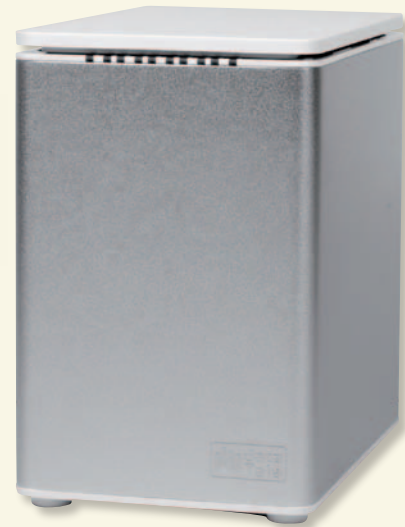


DATATALE 4-BAY RAID SYSTEM

4-BAY EXTERNAL RAID HDD

By Muzaffar Ismail



External RAID hard disk drive systems are quite often more or less the same in look, feel and performance as a normal external hard disk drive system. One exception to this rule is Onnto's DataTale RAID systems which feature an innovative design coupled with pleasing aesthetics to create a perfect balance of form and function. After reviewing the RS-M2QO DataTale 2-Bay RAID System (HWM April 2009) we were gratified this month to receive the RS-M4QO which features the same innovative design as its predecessor but this time comes with four bays instead.

Onnto's RS-M4QO 4-Bay RAID System still looks like it belongs next to a high end desktop system or Mac with its great design aesthetics. Like before, the silver casing is an upright design with a glossy lid that slides off easily, but nevertheless leaves plenty of fingerprints or smudges on the glossy surface. The hard disk drives again use SmartGuides or extendable handles that you can screw on to the hard disk drives. This 4-bay system now has two cooling fans on the bottom allowing hot air to rise up and out through the vent at the top. Each bay can support up to 2TB for a whopping total of up to 8TB worth of storage space. The back of the casing features a

USB2.0 port, eSATA port, 1394a port and 1394b port for almost any form of data connection available.

This time around the DataTale 4-Bay RAID System supports RAID 0, 1, 5, 5+hotspare and RAID 0+1. For this reason, the system now has two switches at the back of the casing to allow easy hardware based RAID selections. The switches are recessed so that no accidental switching can occur. Setting up is extremely easy as the system will take care of everything although you may need to initialize the hard disk drives before they are detectable. Setting the RAID modes is also just as easy and if you forget, all you need to do is follow the instructions underneath the lid accordingly.

Performance-wise, this enclosure works even better than its 2-bay predecessor, churning out a PCMark05 hard disk test score of 3559 using normal USB2.0 connections. Performance increases with the faster eSATA and 1394a connections. Transfer speeds for about 1.2GB took only 56 seconds. Onnto have thankfully bundled all the cables necessary for each connection while the silent fans work well to keep the casing and hard disk drives contained within cool.

The DataTale 4-Bay RAID System is an exceptional upgrade for an already exceptional external RAID system. Simple and efficient, the DataTale 4-Bay RAID System works even better than its predecessor and continues to stay cool under load. The extra RAID 5, hotspare and 0+1 modes make for even more redundancy backup options for the executive dealing with huge amounts of critical data. This makes the RS-M4QO DataTale 4-Bay RAID great for the data executive or system admin looking to upgrade.

SPECIFICATIONS

Drive Bays: 4 (up to 8TB)	Ports USB / eSATA / 1394a / 1394b	Type External RAID Enclosure	Price RM990
-------------------------------------	---	--	-----------------------

Model: RS-M4QO
Interface: USB2.0 / eSATA / 1394a / 1394b
Drive Bays: 4x 3.5" SATA hard disk drive bays (up to 2TB each)
RAID Modes: RAID 0 (Striping), RAID 1 (Mirroring), RAID 5, RAID 5+Hotspare, RAID 0+1
Transfer Speeds: Up to 3Gbit/sec (eSATA), Up to 480Mb/sec (USB2.0), Up to 400MB/sec (1394a), Up to 800Mb/sec (1394b)
LED Indicator: Power, Connection, Health, Access, Rebuild
Dimensions: 210 (L) x 138 (W) x 213 (H) mm
Weight: 2.3kg
Warranty: 1-year
Contact: Ideatools Technology Sdn Bhd
Telephone: (03) 5121 7245
URL: www.onnto.com

Available at

PLAZA LOW YAT
shopping centre

HWM'S VERDICT

Physique:	9.0
Performance:	9.0
User Friendliness:	8.5
Value:	8.5

9.0
Out of 10

An 8TB external RAID hard disk enclosure for handling huge amounts of critical data



All the connections you'll need for any external devices



The hard disk drive handles are easy to lift up even when the drive is hot