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Finally, a Reliable Home Backup System

Musician and designer simplifies his life and better secures music, video, and family files by backing up to a Synology DS712+* network attached storage server powered by an Intel® Atom™ processor.

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.

Bill Wadhams is a blur of creative energy and needs technology that can keep up. Wadhams fronted the '80s synthpop band Animotion and works today as its manager. As a freelance graphic designer, Wadhams has worked for some of the top creative agencies in the U.S. Still an active composer and producer, he's releasing his first solo album in late 2011.

The digital nerve center of Wadhams's creative energy is an Apple Mac* desktop computer, which he uses for everything from graphic design to music production to video editing. He also has an Apple MacBook Pro* that travels with him to client sites. Rounding out the family network are his son's iMac* and wife's iPad*.

How does Wadhams keep the family's precious digital assets safe? Not long ago, he relied on "a fairly random backup procedure" and crossed fingers. "I backed up files whenever I thought about it—usually whenever I finished a large project—by copying them to a hard drive," Wadhams says. "Over the years I've lost files and wasted time, but I never came up with a good solution. Once, I had a drive fail and lost months of work."

The Wadhams family also lacked a good way to share files. Each family member maintained his or her own iTunes* account on their own computer. When Wadhams needed to exchange files with his son, he carried flash drives up and down the stairs. When working on his album with musicians all over the country, Wadhams sent music files by e-mail, through public file-sharing sites, and by mailing DVDs.

One Place for All Things Personal and Professional

Not long ago, Wadhams obtained a Synology DS712+* network attached storage (NAS) server powered by an Intel® Atom™ processor. He used the built-in setup software to create storage files on the DS712+ for each family member's Mac. "All four of our computers now back up to the NAS, on different schedules that we define using a simple setup menu," Wadhams says.

Wadhams now stores his music production and graphic design files on the Synology DS712+, and his family has created a central iTunes library where they store and share all their music. All the songs for his new solo album are on the NAS, as are the songs for

Animotion's next album. "I can stream my music from the Synology to my iTunes library and to my home theater system for song review, production meetings, and listening parties," Wadhams says.

For about a year, Wadhams and his son have been working to digitize a lifetime's worth of geological maps created by Wadhams's father-in-law, a 30-year geology professor. Wadhams and his son used to keep all the same files on both their computers, and version control was tricky, to say the least. Today, they put all these files in the Synology NAS, "which is far more efficient and less confusing," Wadhams says.

Making and Sharing Music Long Distance

In fact, by using the remote access feature of the Synology DS712+, Wadhams can instantly share songs with colleagues around the world. "Now, all of the musicians I work with can load their songs onto the Synology, where all of us can get to them and know that we're all listening to the same version," Wadhams says. "We no longer have to wait for lengthy file uploads to file-sharing sites or pay for premium membership to these sites."

Wadhams can also easily get to work files when he's traveling. Using the Synology phone app, he can even access and manage files from his smartphone. Similarly, his family can stream their entire music library stored in the Synology NAS from anywhere. The Intel Atom processor inside encrypts data as it moves in and out of the Synology NAS.

Greater Data Protection

Wadhams has two 1-terabyte drives in his NAS that mirror one another. Everything is backed up to both drives for double protection. "Finally, I feel like I've done everything I can to protect my precious work," he says. "The Intel processor inside provides turbo-charged performance to move even huge files nearly instantaneously. You'd never know from the response time that all this data is being copied twice."

Wadhams had used network attached storage systems when working for large companies. But, "I never imagined that I could have a business-caliber backup and file-sharing server in my home," he says. "For the first time in my career, I have a reliable backup system."
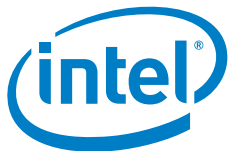
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>
> *Bill Wadhams, musician, producer, band manager, graphic designer*

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