

DIY NAS Setup Checklist (Beginner Friendly)

1. Planning Your NAS Build

- Define your use case (e.g., media server, backups, remote access)
- Choose between DIY hardware or prebuilt NAS
- Decide on the number of drives and total storage capacity
- Choose between RAID or JBOD configuration
- Set a budget for your build

2. Select Your Hardware Components

- Case - NAS or Mini-ITX case with good airflow
- Motherboard - With enough SATA ports and LAN support
- CPU - Energy-efficient (e.g., Intel Pentium, Ryzen 5)
- RAM - At least 4GB, ECC if supported
- Storage Drives - HDDs or SSDs rated for NAS use
- Power Supply - Efficient and reliable (check wattage)
- Cooling - Fans or passive cooling as needed

3. Choose and Install NAS Software

- Pick your NAS OS (TrueNAS, OpenMediaVault, Unraid, etc.)
- Create a bootable USB using Rufus or BalenaEtcher
- Install the OS on SSD/USB (not on storage drives)
- Configure initial setup and networking

4. Configure Your NAS

- Set up user accounts and permissions
- Configure network access and static IP
- Enable remote access (VPN or Dynamic DNS)
- Create shared folders and enable SMB/NFS
- Set up RAID array or storage pool

5. Secure and Maintain Your NAS

- Enable firewall and secure passwords
- Regularly update NAS software and plugins

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- Set up automatic backups or snapshots
- Monitor system health and disk status
- Test recovery process