripled to 150 TB. However, the DS1517+ allows a maximum single volume size of 108 TB. It has support for a wide range of drives from different manufacturers. In terms of connectivity, it has four RJ-45 1 GbE LAN ports with link aggregation and failover support, four USB 3.0 ports and two eSATA ports.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

I'm not sure what else there is to say, except for that I loved using the DS1517+. This is primarily because of Synology's packaged disk management software. The company went above and beyond by providing their customers a better user experience and value for money by including downloadable, browser-based apps that turns the UI into a one-stop collaboration and file management tool.

Some of Synology's available applications include an office application that gives multiple users live collaboration capabilities for their spreadsheets, and word documents. Compared to cloud-based ones, this is much better for workplaces that deal with

SPECIFICATIONS:
Processor: Intel Atom C2538, 64-bit
Quad-core 2.4 GHz
AES-NI Hardware Encryption Engine Encryption
RAM: 2 or 8 GB DDR3 RAM, expandable up to 16 GB
Drives: 5 drive bays, support for expansion units up to 10 extra bays
Storage: 50 TB maximum internal raw capacity
150 TB maximum raw capacity with internal units
Connectivity: 108 TB maximum single volume size
4 RJ-45 GbE LAN ports
4 USB 3.0 ports
2 eSATA ports
Gen2 x8 PCIe expansion slot with M2D17 SSD adapter card

What's Hot:
- Great accompanying software
- Highly expandable
- Fast data transmission

What's Not:
- Not applicable. It's frigging awesome.