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Synology DS118

Synology DS118 Mini Desktop NAS Server User Manual

Model: DS118

1. Introduction

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Synology DS118 Mini Desktop NAS Server. The Synology DS118 is a versatile, powerful, energy-efficient, and compact 1-bay Network Attached Storage (NAS) device designed for small offices and home users. It facilitates file sharing, synchronization across multiple devices, 4K media streaming, and robust backup solutions.
The DS118 features a Realtek RTD1296 Quad-Core 1.4GHz processor and 1GB DDR4 RAM, providing a reliable platform for data management. This specific configuration includes a 1TB SATA III Solid State Drive for ultra-fast storage performance.

2. Product Features

- **Processor:** Realtek RTD1296 Quad-Core 1.4GHz CPU with 2MB cache.
- **Memory:** 1GB DDR4 Synology SDRAM for efficient multitasking.
- **Storage:** Supports one 3.5" or 2.5" SATA HDD/SSD. This model is equipped with a 1TB SATA III Solid State Drive.
- **Ports:** One RJ-45 1GbE LAN Port for network connectivity and two USB 3.0 Ports for external device connections.
- **Operating System:** Powered by Synology DiskStation Manager (DSM) software.
- **Key DSM Features:**
  - File synchronization across all devices via Cloud Station Suite.
  - Easy file access and sharing through QuickConnect.
  - 4K multimedia server capabilities.
  - Desktop backup solutions.
  - Comprehensive built-in security tools.
- **Form Factor:** Compact NAS Tower Server design.

3. Package Contents

The Synology DS118 package typically includes the following items:

- Synology DS118 NAS Unit
- AC Power Adapter and Power Cord
- RJ-45 LAN Cable
- Quick Installation Guide
- Accessory Pack (screws for hard drives)

Note: Hard drives and memory upgrades are included separately and are NOT pre-installed. Installation is required.

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4. Setup Guide

4.1. Hardware Installation (SSD)

The Synology DS118 requires the installation of a 3.5-inch or 2.5-inch SATA drive. This specific unit comes with a 1TB SSD. Follow these steps to install the SSD:

1. Ensure the DS118 is powered off and unplugged from the power outlet.
2. Locate the drive bay. For the DS118, you typically slide open the front cover or remove the side panel to access the internal drive bay. Refer to the Quick Installation Guide for precise instructions on opening the chassis.
3. Carefully insert the 1TB SATA III SSD into the drive tray. Ensure the SATA connectors align correctly.
4. Secure the SSD to the drive tray using the provided screws from the accessory pack.
5. Slide the drive tray back into the DS118 until it clicks into place.
6. Close the chassis cover securely.



Figure 4.1: Synology DS118 with its side panel partially open, illustrating access to the internal drive bay for SSD installation. The device is black with green indicator lights visible on the front.

4.2. Connecting Cables

After installing the SSD, connect the necessary cables:

1. Connect one end of the RJ-45 LAN cable to the LAN port on the back of the DS118 and the other end to your router or network switch.
2. Connect the AC power adapter to the power input port on the back of the DS118, then plug the power cord into a power outlet.



Figure 4.2: Rear view of the Synology DS118, highlighting the RJ-45 LAN port, two blue USB 3.0 ports, and the DC IN 12V power input. A fan grille is also visible.

4.3. Initial Power On and DSM Installation

Once all cables are connected:

1. Press the power button on the front of the DS118. The STATUS indicator will blink green initially.
2. From a computer connected to the same network, open a web browser and go to http://find.synology.com or http://diskstation:5000.
3. The Synology Web Assistant will locate your DS118. Follow the on-screen instructions to install the latest version of Synology DiskStation Manager (DSM). This process will format the installed SSD.
4. Once DSM is installed, you will be prompted to create an administrator account and set up basic network settings.



Figure 4.3: Front view of the Synology DS118, showing the power button with a blue indicator light and green STATUS, LAN, and DISK indicator lights.

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5. Operating Your Synology DS118

After DSM installation, you can access your DS118 via a web browser. DSM provides a desktop-like interface for managing your NAS.

5.1. File Management and Sharing

Use the **File Station** application within DSM to browse, organize, and share files and folders. You can create shared folders, set user permissions, and generate sharing links for external access.

5.2. Data Backup and Synchronization

Synology offers various tools for data protection:

- **Cloud Station Suite:** Synchronize files between your NAS and multiple client devices (computers, mobile phones).
- **Hyper Backup:** Create backup tasks to external USB drives, remote Synology NAS, rsync servers, or public cloud services.
- **Snapshot Replication:** (If supported by file system, typically Btrfs, but DS118 uses EXT4, so this might not be primary) Provides point-in-time copies of shared folders.

5.3. Multimedia Streaming

The DS118 supports 4K multimedia streaming. Install applications like **Video Station**, **Audio Station**, or **Photo Station** from the Package Center to organize and stream your media content to various devices.

5.4. Package Center

The **Package Center** in DSM allows you to download and install additional applications to extend the functionality of your DS118, such as VPN Server, Download Station, Surveillance Station, and more.

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6. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the optimal performance and longevity of your Synology DS118.

- **DSM Updates:** Regularly check for and install DSM updates via **Control Panel > Update & Restore** to ensure you have the latest features, security patches, and bug fixes.
- **Disk Health:** Monitor the health of your 1TB SSD using **Storage Manager > HDD/SSD**. Pay attention to S.M.A.R.T. information and run extended tests periodically.
- **System Logs:** Review system logs in **Log Center** for any unusual activities or errors.
- **Physical Cleaning:** Keep the DS118 clean and free of dust. Ensure ventilation openings are not blocked to prevent overheating. Use a soft, dry cloth for cleaning the exterior.
- **Backup Strategy:** Regularly verify your backup tasks are running successfully and perform test restores to ensure data integrity.

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7. Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Synology DS118.

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
DS118 cannot be found on the network.	• Ensure the power cable is securely connected and the unit is powered on. • Verify the LAN cable is properly connected to both the DS118 and your router/switch. • Check your router's DHCP client list to see if the DS118 has obtained an IP address. • Try using http://find.synology.com again.

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
STATUS LED is blinking orange.	This usually indicates a system error or a problem with the installed drive. Check **Storage Manager** in DSM for detailed alerts. The SSD might be degraded or require attention.
Cannot access shared folders.	• Verify your user account has the necessary permissions for the shared folder. • Ensure the DS118 is online and accessible via DSM. • Check network connectivity between your computer and the NAS.
Slow performance.	• Check network bandwidth usage. • Monitor CPU and RAM usage in **Resource Monitor** within DSM. • Ensure the SSD is healthy and not experiencing issues.

For more detailed troubleshooting, refer to the Synology Knowledge Base online or contact Synology Technical Support.

8. Technical Specifications

Feature	Specification
Model Name	Synology DS118
Processor	Realtek RTD1296 Quad-Core 1.4GHz
Memory	1GB DDR4 SDRAM
Drive Bays	1 (3.5" or 2.5" SATA HDD/SSD)
Included Storage	1TB SATA III Solid State Drive
LAN Port	1 x RJ-45 1GbE
USB Ports	2 x USB 3.0
File System (Internal)	EXT4
Operating System	Synology DSM
Dimensions (HxWxD)	Approximately 19 x 17 x 8 inches (Product Dimensions)
Weight	Approximately 20 pounds (Item Weight)
Power Supply	Single Power Supply

9. Warranty and Support

For information regarding the warranty period and terms for your Synology DS118, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Synology website.
For technical assistance, product inquiries, or support resources, please visit the Synology Support Center: https://www.synology.com/support
You can find FAQs, documentation, and contact options for Synology's technical support team on their website.

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