

# Synology Disk Station DS108j

The Swiss Army knife of home NAS appliances

## Details

**Price:** £86.89 ([www.novatech.co.uk](http://www.novatech.co.uk))  
**Manufacturer:** Synology  
**Tel No:** +886 2 2552 1814  
**Website:** [www.synology.co.uk](http://www.synology.co.uk)  
**Required Spec:** Networked PC or Mac, router with spare 10/100/1000Mbps Ethernet port, web browser supporting AJAX

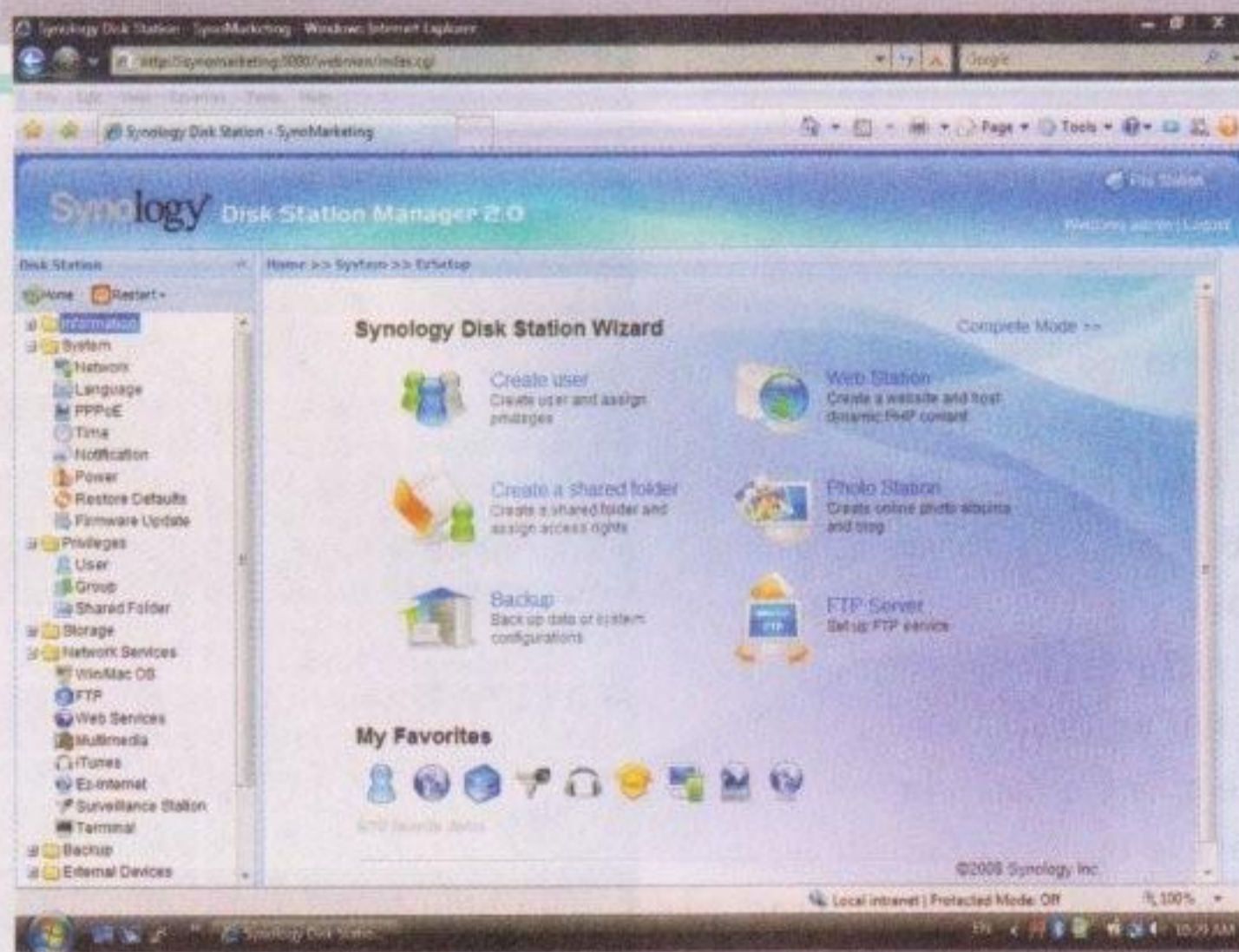
## Ratings

**Quality:** ★★★★★★☆☆ **OVERALL**  
**Value:** ★★★★★★☆☆

Fast NAS is just the tip of a startlingly feature-rich iceberg

**9**

At around £85, the Synology DS108j isn't the cheapest network attached storage device. In fact, it doesn't even ship with a hard drive, so unless you



have a spare SATA 2 drive lying about you'll have to fork out for that too (drives up to 1GB). However, NAS is just the beginning of what this device can do.

The Disk Station is primarily a file server for your network. It will

top 20MB/s when serving data over its gigabit Ethernet port, which is impressive for the price range. It will also share files using FTP, and gives excellent control over user privileges and folder access. Obviously you can set the device to back up various

folders to an external USB drive or to a drive over the network, and you can even encrypt these back-ups.

At this point, the DS108j leaves cheaper NAS devices behind. Its next trick is to allow you to hook up a USB printer and share that over your network. A long list of printers are compatible, although if you have an all in one device, don't expect to be able to use your scanner.

The killer feature for me is what Synology calls the Download Redirector. Simply drag an HTTP/FTP Link or BitTorrent onto the icon on your desktop, and the Disk Station takes over. You can turn your PC off, leaving the DS108j to consume a paltry 26 watts (10 watts when idle), and

Editor's Choice  
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the chances are when you next turn your PC on, your file will be sitting on the network waiting for you. In fact, you can even add download tasks remotely using the excellent AJAX web interface and Download Manager, so they'll be waiting for you when you get home.

Talking of the AJAX interface, gosh is it pretty! Synology has clearly put some effort into the interface. You can configure a frightening array of options remotely (and securely with HTTPS), and the interface is intuitive and responsive.

The feature list for the Disk Station really is astounding. It will host your webpages (Apache Web Server, PHP and +MySQL are preinstalled), act as an iTunes

Server and serve media to a UPnP Media Adapter (such as a PS3 or Xbox 360). Surveillance Station will control an IP-enabled security camera and take photos when it detects movement. Photo Station can generate an online photo album or blog while Audio Station

will play your music or Internet radio over USB speakers. It supports SSH, Telnet, SSL and TLS (Transport Layer Security). Oh, and of course it brews an excellent espresso - if only. **mm Roy Gilbert**

▲ *Synology has gone for substance over style with the DS108j. Fitting the internal SATA drive is straightforward - there's just one screw. The AJAX-based web interface is quick, powerful and rather nice looking.*

