Family Creates Private Cloud to Back Up Their Lives

Chase-Dobiash family backs up four Apple computers to a NETGEAR ReadyNAS*storage device; gains more room, more peace of mind, more file-sharing freedom.

Intel® technologies are powering a new generation of network attached storage devices that small businesses and consumers are using to help keep their data safe, access it from anywhere, and share it long distance. This is one of their stories.

Jason Chase-Dobiash, his wife, and their three children live in a bustling household in Monument, Colorado, that is also the site of Jason's graphic design business, PowerPlant Design CO. The family has four Apple computers, two for work and two for fun, and Chase-Dobiash did his best to keep the family's irreplaceable digital files safe and sound.

He used an Apple TimeCapsule* drive and Apple TimeMachine* software to back up all four computers each day, but the TimeCapsule was limited to two terabytes. This just wasn't enough storage for 11 years worth of work files, the family's 11,000+ song iTunes library, or its even bigger photo and video library. So Chase-Dobiash augmented the Apple drive with a number of external hard drives. However, external drives were bulky, inconvenient, and vulnerable.

"I constantly worried that an archive drive would go bad or be destroyed," Chase-Dobiash says. "It's more than inconvenient if I lose work files; it costs me time and money and makes clients unhappy."

Also, while Chase-Dobiash liked the security of having his family's files stored in his house, he liked the remote access capability of cloud storage. "I just don't feel good about putting my data out on someone else's server, yet I really wanted an easier way than FTP sites to share files with clients," he says.

Peace of Mind X2

In fall 2011, Chase-Dobiash had the opportunity to try a NETGEAR ReadyNAS Ultra 2 Plus* network-attached storage device with a dual-core Intel® Atom™ processor inside. The compact storage unit features redundant hot-swappable RAID drives and easy remote access. Chase-Dobiash set up his ReadyNAS with two three-terabyte drives and now automatically backs up all four computers to both drives.

"The redundant hot-swappable drives are really nice," Chase-Dobiash says. "Everything is being backed up to both drives, so if one goes bad, the other has us covered. The RAID technology and the Intel processor deliver additional reliability and peace of mind. I never knew that such sophisticated storage devices were available for home use or I would have gotten one a long time ago."
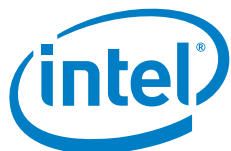
Room for the Whole Family

Chase-Dobiash uses the ReadyNAS as more than a backup solution; it's become storage central for all things digital in the Chase-Dobiash family. The ReadyNAS comes with an iTunes and iPhoto server, so the family was able to move all its songs and photos from individual computers to one central place. "We have connected the ReadyNAS to a wireless router so that anyone in our family can access the music and photos from any of our computers or from a remote computer," Chase-Dobiash says. "We no longer have to keep multiple iTune libraries up to date or have large music and photo files taking up space on our personal computers. There's room for everything on the ReadyNAS—work files, music, photos, and the kids' homework."

Plus, the ReadyNAS has lots more growing room than the TimeMachine. Using an auto-expansion feature in the ReadyNAS enabled by NETGEAR X-RAID2* technology, Chase-Dobiash can expand storage capacity simply by sliding in more drives or replacing existing drives with higher capacity drives. "You don't need to know anything technical about RAID drives," he says. "You just slide them in and out. With all the room I have now, I won't have to buy any more external drives, a savings of about $200 a year. And I know all my files are safe, and you can't put a price on that."

Get What You Need from Anywhere You Want

The family also has the remote accessibility it dreamed of—without putting its files in the cloud. When it implements the ReadyNAS Remote* feature, the family will essentially "have its own private cloud," Chase-Dobiash says. "I will be able to put files on the ReadyNAS and give clients easy access. I can get to my files when out of the office, using any computer or even my smartphone. My daughter can log in to the ReadyNAS from school and get to her homework. It's really an amazing solution that provides automatic backup, centralized storage, and remote access, all in one device."

The Intel Atom processor encrypts data, so it is protected as it moves to and from remote devices, and provides plenty of processing power for uploading and downloading large files.

Concludes Chase-Dobiash, "I thought the backup solution I had was working fine, but I didn't realize how much better it could be."

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>
> *Jason Chase-Dobiash, Owner, PowerPlant Design, Family Man*

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