Holiday snaps for all

**Product** Synology Disk Station DS107e NAS Server
**Price** £160
**Web** www.synology.com
**On test with** James De Ville, Staff Writer

Having just returned from a holiday abroad I was looking for an easy way to show off my snaps when I remembered that the Disk Station comes with a program called Photo Station 2. After some careful exploration I discovered just how useful it is – it’ll take any images I put on the Disk Station’s internal drive and transform them into indexed, user-friendly photo galleries online. All I need do is give my friends the right link in order for them to browse through automatically thumb-nailed and resized images of my holiday photos!

The only problem is my broadband connection, as it has a ‘dynamic IP’. That means the address I give to my friends changes every day or so – annoying, but I’d have to pay more for a static IP. Of course, that isn’t the Disk Station’s fault – it does its job admirably, and it’s quicker and easier to use than any online photo-sharing sites. Supposedly it does video, too, but my home broadband laughs in its face whenever I try to stream high-bandwidth digital video over it.

Next month, I’ll be installing Synology’s new software update and trying out its new Music Station system, which will apparently let me play music directly from the Disk Station from anywhere in my house.

**I like** The seemingly endless features

**I don’t like** My broadband connection

**Any problems this month?** A dynamic IP makes hosting a photo gallery difficult

Got any of these products? Share your stories – email us at windowsvista@futurenet.co.uk

---

**BUY STUFF EXTENDED TRIALS**

**MAINTENANCE MUDDLE**

The PictureMate procedures seem good in theory, but unnecessary

**Going exploring**

**Product** Epson PictureMate 240
**Price** £74.98 from www.amazon.co.uk
**Web** www.epson.co.uk
**On test with** Sarah Comfort, Recruitment Consultant

Things are still going well with the PictureMate 240, so this month I thought I would explore the Maintenance section of the printer menu.

It appears to be a friendly, helpful in-built system enabling you to prolong the life of the printer and maintain picture quality and clarity. After checking the PicturePack Status (this shows how much ink is left in the cartridge – I’ve still got an impressive 40 per cent left!), I thought it would be a good idea to try the Auto Cleaning and Nozzle Check options.

The printer asked if I wanted the print head nozzles checked to see whether they needed cleaning. It did this quickly and simply, and printed out a test sheet for me to confirm that everything was printing as it should be. Great. However, when it came to the Auto Cleaning, and after the printer went through its cleaning procedure, the printer test showed that printing was ‘off’ and blamed the nozzles, when the printer had just confirmed for me that the nozzles were working perfectly!

So, it’s a function that seems useful in theory but is actually a bit pointless in practice. Having said that, I’ve subsequently printed some photos and they’ve all come out brilliant as usual. And it’s such a minor flaw that it doesn’t outweigh all the great things that this printer has to offer.

**I like** Photos look better than ever

**I don’t like** Maintenance procedure isn’t great

**Any problems this month?** None!