DUAL ETHERNET WAN ROUTERS

Draytek Vigor2927ax

A high performance business router with Wi-Fi 6, as well as comprehensive redundancy and network management options.

■ $650 | www.draytek.com.au

apc EDITOR'S CHOICE

■ 2x WAN Ports; 5x RJ-45 1GbE LAN Ports; 2x USB 2.0; 802.11ax Wi-Fi; VPN Tunnels: 50; Warranty: 2 years; Size: 241mm x 165mm x 44mm.

Aimed at small to medium business, the Draytek Vigor2927 series router can provide high performance now, yet plenty of room for future network growth. The 2927 is a dual Ethernet WAN router, which means you can combine two internet sources for redundancy or higher throughput. The router comes in a range of models that are identical, aside from having no Wi-Fi, AC1300 spec Wi-Fi with or without VOIP, and the high performance AX3000 spec model we have for testing.

The 2927ax is built around the dual Gigabit WAN ports, which can be configured for failover, load balancing, high available mode and so on. If only using a single WAN port, the other one can be configured as a Gigabit LAN port, to complement the other five the router has. The two USB 2.0 ports can handle 4G modems, access storage, controlling a printer or monitoring temperature via a probe. The inbuilt Wi-Fi is AX3000 spec, which means 2x2 MU-MIMO connectivity at speeds up to 2402 Mbps on the 5GHz band, and a slower but handy 574 Mbps on 2.4GHz.

The 2927 series is security focused, so comes with a feature packed firewall, as well as other network management tools such as app level QoS and even the option to create a hotspot web portal. The router also supports up to 50 VPN connections - 25 of which can be an SSL-VPN. The 2927 can directly control up to 20 Draytek Vigor wireless access points, or eight vigor routers, and 10 switches. The router also supports Draytek's VigorACS software management solutions, which can support remote access via SD-WAN or manage a very large network. Dual WAN makes it much easier to start to max out the possible network throughput, so the 2927 series has inbuilt hardware acceleration. Depending on how that is configured, overall NAT performance can be doubled, and encrypted traffic can be given over three times as much throughput.

The 2927 series has a lot of in depth features we don't have the space to cover here, so it's important to check out the Draytek product page. There is also a fantastic virtual demo of the router, where you can log in and directly test out the interface. You can try before you buy at www.draytek.com/products/live-demo/.

We tested the router's Wi-Fi with a Wi-Fi 6 2x2 equipped laptop, and could hit 588 Mbps up close, and 403 Mbps at a ten meter range. Keep in mind that exact speed depends on what Wi-Fi spec the end device uses, and AX3000 is more about multiple high speed connections at the same time, rather than one stream using all the bandwidth.

We also extensively tested the full featureset, including important aspects such as app level quality of service, VPN creation and dual WAN configurations. The 2927 handled it all with aplomb, and is a solid, reliable choice for business networking. While the 2927ax is well priced for the features, the plan 2927 without Wi-Fi is also great value at $200 less.

The latest Vigor2927ax is a well priced router that offers excellent Wi-Fi 6 performance, as well as top notch redundancy, security and management options.

Lindsay Handmer

★★★★½

collect.indb 59 11/11/2022 9:58 am