

# COMPACT CONTENT STORAGE STAR

## QNAP TS-251C

Behind every cloud is a silver lining, but in this case, behind your personal cloud is the powerful QNAP TS-251C storage solution.



### Design

It's as simple and functional as they come – this network attached storage (NAS) is housed in a compact but sturdy white box roughly the size of a Tom Clancy hardcover book. On the front face, you have the power button and a USB 3.0 port, with a strip of indicator lights in between them. At the back, you have two additional USB 2.0 slots, an HDMI slot, one LAN port and a DC 12V port.

### Features & Performance

The TS-251C is feature-packed, and most of them are extremely useful for home users and small business owners. It's a dual-bay NAS supporting 3.5-inch SATA hard drives of your choice, and powered by a 64-bit dual-core Intel Celeron 2.41GHz processor with energy-efficient 1GB DDR3L RAM that allows read/write speeds of up to 112 MB/s. The usual file sharing and backup services expected of an NAS device are all here, but what we liked most is how all the functions and features are easy-to-use and versatile.

For starters, the QTS user interface is intuitively designed to allow for easy operation of the NAS. It's just like a Windows desktop – you can find desired functions quickly,

create desktop shortcuts and open multiple application windows simultaneously.

Then, for all the on-the-go types amongst you, there is a myQNAPcloud service which keeps you constantly connected to your data. Meaning you can remotely access the NAS from anywhere, using your smartphone or tablet, so you can instantly share or stream your favourite stored multimedia contents (movies, HD videos, photos, class assignments etc.) with your friends.

Via the provided Music Station, Photo Station and Video Station functions, we found that the storing, categorising, organising and sharing of song files, photos, videos and documents was a breeze. And it works the other way too – by making use of the Qfile mobile app on Android or iOS devices, one can instantly archive their photo memories by uploading the snapshots to the TS-251C.

If you don't want to use the media streaming functions that it has (and we wonder why not?), you can connect it directly to a TV via the HDMI port and utilise the HD Station and XBMC app to view content instead. This is especially great for older TVs with limited playback abilities and does away the need for an external media player.

Another cool feature is the unit's ability to transcode Full HD videos in real-time or offline, converting videos to a format that can be smoothly played on any PC, mobile devices and Smart TVs. Thanks to this on-the-fly hardware accelerated transcoding, you can simultaneously view different stored videos across multiple devices, minus the hassle of complicated and time-consuming file conversions.

### Conclusion

The QNAP TS-251C is an all-in-one NAS that's surprisingly versatile and provides a great base for organising files, syncing files between different devices and remotely sharing multimedia content with different user groups. It works great as a backup and as a home media hub.

### SPECIFICATIONS

- 2-bay tower model
- Dual-core Intel Celeron 2.41GHz processor
- 1GB DDR3L RAM
- 1 x USB3.0
- 2 x USB2.0
- 1 x Gigabit LAN port
- HDMI output