

becoming easier to use. Alongside that boom, network storage (ie. where your media is probably going to stream from) has seen some pretty major developments. Network-attached storage (NAS) devices are no longer necessarily chunky and difficult to use, good for only centralised storage and backup solutions — even the cheapest NAS

given. At the same time, higher-end NAS units with features like web server functionality and video surveillance support are becoming ever faster and cheaper.

**PC USER
BEST
BUY**

— SINGLE-BAY NAS DEVICES

QNAP TURBO NAS TS-119P+

STREET PRICE \$300 / **CONTACT** BLUECHIP INFOTECH / **PHONE** 1300 727 474 / **WEB** www.qnap.com

QNAP has tended to play to the office rather than the home user market with its NAS offerings, demonstrated by fairly industrial aesthetics, high prices and granular setup options. The flipside is a ton of high-end features and performance to match. In some ways, the TS-119P+ continues that tradition with a chunky metal construction and all the features

most users could want. Home users will appreciate DLNA and iTunes media serving, ample backup options and a BitTorrent client/download manager, while professionals will tick off the blazing transfer speeds, print, FTP and web server functionality, iSCSI connectivity and additional USB/eSATA ports. Where this NAS breaks from the past is in the work that's clearly been done

to its browser interface, which is still as full-featured as ever, but is now fast, slick and intuitive enough for even regular humans to use. It's still not cheap (with no drive included, remember to factor that in), but demanding users will get what they pay for.

PC User says: This NAS box is a blazing fast, feature-packed and capable small-scale home server.

85%



SUPERGUIDE / NAS DEVICES

QNAP TURBO NAS TS-219P+

STREET PRICE \$430 / **CONTACT** BLUECHIP INFOTECH / **PHONE** 1300 727 474 / **WEB** www.qnap.com

The Synology DS211 has great features and transfer speeds, but it's not the fastest dual-bay unit in our roundup. That accolade goes to QNAP's contender. The TS-219P+ churned through our copy tests, easily outpacing all other devices, thanks to a brawny 1.6GHz Marvell chip and generous 512MB of internal

RAM. Speed isn't its only feature either: everything you could want from a dual-bay NAS is here, from VMWare and iSCSI support to web serving, extremely granular security and hot-swappable bays, so if one drive in a mirrored array fails you don't have to power it down to rebuild. Media fans will also

appreciate DLNA support, an inbuilt iTunes server and BitTorrent client. If there's one issue, it's price. With the Synology DS211 around \$80 less, you really want that extra speed to justify the higher price here.

PC User says: It may be pricey, but it's exhaustively featured and lightning-fast.

85%



Sony's consoles will only play certain kinds of videos, for instance).

generally offered only on higher-end NAS units.

QNAP TURBO NAS TS-412

STREET PRICE \$480 / **CONTACT** BLUECHIP INFOTECH / **PHONE** 1300 727 474 / **WEB** www.qnap.com

The TS-412 is a slightly older and lower-end quad-bay NAS box, which may explain its relatively slow performance and affordable price; however, it's no slouch. True, transfer speeds are slow, but it runs the same excellent software that you'll find on more

upmarket QNAP units, so what it lacks in speed it arguably makes up for in features and price. For only \$480, you get four hot-swappable bays; media, print, FTP and web server functionality; enterprise-friendly iSCSI targetting and IP

surveillance support. It may not be fast, but for the cash-strapped small/home office after capacious storage and data redundancy, it'll do nicely. **PC User says: It's not a great performer, but is packed with features for the price.**

80%

75%

