

Once Bitten, Twice Shy: Two NETGEAR® ReadyNAS® NV+ Systems Protect Home User



Profile

Like most consumers, Matthew Mulvaney has all types of data stored on his home computer. Important documents, cherished family photos, and an extensive video and music library would be expensive or impossible to replace, in the event of a disk failure. Without regular backups, he knew his data was at risk. But unlike IT administrators in a business environment, he lacked the time, equipment, and expertise to develop and implement a sound data protection plan. His efforts to manually protect his data by burning it to CDs or DVDs proved to be futile, since he often forgot to perform the backup, or he would misplace the discs following the completion of the backup. Does he have more than one machine? Where is the second system located? What kind of data does he cherish so much? Does he have a NETGEAR switch, by chance?

Background

With his attempts at a manual backup strategy largely a failure, a few years ago Matthew purchased an external hard drive on which to perform backups. Though certainly more reliable than the manual process, using the external hard drive still fell far short of complete data protection. Then one day Matthew picked up his laptop to move it to another room, forgetting that the hard drive was still attached. As he pulled the laptop, the hard drive fell off the desk and crashed to the floor. All quotes he obtained to recover the data were significantly higher than he was willing to pay, so Matthew decided to forego any such efforts.

Making matters worse, a few months later, the hard drive in Matthew's laptop failed. With most of his data now gone forever, he had learned the value of regular, reliable backups the hard way. He knew something had to change.

PROBLEM/OBJECTIVE

PROTECT VALUABLE PERSONAL DATA WITH A RELIABLE STORAGE SOLUTION THAT IS EASY TO USE

Matthew was determined to find a proven, reliable storage solution for his valuable data, so he would never again have to experience the pain and expense of a catastrophic data loss. But he also needed something that was cost-effective and user friendly. "A friend of mine recommended a NAS device, so multiple computers could access the data at any time, without the need to have a host computer turned on", says Matthew. "NAS would also be a good alternative to other options, like getting a Windows Home Server. Something I can rely upon to always be on, and that won't have to be restarted all the time for security updates."

In researching his alternatives, Matthew looked for a device that would provide the greatest amount of flexibility and ease-of-use. "I wanted something I could just plug into my network, without the need to hook cables up to my computer each time I wanted to use it", says Matthew. "I wanted to just join my laptop to my wireless network and immediately be able to access the data." With two Macs and one Windows-based PC, Matthew also required a system that would support multiple computing platforms. Finally, Matthew required a system that would enable him to avoid another single-point-of-failure scenario. "After my initial experience, I didn't want a silly thing like a single drive failure to cause me to lose my data", says Matthew. "I don't want to experience that pain ever again!"

SOLUTION

NETGEAR® READYNAS® NV+ PROVIDES BUSINESS-CLASS DATA PROTECTION, WITH CONSUMER-LEVEL AFFORDABILITY AND USABILITY

After researching a number of alternatives, Matthew purchased two NETGEAR ReadyNAS NV+ desktop storage systems. With up to 8TB of storage capacity, four hot-swappable SATA trays, three USB 2.0 ports, compatibility with Windows, Mac, and Linux environments, and support for RAID 0, 1, 5, and X-RAID™, the ReadyNAS NV+ provides the

flexibility, reliability, and expandability Matthew needed – at a price he could afford. "I was impressed by the ReadyNAS user forums and the warranty, which shows that NETGEAR believes in its product", says Matthew. "The NV+ also has a lot of great features and is really easy to use. It's exactly what I was looking for."

Matthew purchased two diskless ReadyNAS NV+ systems, along with eight Seagate 1.5TB drives. He had both systems up and running within 30 minutes. "It didn't take very long at all", says Matthew. "Once the disks were initialized and synced up, it just happened." Matthew put his systems in an X-RAID configuration, for superior data protection with support for volume expansion. One NV+ is his primary storage environment, while the other is maintained as a secondary storage device, which is kept offsite. "With the two devices, my data is completely protected", says Matthew. "If anything happens to the disks on my primary NAS, I still have my secondary device. That way, if there's a fire or some other catastrophe, I won't lose all my data."

RESULT

PERFORMANCE BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Matthew has had his NV+ systems for a little over a year now, and he cannot believe the difference it has made. "With the ReadyNAS, backing up my data is much easier than it used to be", says Matthew. "It can be set up automatically, so I don't have to do anything. And when I do back something up manually, I just click a few buttons and I'm done. I don't have to worry about it, spend a lot of time, or think about where to place the CDs. It just works."

Matthew has been so impressed by the ReadyNAS line, he is now dreaming of larger models. "My collection of data is growing, so now I'm starting to hunger for a newer ReadyNAS, or even a 6-bay model", says Matthew. "The NV+ has worked so well for me, I'm going to be a NETGEAR customer for life."

**ReadyNAS® NV+**

*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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