Asustor AS-602T

A FEATURE-PACKED NAS FROM A RELATIVE UNKNOWN.

TEXT // **DAVID CHIENG**

AT A GLANCE

PROCESSOR
Intel Atom D2700
2.13GHz dual-core

MEMORY
1GB DDR3

STORAGE
2x SATA

NETWORK
2x Gigabit Ethernet

PRICE
$840

You don't get a status LCD; just a set of LED indicators.

If you haven't really heard of the Asustor brand before, that's because they're pretty new. An affiliate of the much bigger Asus Group, Asustor's product line consists of networked storage boxes, one of which is the AS-602T that is the focus of this review.
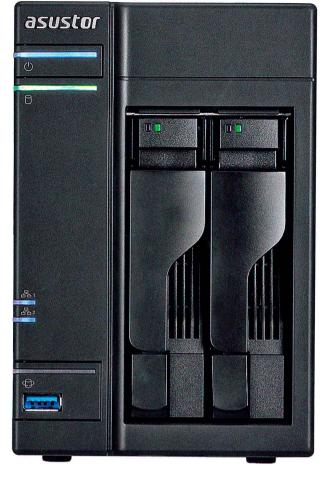
Asustor throws in a fairly impressive set of connectivity options. To start, you get a pair of USB 3.0 ports (one in the front and one at the rear), another four USB 2.0 ports as well as a pair of eSATA ports. There are also two Gigabit Ethernet ports; link aggregation (for load balancing and failover).

Best of all, there's also a HDMI port, where you can hook the AS-602T up to your HDTV. This is thanks to the use of the new Intel Atom D2700 processor, as well as the Boxee app, which can be installed on the AS-602T via the Download Center on the NAS administration software, dubbed Asustor Data Master, or ADM for short.

The Download Center also features an app for Dropbox, thereby letting users sync data between Dropbox's servers, the NAS, and their own PCs.

Alongside the Intel Atom D2700, there's also 1GB of DDR3 memory onboard, which can be upgraded to 3GB in total via an additional SODIMM slot hidden behind a flap at the side of the chassis (you'll need to remove the chassis cover to get to the flap).

As mentioned earlier, managing the AS-602T is done via web browser. The ADM interface is quite similar to those seen from the likes of QNAP and Synology, though a little less polished than we'd

like. Nonetheless, for a first-generation product, this is pretty impressive, with key menu items laid out in an easy-to-access manner. Asustor even includes small (and very useful) touches, such as the ability to turn the individual status LEDs on or off, or to adjust their brightness. You can even adjust the speed of the fans built-in.

We tested the AS-602T with a pair of 2TB Seagate hard drives in RAID 0, with the Intel NAS Performance Toolkit being our benchmark of choice. HD Video playback and record scored 72.8MB/s and 122.8MB/s respectively. The content creation and office productivity portions scored 6.9MB/s and 24MB/s each. File copies to and from the box averaged 123.9MB/s and 63.8MB/s respectively, while directory copies to and from averaged 8.3MB/s and 10.8MB/s respectively. Performance-wise, it's clear that the new Cedarview-based Intel Atom processors are definitely helping.

Overall, the AS-602T is probably one of the more interesting NAS boxes to pass by our labs in quite a while. Despite the relatively high asking price, there aren't many

competing boxes we can think of that come with both Dropbox and Boxee integration. If anything, the AS-602T can easily become your all-in-one home server, handling everything from multimedia to data backups while also serving as your personal cloud. Asustor's managed to start off in a very good way, and we're quite keen on seeing what else they'll do in the future.

SPECIFICATIONS USB INTERFACE USB 3.0 x2, USB2.0 x4, eSATA x2 // **POWER CONSUMPTION** 23.5W (operation), 19W (hibernation), 1.4W (sleep mode) // **DIMENSIONS (HxWxD)** 163.5x108x230mm // **VOLUME TYPE** RAID 0, JBOD, single disk // **CLIENT OS SUPPORT** Windows XP/2003/Vista/7/8/Server 2008/Server 2012, UNIX/Linux, Mac OS

VERDICT SCORES ARE OUT OF 10.

Verdict:
9.0
GOLD
HWM
SINGAPORE

PHYSIQUE: 8.5
FEATURES: 9.0
USER-FRIENDLINESS: 9.0
PERFORMANCE: 9.0
VALUE: 8.0