

DEPO



TIPS FOR YOUR DATA

YOUR COMPUTER'S HARD DISK DRIVE IS THE BEST DEVICE TO STORE DATA ON. BUT ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE DISASTER OF THE HDD CRASHING? SAVE YOURSELF ANGUISH WITH THESE BACK-UP OPTIONS.

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1 CLOUD STORAGE

Dropbox

DROPBOX
(www.dropbox.com)

These days most of us store files online in one form or another. Whether it's using Picasa for our photographs or Google docs for text files, we are taking advantage of online storage possibilities. Dropbox is an advanced, yet simple, cloud storage options for both PC and Mac users. All you need to do is to register yourself for free and download the Dropbox application. Then you can put all the data you need to be shared or viewed from any other device—a mobile phone, another PC/laptop, etc—in the Dropbox folder. This will automatically sync data among devices linked to Dropbox. When you want to access data from a laptop or PC other than yours, you simply use the Net browser. Users get 2 GB at the time of start up and can expand it to over 10 GB using the referral program. For each person who registers using your referral, you get an additional 250 MB of Dropbox storage. Now that is facility with an incentive.



**WINDOWS LIVE
SKYDRIVE**
(<http://explore.live.com/windows-live-skydrive>)

The most trusted name in computing—Microsoft—brings Skydrive for anyone who has a Windows Live account. Skydrive is not the easiest to work with but it does provide 25 GB of storage space—this is three times more space than that provided by Gmail. Users can upload files of up to 50 MB via the web browsers. For ease of use you can also download Skydrive Explorer for Windows and manage files with that. If you opt for the pro version, then you get the privilege to upload bigger files. Skydrive also has Office integration, via which you can create Word documents, Excel sheets and PowerPoint slides.

2 EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES



SEAGATE GOFLEX SLIM

Price: ₹ 4,500

Gone are the days when a costly external hard disk drive was a distant dream. Today the prices have been slashed from what they were a couple of years ago. For the same amount, you get three times the storage capacity now.

GoFlex Slim is a handy external drive from Seagate. At just 9.9 mm, this is the slimmest plug-and-play external hard drive available. Not only that, while most external hard drives have a spindle speed of 5400 rpm, this one speeds along at 7200 rpm—which translates into faster read and write times. Moreover it comes with a USB 3.0 cable which makes it future ready. On USB 2.0 it can transfer data at 31.9 MB per second and has access time of 17.7 ms. Compatible with both PC and Macs this is a superb option for storing your data.

SPECS: 320 GB HDD, 7200 rpm; 31.9 MB per second write speed; 9.9 mm slim.

IOMEGA SSD FLASH

Price: ₹ 14,500

To take things up a notch, iOmega is out with a solid state flash drive (SSD) that has up to three times the speed of normal spindle drives. It can store and transfer data at nippy speeds. Lighter than the normal spindle drives, this one has a very sleek design. The brushed metal of the body gives the drive an edge over others on the looks.

In our tests, this drive wrote data at 125 MB per second and read at 190 MB per second on a USB 3.0 connection. To protect data the drive carries 256 bit encryption software which locks files and protects them from hacks and thefts. There is a downside to SSD drives, they still are very expensive and don't come in high storage capacities. However, if you are one of those who always wants things done speedily or aspire to only the latest, this is the drive to go for.

SPECS: 64 GB; 125 MB per second write speed; 256 bit encryption.

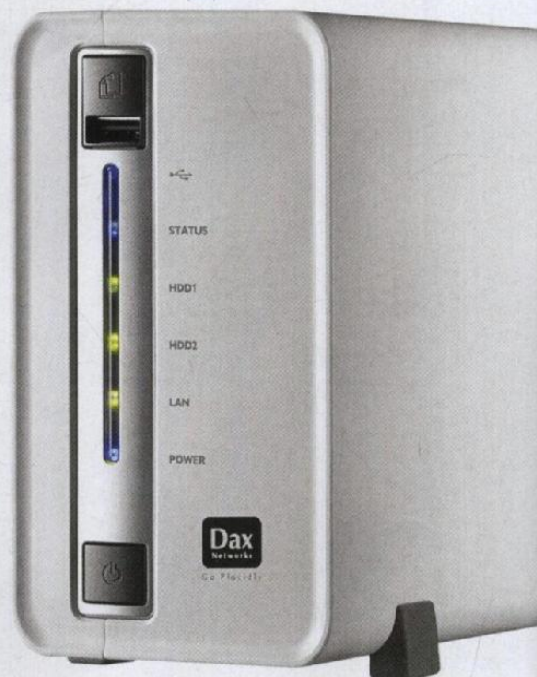
3 NAS

DAX DX 2102E

Price: ₹ 43,630

A good option for small and medium businesses and professionals is this network-attached storage (NAS) device. It allows easy storing and sharing of files and supports dual drives. One can install two 2 TB, 3.5-inch HDDs in it. It has three USB 2.0 ports to transfer data from pen drives and other sources. But that's not all—users can access the data from this drive from across the globe. Using the Ethernet port you can connect it to the Internet router and enable it for on-line use. Users with the proper credentials can access the data from any PC. Connect a hard drive or flash drive to the USB port and you can take a backup from the drive by pushing a button on the NAS. An NAS offers advanced features that a company needs for secure data storage.

SPECS: Twin 3.5-inch bay; 1 button backup; Auto power off; Ethernet; 3x USB 2.0.



USB PEN DRIVES

TRANSCEND JETFLASH 700

Price: ₹ 1,300

A pen drive is the smallest piece of equipment that can mount your personal data. Available in different shapes and sizes, there is one out there for everyone. But the newest feature of these thumb drives is USB 3.0. Jetflash 700 is one such pen drive—with its USB 3.0 capability, it can transfer data at blitzkrieg speeds, almost three times faster than via USB 2.0.

SPECS: 8 GB space; up to 70 MB/sec speed; USB 3.0 port.



ZIPMEM 10 GB

Price: ₹ 600

Zipmem is relatively new company that has sprung up in the world of flash memory. Unlike others, Zipmem produces USB pen drives with unusual storage capacities. While most pen drives come with 2, 4, 8 or 16 GB space, Zipmem offers 6 and 10 GB pen drives. So, for a similar price, users get a couple of gigabytes extra with Zipmem. It can write data at 19 MB per second and has an access time of 0.7 ms.

SPECS: 10 GB; USB 2.0; 19 MB per second transfer speed.

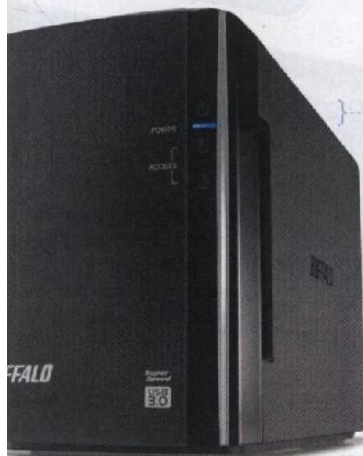


STRONTIUM BOLD FLASH DRIVE

Price: ₹ 525

Strontium has launched a series of USB 2.0 pen drives. The looks are nothing new (in fact, many before them have launched USB drives with the same structure). The Strontium Bold can take in 8 GB of files. It can transfer data at 17.2 MB per second and has an access time of 0.8 ms.

Specs: 8 GB; USB 2.0; 17.2 MB per second transfer rate.



BUFFALO DRIVE STATION DUO

Price: ₹ 12,500

NAS is what every small big and large company can opt for. This not only keeps the data in one place to be accessed but it also gets encrypted. Users who do not want to store or share files on the cloud can go for NAS. The latest Drive Station Duo from Buffalo has USB 3.0 integration. The Duo can accommodate twin hard drives, which can work on Raid 0 or Raid 1 settings. A 2-TB storage is the maximum it can support for each bay. Users can automatically take a backup from a PC or laptop using the Drive Station. It is also eco-friendly—it turns off on its own as soon as it detects the PC turning off.

SPECS: Up to 5 GB speed; Twin 3.5-inch HDD bays; RAID; USB 3.0; auto power off.