

Asustor Lockerstor 2 Gen2+ (A6702T v2)

Superfast storage for media creation

> **£504** (two-bay) > **FROM** asustor.com > **FEATURES** Intel Celeron N5105 2.0GHz quad-core processor, 4 or 8GB of memory, 4x NVME m2 SSD slots, up to six drive bays at up to 30TB each (two-bay version on test), 2x 5Gb Ethernet ports with SMB multichannel, 3x USB ports, 1x HDMI 2.0b port, 4K video encoding/decoding, multiple RAID options, Asustor Data Master (ADM) OS; 230x163.5x108mm, 2kg

The main drive bays can hold up to 30TB per slot

The increasingly competitive network-attached storage (NAS) market has seen product lines develop rapidly in recent years as both home and pro users demand more space for media creation and backups. Asustor's latest model (aka the AS6702T) comes in three versions; two, four and six bays. We're testing the two-bay model here. The six-bay model ups the onboard memory from 4 to 8GB but otherwise they are identical. This range is aimed at more serious home users and creatives.

The AS6702T supports four NVME M2 SSD modules up to 8TB each, easily installed in the upper section. These are used for faster caching and for storing the operating system for maximum performance. The main drive bays can then hold up to 30TB per slot in 2.5/3.5in SATA HDD or SSD formats (meaning the six-bay model can hold a total of 212TB). Multiple RAID modes are supported for data mirroring and redundancy.

NAS hardware is generally a bit utilitarian in its design but there's plenty of tech on offer here. You get dual 5Gb Ethernet ports with multichannel SMB support, meaning double the bandwidth for when more than one person is accessing data. So if one person is editing a 4K video project and another is copying large



Each model can hold four fast SSD modules for caching, plus between two and six larger drives.

files on to the drives, for example, you won't experience slowdowns. Asustor is an official Adobe partner so Creative Cloud works well with the platform as well. Wi-Fi can be added with an optional dongle.

Simple and advanced

There are two USB-A ports at 10Gbps and one USB 2.0 for connecting peripherals like external drives or printers, and an HDMI 2.0b port for adding a monitor. Mostly you will access the system via the Asustor app or a web browser, though the onboard Intel Celeron N5105 2.0GHz quad-core processor supports real-time 4K video encoding and decoding, should you want to use it watching movies, etc.

Asustor's system software allows more visual customisation than some others such as TerraMaster's, but is similarly powerful with an app download centre featuring several hundred apps for everything from backup and running virtual machines to media streaming, file hosting, and more – with all the admin tools you'd expect from a pro product. New users will want to familiarise themselves with the concepts around networking and the advanced stuff here is more complex, but it's also possible to use the NAS for simpler tasks such as backup, storage and streaming.

The Lockerstor 2 Gen2+ is a very powerful system that will easily cover the needs of creative pros or just those needing a centralised home data and media hub, with needs dictating which size model you get. It also provides a wealth of varied tools and services via its apps so that whatever you need will almost certainly be available. **Hollin Jones**



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Mac
FORMAT

VERDICT

> A powerful and fully-featured NAS for media-hungry users.



⊕ SSD slots for system and cache

⊕ Very fast data access

⊕ Flexible and powerful

⊖ Overkill for basic users