Modular NAS

The LevelOne GNS-2000 is one full featured NAS!







nlike most consumer NAS, the LevelOne GNS-2000 2-Bay Network Storage lets you install your own hard drives. This means that you'll be able to make use of the older hard drives you have lying around in the house. We're not too sure about you but we use our NAS for file sharing, which means an older and smaller capacity hard drive is sufficient in our case. However, if you're planning to use it as a server or for backup, a new one is



The hard drive bays

definitely better. These are just some of the things that you can't do on some 'branded' NAS.

The GNS-2000 has two hard drive bays for two 3.5 inch SATA drives. It supports up to SATA2, which makes sense, since SATA3 drives are still quite rare. The Gigabit Ethernet based NAS is capable of RAID-ing your drive as well. You have the choice of a stripped (RAIDO) or mirror (RAID1). You'll need two identical drives for this though.

There are also two USB2.0 ports on the GNS-2000 which lets you connect any external storage onto the NAS, either for sharing or simply expanding its capacity. A printer can also be plugged into the USB port, which makes the GNS-2000 a printer server as well!

You can also configure the GNS-2000 to host your very own FTP server. If hosting is not your cup of tea, you'll be happy to know that the NAS supports downloading from HTTP, FTP and even Bit Torrent hosted elsewhere.

Installation was pretty easy as well. We had ours installed with two 160GB drives in RAID1 configurations. All we had to do is to install the drives, plug it into the existing network, log on to the web interface, select RAID 1 and we're good to go! It took us less than 15 minutes to do all that. The bundled CD has a wizard to guide you through the process if what we described sounds like gibberish to you.

CHIP CONCLUDE: The LevelOne GNS-2000 2-Bay Network Storage is great for small and home offices. It eliminates the need of a dedicated server. It's really easy to set up as well! At RM599, it's not the cheapest in the market but its plentiful features justify its price.



Reviewed by Nick Chan