

Network Attached Storage

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NAS vs. File Servers

- Lower Total Cost of Ownership
- Better Performance
- Improved Security
- Higher Availability
- Easier to Deploy and Administer

Lower Storage and File Server Costs

Network Attached Storage allows home and businesses to store, share and retrieve large amounts of data more affordably than ever before.

Traditionally, central file servers that run on client/server networking technologies are used for such purpose. In its simplest form, a file server consists of a PC workstation hardware running a network operating systems that supports controlled file sharing (such as Microsoft Windows Servers or variants of Unix and Linux). Hard disks installed on the server provide the shared disk capacity.

However, homes, workgroups and small businesses cannot fully justify the costs of dedicating a fully file server for only data storage tasks.

Simplicity is the Thumb of Rule

NAS appliances improve on traditional file servers by simplifying and stripping away the complexities of a file server administration - the server operating system as well as the underlying hardware peripherals and software applications.

NAS appliances also lowers the total cost of ownership without paying overheads for software licenses, in the case of Microsoft Windows, that include the server operating system and the CAL per user licenses for each connected PCs. NAS generally run an embedded operating system, making it less prone to system crashes and security attacks.

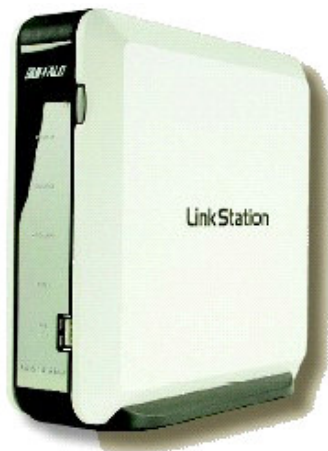
Clients can easily access a NAS over Local Area Network (LAN) via Ethernet connection without much hassle.



Fortunately, there are a whole class of simple, affordable storage devices that plug into the network, and in addition, provide a host of advantages over traditional file servers.

Buffalo Technologies LinkStation Gigabit Network Storage Center

Review



Buffalo's LinkStation Gigabit Storage Center offers 200GB-400GB of disk space in a size of shoebox over high-speed 10/100/1000 Ethernet LAN connections. Its revolutionary Gigabit Ethernet with Jumbo Frame support offers better peak read and write speeds than its predecessor versions of LinkStations.

It retains its original sleek, compact and quiet design, but internally, it is now equipped with a more powerful Freescale MPC8241 PowerPC processor running at 266 Mhz with 128 Mb of RAM.



EDITOR RATING



A simple password-protected web browser interface provides quick access for administration of the LinkStation. Data protection is implemented via an access list with User and Group Level Security that allow password-protect folders for access or writing. However, it does not allow nested shares and the setting of quotas on users or groups.

Two or more Gigabit LinkStations can now backup each other over the network, providing added data redundancy. But disk performance can be limited by a congested network bandwidth.

It fared poorly though, with the seemingly redundant printer server function that only support postscript printers. It also lack logging and email alerts to check on the disk usage, the only warning comes from the Disk Full light on the front panel, which do not look neat. But at the cost per gigabit of less than S\$2.00, it provides sufficient, affordable and simplified file sharing for both home as well as small business network.

Highlights

Cost per Gigabyte:	≈ S\$2.00
Drive Size:	250GB/300GB/400GB
Interface:	2 x USB 2.0, 10/100/1000 Ethernet LAN Connection
Key Software:	Setup Wizard, Memeo AutoBackup (30-day Trial)
Our Retail Price:	S\$490/S\$560/S\$840 (incl. GST) with 2 years warranty
Onsite Setup and Installation:	Affordable professional service. Contact us for details

Buffalo Technologies TeraStation Pro Terabyte Network Storage Center

Review

Buffalo's TeraStation Pro NAS offers up from 0.6 to 1.0 Terabytes of storage that should be more than sufficient to meet the needs of most both home and small business users nowadays. With the provision of RAID level data protection (RAID 1 and RAID 5 modes), data redundancy and availability comes at a relatively inexpensive price.

It similarly run on a Freescale MPC8241 PowerPC processor, 266Mhz with 128 Mb RAM, with a Realtek Gigabit Ethernet controller and comes with four high-speed USB ports.



Management is relatively hassle-free via a fully-featured web-browser interface. Access authorization can be assigned to both users and groups, offering folder-level data protection with Active Directory support. But it still have not address the issue of user and group quotas.

Initial setup can be tricky. By default, TeraStation comes with four SATA hard disk drives set in spanning mode so that they appear as one single large drive. To change the configuration to the desired RAID levels, TeraStation trigger a long 3-4 hour formatting process that cannot be interrupted. However, once properly setup, changing between the RAID levels is easy. And TeraStation provide good read and write performance with its 64-bit journal file systems.

Unlike its predecessor, it now comes with logging and mail notification mechanism. The informative status LCD on the front panel displays the health of each internal drives and the network activity, in place of the blinking lights.

Highlights

- Cost per Gigabyte:** ≈ S\$1.80
- Drive Size:** (Pro) 0.6/1.0 TB
- Interface:** Gigabit Ethernet LAN Connection
- Key Software:** Setup Wizard, Memeo AutoBackup
- Our Retail Price:** S\$1,400/S\$1,800 (incl. GST) with 2 years warranty
- Onsite Setup and Installation:** Affordable professional service. Contact us for details



" I have had my TeraStation for quite some time now, upgraded from our LinkStation, due to fast expanding storage needs. Both have been easy to administer and fast to deploy ... Perfect for small business users like us. "

— Karthi, Sound Lighting Solutions Pte Ltd

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Corporate Information:

1000 Miles Network is a turnkey IT solution provider since 1999, that offers value-added consultancy services for :

Network Connectivity

Structured cabling, LAN/WAN, Mobile/Wireless, VPN, Proxy Squid, AAA-Radius, DNS/Bind, Routing/Switching

Systems Integration

MS Windows, Sun Solaris, IBM AIX, Linux variants, Open Source technologies

Office Automation

Mail and Messaging (SMS/MMS/Fax), Print, Scan, Copy, Imaging Solutions, Directory Services, Content Management solutions

Industrial Automation

Turnkey Automation and Control solutions for building and facilities, Data Acquisitions, Controllers, Sensors, Monitoring/Alerts, Public Address, Security Access, CCTV/DVR solutions

Power Distribution

Electrical Power Conditioning and Grounding, Uninterrupted Power Supplies

Storage and Backup

Tapes and Storage Media, Optical Jukeboxes, Network Attached Storage, Storage Area Network, Multimedia solutions

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Poor Average Good

Will you recommend our products and services to others?

Yes No Maybe