SMB MODEM ROUTER

Draytek Vigor2865ax

A Wi-Fi performance focused modem router that supports high speed VDSL2 connections.

■ $700 | www.draytek.com.au

"The 2865ax model includes ultra fast AX3000 spec Wi-Fi 6."

■ WAN Port: 1x LAN/WAN, 1x RJ-11, LAN Ports: 5x RJ-45 1GbE , USB: 2x USB 2.0, Wi-Fi: 802.11ax , VPN Tunnels: 32, Warranty: 2 years, Dimensions: 241mm x 166mm x 46mm.

The Vigor2865 series includes a range of small to medium business routers, with VDSL2 model, WAN port and a top notch Wi-Fi. We are testing the higher end, Wi-Fi 6 equipped Vigor2865ax, but there are also models without wireless, others with VoIP options, or even built-in LTE connectivity. The 2865 series is a multi-WAN router, so a key ingredient is being able to multiple internet connections for improved performance and redundancy.

All models include a VDSL2 modem, which supports 35b Supervectoring, as well as being backwards compatible with ADSL2+. With a suitable VDSL2 connection, the 2865 series can handle speeds up to 300 Mbps. Of course you can also use a non VDSL option via the Gigabit WAN port, or even configure Wi-Fi WAN connections. You also get 5 Gigabit LAN ports, and further connectivity is available via the USB ports, which can support 4G modems.

The 2865ax model includes ultra fast AX3000 spec Wi-Fi 6. This is provided by 2x2 MU-MIMO radios and 2402Mbps of bandwidth on the 5GHz band, while the 2.4GHz band can do up to 574 Mbps. While not the very fastest Wi-Fi available, this still offers excellent performance. For those not needing quite so much wireless bandwidth, or wanting to use the 2865 series with existing Wi-FI APs, there is an AC1300 spec model, as well as one with no Wi-Fi at all.

Multiple high speed WAN connections are not much use without enough performance to actually share it out over a wider network, so importantly the 2865 includes hardware acceleration options. It can be configured in different ways, but makes for a big improvement in overall throughput - especially when running multi WANs. For companies that use multiple SSL-VPN tunnels for remote access, hardware acceleration can give a huge 2.8x boost to throughput.

The Vigor2865 series has more features than we have space, so make sure to check out the DrayTek website for the full list. But some key points are up to 32 VPN tunnels, 16 VLANs, ability to handle 1022 IP addresses, 8 LAN subnets, a robust firewall, filtering and QoS options, failover and load balancing management and Wi-Fi hotspot options. The 2865 also supports managing up to 20 Vigor Access Points, and 8 Vigor routers. Management can be done via the 2865 interface itself, or using the Draytek VigorACS network management software. With the latest VigorACS 3, the 2865 even supports SD WAN.

Getting the 2865 set up and managing our network of other Draytek devices was fast and easy. Performance of the wired side was top notch, and while exact Wi-Fi speed will depend on the connecting device we managed 549 Mbps at close range, which dropped off to a respectable 399 Mbps at ten meter range. Importantly the 2865ax handled multiple high bandwidth devices at the same time. It will come as no surprise that such a feature packed modem router has a rather dense interface, but it is generally well laid out and quite intuitive to use. Draytek hosts virtual versions of their network gear online, so you can try it yourself at **www.draytek.com/products/live-demo**.

The Draytek Vigor2865ax brings high performance AX3000 spec Wi-Fi to a router that already offers great features and flexibility for businesses that use a VDSL2 connection.

Lindsay Handmer

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