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Synology DS223j

Synology DS223j DiskStation User Manual

Model: DS223j

1. Product Overview

The Synology 2-Bay DiskStation DS223j is a compact, quiet, and energy-efficient Network Attached Storage (NAS) solution designed for home and small office environments. It serves as an efficient one-stop solution for all your data storage and sharing needs. Powered by Synology DiskStation Manager (DSM), the DS223j enables users to create a private cloud for file protection, data sharing across multiple devices, and intelligent video surveillance.



Figure 1: Front view of the Synology DS223j DiskStation, showing status indicators and power button.



Figure 2: Rear view of the Synology DS223j DiskStation, highlighting the USB and LAN ports.

2. Setup and Installation

Setting up your Synology DS223j involves installing hard drives, connecting the device to your network, and initializing the DiskStation Manager (DSM) operating system. The DS223j supports two hard drives (diskless model requires user-supplied drives).

2.1. Hardware Installation

1. **Prepare Hard Drives:** Ensure you have compatible 3.5-inch or 2.5-inch SATA hard drives (HDDs) or solid-state drives (SSDs). Refer to the Synology website for a full compatibility list.
2. **Install Drives:**
    - Pull out the drive trays from the front of the DiskStation.
    - Remove the fastening panels from the sides of the drive tray.
    - Place the hard drive into the drive tray. For 3.5-inch drives, no screws are typically needed as the tray's design

secures them. For 2.5-inch drives, use the provided 2.5-inch hard drive screws to secure the drive to the tray.
   - Insert the fastening panels back into the drive tray to secure the drive in place.
   - Slide the loaded drive tray back into the drive bay until it clicks into place.
   - Optionally, use the provided key to lock the drive tray to prevent accidental removal.
3. **Connect Power:** Connect the AC power adapter to the power port on the back of the NAS, then plug it into a power outlet.
4. **Connect to Network:** Use an RJ-45 LAN cable to connect the NAS to your network switch, router, or hub. Ensure your computer is on the same network domain as the NAS for initial setup.
5. **Power On:** Press the power button on the front of the DiskStation to power it on.

2.2. Software Installation (DiskStation Manager - DSM)

The DiskStation Manager (DSM) is the intuitive web-based operating system for your Synology NAS. It needs to be installed and configured for the first time use.

1. **Access Web Assistant:** Open a web browser on a computer connected to the same network and navigate to http://find.synology.com. The Web Assistant will search for your Synology NAS.
2. **Install DSM:**
   - Once your DiskStation is found, click "Set up".
   - Follow the on-screen prompts to install the latest DSM version. You will be prompted to confirm that all data on the hard drives will be erased during installation. Click "OK" to proceed.
   - The installation process will take approximately 10 minutes. Do not turn off the power during this procedure. The NAS will restart automatically after installation.
3. **Create Administrator Account:** After DSM installation and restart, you will be prompted to create your DSM administrator account. Enter a server name, username, and password. These credentials will be used to log into your Synology NAS and its corresponding services.
4. **DSM Update & Maintenance:** Configure update frequency for DSM. It is recommended to automatically install the latest DSM version to ensure your NAS is always up-to-date.
5. **Create Storage Volume:** If you are using the NAS for the first time, you need to create a volume to store all packages and files.
   - Open "Storage Manager" and select "Volume" on the menu.
   - Click "Create" and follow the instructions from the wizard. For general users, "Quick" mode is recommended to maximize storage capacity with Synology Hybrid RAID (SHR). For advanced users, "Custom" allows manual RAID type selection.
   - Select the hard drives you wish to include in the volume. Confirm that you understand all data on selected drives will be erased.
   - Select a file system. Btrfs is recommended for advanced features like snapshots and data integrity protection.
   - Apply the settings to finish. The system will automatically run a parity check in the background, allowing you to use the NAS without interruption.

▶ **Watch video online**
NAS setup guide

Video 1: A detailed guide on setting up your Synology NAS, including hardware installation and initial DSM configuration.

3. Operating Your Synology DS223j

The Synology DS223j, powered by DSM, offers a wide range of functionalities for file management, data sharing, and multimedia streaming.

3.1. File Sharing and Cloud Synchronization

The DS223j allows for easy and secure access to your files from anywhere, facilitating collaboration and data management.

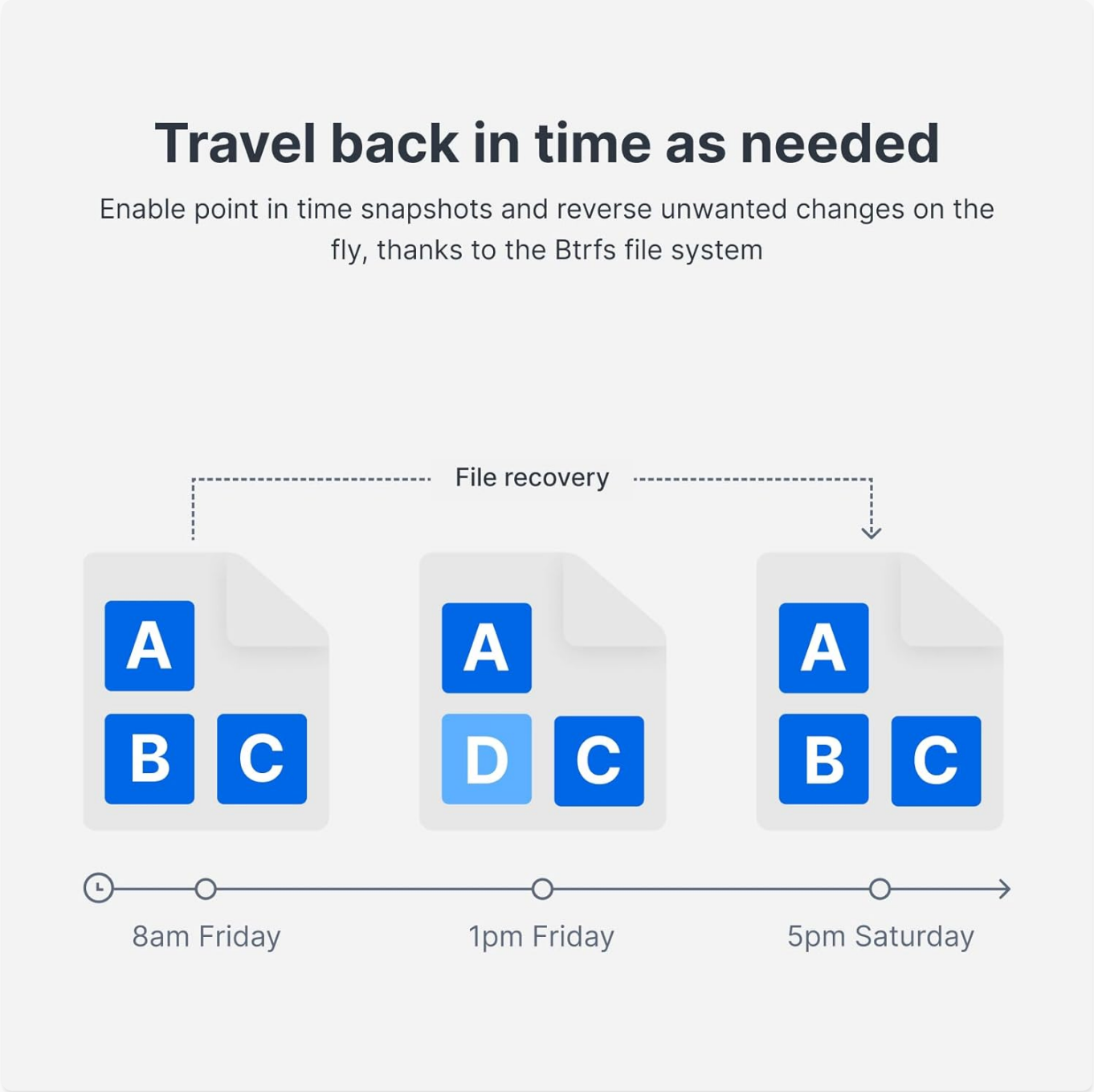


Figure 3: Illustration of Synology Drive managing file backup, synchronization, and access across devices.

▶ **Watch video online**
How to Add and Share Files on Your Synology NAS

Video 2: Instructions on how to add and share files using your Synology NAS.

▶ **Watch video online**
How to Access Files via Windows File Explorer or Mac Finder

Video 3: Guide on accessing files on your Synology NAS via Windows File Explorer or Mac Finder.

3.2. Multimedia Management

Organize and manage your photo and video collections with ease using Synology Photos.

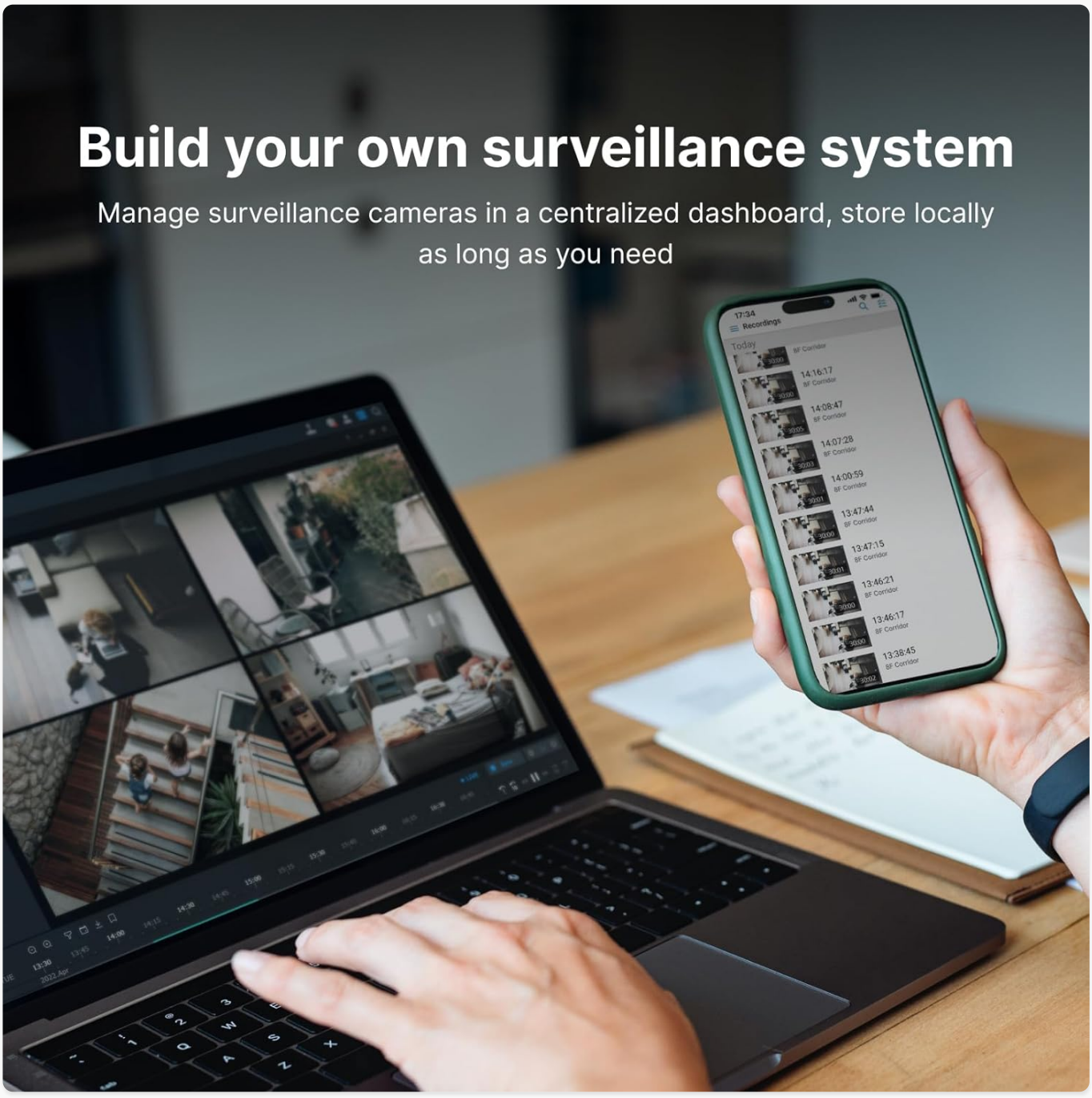


Figure 4: The Synology Photos interface displayed on a laptop, showing photo organization features.

3.3. Data Protection and Snapshots

The Btrfs file system enables point-in-time snapshots and allows for easy recovery from unwanted changes.

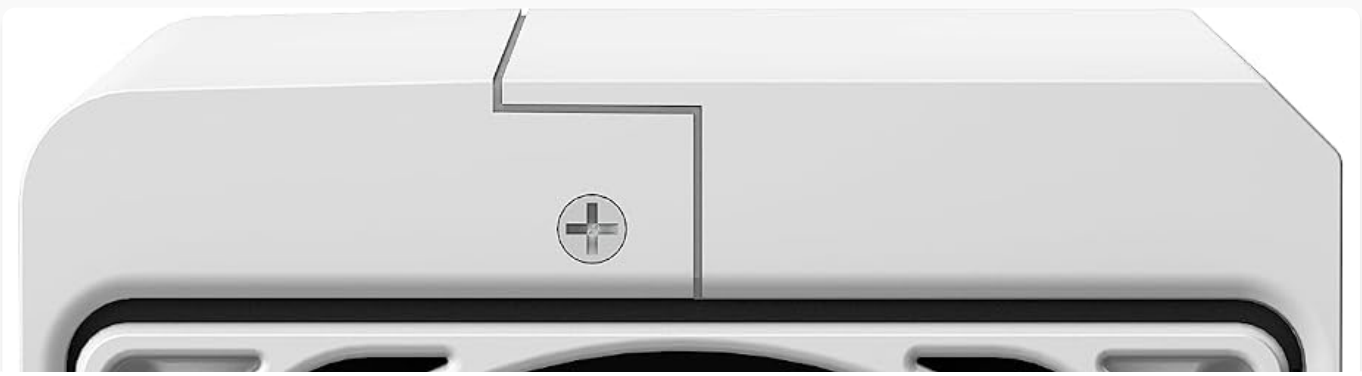




Figure 5: Diagram illustrating the ability to revert to previous file versions using Btrfs snapshots.

3.4. Surveillance System

Build your own surveillance system by managing cameras and storing footage locally.

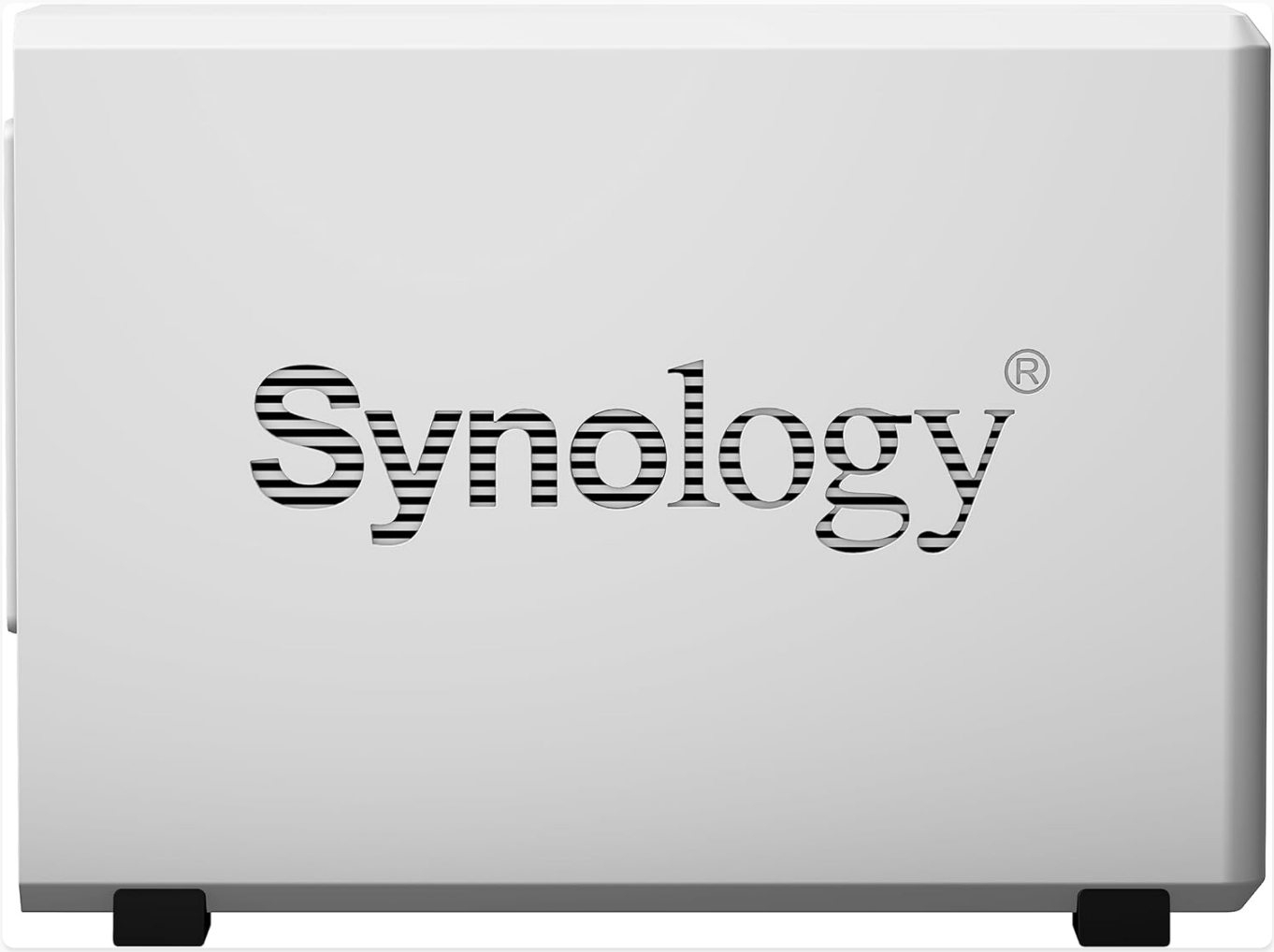


Figure 6: The Synology Surveillance Station interface shown on a laptop and a mobile phone, displaying multiple camera feeds.

4. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the optimal performance and longevity of your Synology DS223j.

- **DSM Updates:** Ensure DSM is set to automatically install the latest updates to benefit from new features, security fixes, and performance improvements. You can also manually check for updates via Control Panel > Update & Restore.
- **Hard Drive Health:** Periodically run S.M.A.R.T. tests on your hard drives via Storage Manager to check their health. Enable bad sector warnings for drives to be notified of potential issues.
- **Data Backup:** Regularly back up critical data from your NAS to external drives, cloud services, or another Synology NAS to prevent data loss.
- **System Health Monitoring:** Monitor system resource usage (CPU, RAM, network) and disk utilization through the Resource Monitor in DSM to identify any performance bottlenecks.

5. Troubleshooting

This section provides general guidance for common issues. For detailed troubleshooting, refer to the Synology Knowledge Center or contact support.

- **NAS Not Found on Network:**
  - Ensure the NAS is powered on and connected to the network via a working LAN cable.
  - Verify your computer is on the same network as the NAS.

- Try restarting your router/switch and the NAS.
- Use Synology Assistant desktop application (downloadable from Synology website) to locate the NAS.

- **Disk Status LED Behavior:**
  - **Green (Solid):** Drive is healthy.
  - **Green (Blinking):** Drive is being accessed.
  - **Orange (Solid):** Drive error or degraded volume. Check Storage Manager for details.
  - **Orange (Blinking):** Drive is being initialized or parity check is running.
- **Slow Performance:**
  - Check network cable integrity and network speed.
  - Monitor CPU and RAM usage in Resource Monitor. High usage might indicate a need to close unnecessary applications or upgrade RAM (if applicable).
  - Ensure hard drives are healthy and not experiencing high I/O wait times.
- **Forgotten Password:**
  - Use the reset button on the back of the NAS (refer to the product diagram) to reset the administrator password and network settings without affecting data.

6. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	Synology
Model Number	DS223j
Drive Bays	2-Bay
Memory	1GB DDR4
Dimensions (LxWxH)	6.5 x 3.94 x 8.9 inches
Item Weight	1.91 pounds
Color	White
Compatible Devices	iPhone, Laptop, Desktop, Android
First Available Date	June 28, 2023

7. Warranty and Support

Synology provides comprehensive support for its products.

- **Warranty:** The Synology DS223j comes with a 2-year warranty. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.
- **Official User Manual:** A detailed User Manual in PDF format is available for download:Synology DS223j User Manual (PDF).

- **Synology Knowledge Center:** For additional help, articles, and FAQs, visit the official Synology Knowledge Center: Synology Knowledge Center.
- **Synology YouTube Channel:** Find helpful video tutorials on product setup and various functionalities:Synology YouTube Channel.
- **Technical Support:** For technical assistance, contact Synology support through their official website.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

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