

# Musician Finds a Better Way to Collaborate



Musician frees up more time to be creative by backing up and sharing files from a NETGEAR ReadyNAS\* storage device.



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.

Ron Croudy is a NYC-based graphic designer, electronic recording artist, and DJ, operating under the name Rontronik. His music-making buddies are scattered all over the world—New York City, Michigan, Los Angeles, London, and Germany—so sharing compositions is entirely virtual—and often a pain. “None of us are in the same place, so we need a digital place where we can share files,” Croudy says. The team tried FTP sites and file-sharing services, but upload and download times were just too long.

Backing up their musical creations was also far from optimal. Croudy and colleagues burned their music files onto DVDs, but this took time, and the DVDs piled up, got damaged, and sometimes got lost. “With any magnetic medium, you have all kinds of problems,” Croudy says. “The biggest problem is that it’s a static medium so we’re not able to share it.” Croudy also used a hard drive for backup, but it failed once and Croudy lost all his data. He knew there had to be a better digital way.

## A Better Way to Back Up

The better way came in late 2011 when Croudy acquired a NETGEAR ReadyNAS Ultra 6\* network-attached storage (NAS) device with a dual-core Intel® Atom™ processor inside. He installed two terabytes of storage and can expand capacity on the fly by adding more drives. Automated capacity expansion is built into every ReadyNAS device using NETGEAR X-RAID2\* technology.

Now, Croudy has all his music and art files stored safely on the NAS rather than scattered across multiple DVDs. Plus, the hard drives in the ReadyNAS device are removable and hot-swappable, so Croudy can add drives or substitute higher-capacity drives when he needs more room. “Also, if I lose one hard drive, I have redundancy with the other hard drives in the unit,” he says. “That’s time saved and peace of mind.”

Croudy likes the security of having all his data in one spot, under his roof. "I know that there's a lot of excitement about the cloud, but I want to know that the things that I own are in my house," he says. "My data is in a safe place because I can see it and access it."

### A Better Way to Share

Yet, with the ReadyNAS Remote\* feature, Croudy has all the accessibility of the cloud. ReadyNAS Remote provides secure transmission of encrypted data to and from the ReadyNAS, from any Internet connection or even from smartphones. Croudy and his music friends use the remote access feature to collaborate better.

"I set up folders for everyone and gave them access rights," he says. "The ReadyNAS gives me a much bigger area, controlled entirely by me, that I can share with anyone. It gives us a much more fluid environment for creating and collaborating. Of course, it takes the same amount of time to write the music, but we're no longer waiting on lengthy file uploads when we send files back and forth. Because file delivery times are so much shorter, we have more creative time."

Croudy also uses his ReadyNAS to share files with clients. He was recently asked to create an exclusive mix for an online

magazine. He wrote the music, recorded the songs, and uploaded the files to the ReadyNAS. He also created the artwork and promotional materials and put those files on the ReadyNAS, too. Then he simply sent his client a web link so they could download all the files, at one time, from one place. "Using the ReadyNAS was just so cool and so professional," Croudy says. "It was also a time saver, probably saving my client and me at least an hour of download time on either end."

Croudy is looking into using ReadyNAS add-ons to create a visual interface to his NAS, to make it even easier to invite people into his ReadyNAS space.

### Easy and Economical

It took Croudy just ten minutes to set up his ReadyNAS, though he does admit to being something of a geek. Giving friends and clients access to the NAS is a "no-brainer," he says.

"I have plenty of growing room with the ReadyNAS, plenty of performance from the Intel processor inside, and the hard drives are relatively inexpensive," Croudy says. "I'm getting business-caliber reliability for a consumer price. That's key for someone like me who's running a business out of my house."

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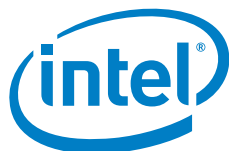
*Ron Croudy, Graphic Designer, Electronic Recording Artist, and DJ*

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