

Game On: NETGEAR® ReadyNAS® Duo Provides Home User with Performance and Protection



Profile

Like many consumers, Tim Draper has a wide range of personal media files he wants to protect against loss. In addition to the music, movies, games, and personal files he wants to protect, Tim also streams media throughout his house. He has a laptop attached to his television, which enables him to watch movies stored on his home network. Similarly, using the Squeezebox music server, he can listen to his favorite music from any room in his house. He also uses Steam to access and download online games.

Background

With three Windows-based laptops and two desktop PCs, Tim has a somewhat large, but otherwise typical home network. He has approximately 500GB of data stored between five computers, and uses Windows FileShare* to gain access to his files and applications from anywhere on his network. Tim knows, however, that his data is at risk if any of his computers fail since there are no real backup capabilities involved in his current solution. Restores would be impossible in the event of a failure.

Tim occasionally copies his files from one computer to another in an attempt to gain data redundancy. Since this is a manual process, however, it never occurs with the regularity required to truly protect his data. Tim often postpones the process, even when he remembers to do so, because it ties up his network for half the day.

*Windows FileShare is a file sharing feature within SAMBA that is commonly referred to as "FileShare"

PROBLEM/OBJECTIVE

PROTECT VALUABLE DATA AND ACCESS MULTIMEDIA FILES ON ANY COMPUTER

As a serious gamer, Tim has nearly 40 games stored on his home network, which would be painful to lose and time-consuming to re-download. "Currently my game listings from Steam are around 70GB," says Tim. "It would take me weeks to download this on my home connection. Then, there are all the non-Steam games I've saved, which I'd lose completely." Considering this content, plus all the movies, music, and irreplaceable photos and personal files he has stored on his various hard drives, Tim knew he needed a more reliable, consistent solution to adequately protect his data from loss.

Additionally, Tim wanted to make his games, music, and videos available throughout his network, so he could access them from any computer in his home. "I really wanted to access my multimedia files from anywhere," says Tim. "I wanted to be able to stream music throughout the house, watch stored videos on my TV, and game from any of my computers without sacrificing performance."

Tim began investigating his options. In addition to ease-of-use and reliability, performance would also play a key consideration in his purchase decision. "I needed a system that would provide enough performance to handle all my multimedia files," says Tim. "There's nothing worse than trying to watch a movie with choppy video, or listen to music that keeps stopping in the middle of the song. And gaming is all about performance. Any breaks in the action really degrade the experience."

SOLUTION

THE NETGEAR® READYNAS® DUO PROVIDES RELIABLE DATA PROTECTION, WHILE SUPPORTING NETWORKING NEEDS

After assessing his alternatives, Tim purchased a diskless NETGEAR ReadyNAS Duo and populated it with two 1TB WD Caviar Green drives. With trays for two hot-swappable SATA disk drives, support for X-RAID, built-in file sharing, and media streaming support for Squeezebox devices, the ReadyNAS Duo had everything he needed. "The NETGEAR ReadyNAS Duo solved several problems at once," says Tim. "It provides the reliable, automated data protection I needed, plus it offers built-in support for the file sharing and media streaming I wanted."

Tim was immediately impressed with the ease-of-use provided by the ReadyNAS Duo. "It only took about 30 minutes for the base setup and I had it fully configured within a few hours," says Tim. "It's one of the most intuitive devices I've ever used." With music and video streaming configured and all of his games simultaneously accessible from every computer on his network, the ReadyNAS Duo provided Tim with his ideal setup.

Tim employed the built-in X-RAID capabilities to protect his data, which automated the volume expansion as he added his drives. X-RAID also

provides him with the flexibility to modify his configuration at any time in the future without having to reconfigure his system or shuffle his data. Tim configured his Duo to perform incremental daily backups, as well as a full monthly backup. "With the ReadyNAS Duo, I don't have to keep manually copying my data from one computer to another," says Tim. "The Duo backs itself up every night. I don't have to remember to perform the backup, nor do I have to commit any time to it. The Duo just automatically performs the task while I sleep."

RESULT

AN EFFICIENT, RELIABLE SOLUTION

Tim has had his ReadyNAS Duo for approximately six months now, and everything is running smoothly. "Before installing the ReadyNAS Duo, I didn't have any real backup capabilities, and restores were impossible," says Tim. "Now my data is continuously backed up, so I never have to worry about losing any of it." He has also eliminated the need to manually copy his games and other media files between the five PCs on his network. "Using the built-in manager, my files are easily shared amongst all five of my computers," says Tim. "In addition to Windows, I've been experimenting with Linux, and the ReadyNAS works great with that platform, too."

The advanced streaming capabilities have also proven to be a significant benefit. "The ReadyNAS has built-in media streaming support, so it serves my music files directly to my Squeezebox," says Tim. "Prior to the ReadyNAS, I had to dedicate a separate PC for this activity, so now I have the capability I wanted, plus I have my computer back."

For Tim, the ReadyNAS Duo provides the right blend of price-performance, and its low power consumption makes it friendly to the environment, as well as his pocketbook. "When it comes to gaming and media streaming, performance is absolutely essential," says Tim. "The ReadyNAS Duo doesn't miss a beat. Plus, with its low power consumption, I can leave it on all day and not worry about the energy bill, so it's always ready when I am."

Tim adds, "I definitely recommend ReadyNAS, and would absolutely buy another one."



*The 3-Year Hardware Warranty only covers hardware, fans, and internal power supplies, and does not include external power supplies or software. Hardware modifications or customization void the warranty. The warranty is only valid for the original purchaser and cannot be transferred.

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