



iStorage diskGenie 128GB SSD Review

Author: Matt
Published: March 29th, 2011 12:58 PM
Category: [Drives, Reviews](#)
Rating: ★★★★★

Introduction

For those that want speed and security from their hard drive, a solid state drive is your best option. The diskGenie 128gb is the mid ranged option out of iStorage's current range. They also sell a 30gb, 64gb, 240gb and 256gb; all of are priced differently at £140, £209, £689 and £919, respectively. iStorage claim that the diskGenie SSD is the world's most secure, smallest and affordable portable hard drive. With that in mind, let's see how the diskGenie does in the review...

About iStorage

"iStorage Limited provides high performance and ultra secure portable [data storage](#) and security products to users who need to protect their data held on PC's, MACs and portable data storage devices. The founders of iStorage are pioneers in the field of portable data storage and security devices, holding several patents, both granted and pending, on a range of related data storage and security products. With strong values in our belief that careful product selection and unrivalled customer service enables a company to attract and maintain customers, iStorage strives to uphold these standards."

Features

Ultra-portable design – Ideal to take between home and the office or on trips

Integrated cable – Integrated USB 2.0 cable

Low powered design – Bus powered from standard USB port

Very rugged for the most demanding applications – Built in Solid State Drive (SSD) with a 16-point omni-directional shock mounting system

Hard Drive Capacities – 30GB*, 64GB*, 128GB*, 256GB*

Plug-n-Play and Compatible on any system – No need to power down, just plug and go

Secure storage – Excellent for notebook owners, road warriors, government, health care, insurance companies, financial institutions, HR departments and executives with sensitive data

Specifications

Easy to use keypad design – Unlock the drive with your own unique 6-16 digit PIN code

Real-time 128 or 256-bit AES [Hardware](#) Encryption – Encrypts 100% of your data in real-time (no speed degradation) and keeps your data safe even if the Solid State drive is removed from the enclosure

No software installation – No software required to setup or operate – making it perfect for corporate deployments

Administrator feature – Allows enrolment of up to ten unique user ID's and one administrator, making it a useful [business collaboration](#) tool

Data Transfer Rates: USB 2.0 – Up to 480Mbps

Power Supply – 100% bus powered

Interface – Hi-Speed USB 2.0

Silent – Runs silent and cool with no moving mechanical parts

[Reliable](#) – Less likely to fail than a standard hard drive

Shock resistant – No moving parts so the SSD handles rougher conditions than a hard drive

Vibration (non operating) – 20 G Peak (10-2000Hz)

Vibration (operating) – 2.17 G Peak (7-800 Hz)

Storage temperatures – 40° C to 85° C

Operating temperatures – 0° C to 70° C

Life expectancy

- 1 million hours MTBF 64GB & 128GB
- 500,000 hours MTBF 30GB

Dimensions & weight – 19mm X 84.5mm X 120mm (0.75" X 3.3" X 4.7") weight: 6.2 oz.

Warranty – 3 years parts and labour

Approvals - CESG CCTM, FCC, CE, RoHS, WEEE

System Requirements

- Hardware: PC compatible computer with Pentium CPU or similar, 32MB of RAM, CD-ROM or CD-RW, USB 1.2 or 2.0, Apple G3 or later
- Operating systems: Microsoft XP, Vista or Windows 7, Mac OS 10.2 or greater, Linux

The iStorage diskGenie 128GB SSD

The Package

The iStorage diskGenie arrives in a white box which features the company logo, some features, a [picture](#) of the diskgenie and the model name.



The back of the box goes into a bit more depth on the features and also features a little paragraph about the diskGenie, as well as package contents



The Contents

- iStorage diskGenie Drive with integrated cable
- Quick Start Guide
- Auxiliary power cable
- Neoprene travel pouch



The iStorage diskGenie 128GB SSD

The diskGenie itself is black in colour with the keypad and iStorage logo situated on the top/front. The material surrounding the SSD is a rubber-like material and is part of the extensive shock mounting system.



On the rear of the diskGenie, it has four rubber feet to stop it from sliding around, and also some copyright info.



As you can see in the picture below, the [USB cable](#) is housed inside the casing of the diskGenie, it is a relatively short cable but can be lengthened by using the included [Auxiliary Y-cable](#).









Testing and Usage

There is no [software](#) that needs to be installed prior to using the drive which is a very useful feature as some drives require software before you can use them, this limits the ability of just being able to plug in anywhere to access your files. The diskGenie SSD works on Microsoft XP, Vista or Windows 7, Mac OS 10.2 or greater and Linux, so due to this fairly large list of operating systems you'll most likely have access to any one of the previously stated OS' which means accessibility wherever you may be. (Providing that you format the drive to FAT)

To start using the diskGenie SSD, you first need to plug the drive into an available USB port. Don't worry when your computer does not detect the drive because you need to enter the unlock code and press the padlock key before the computer will detect the drive.

To unlock, you first need to enter the default passcode. This is set as "123456". After you've entered the code press the "unlock/padlock" key and the computer will then detect the SSD and you'll be able to use it. Obviously, "123456" is a fairly easy passcode to guess so you can change it by following the instructions below.

To change the Admin PIN number follow the instructions below:

1. To enter Admin Mode, first plug the drive into the USB port and wait until the LED light turns RED.
2. Next, press and hold 0 +  for 5 seconds until the LED light flashes RED.
3. Enter the Admin PIN number (default is 123456) and press . The LED light will turn BLUE indicating you are in Admin Mode.
4. While in Admin Mode, press and hold 9 +  until the LED light flashes BLUE.
5. Enter the new PIN number (minimum 6 digits) and press . The LED light will flash GREEN 3 times if successful.
6. Re-enter the new PIN number and press . The LED light will stay solid GREEN for 2 seconds then solid BLUE indicating you have successfully changed the Admin PIN.
7. To exit admin mode and begin using your iStorage diskGenie drive, press the CANCEL button until the LED turns RED. Now enter your new PIN number and press .

It secures and protects all of your data with AES-256 encryption.

Please note: If the LED indicator is glowing red then the drive is locked, if it's glowing green then it is unlocked.

Results

To test the diskGenie 128GB SSD, we used AS SSD Benchmark. AS SSD Benchmark can test a variety of things such as the read/write speeds and access times (how long it takes to access the drive in terms of reading/writing).

The results were good, no where near the speeds that an unencrypted SATA mounted SSD would be able to achieve though.

We saw read times of 32.26MB/s and write times of 30.54MB/s (these are averaged results after retesting a couple of times). As you can see, these are good speeds but for a SSD drive, they're not so good. The main factor that's pulling these speeds right down is the USB 2.0 cable because an unencrypted SATA-mounted SSD would be capable of upto 200MB/s read and write.

Conclusion

To conclude, the diskGenie 128gb SSD from iStorage has proven to be probably the most secure and portable drive at the present time, I doubt it is the most affordable as iStorage suggest. With the 128gb version (with AES-256 Encryption) costing £379 compared with the Kingston's SSDNow 128gb which only costs £189, there is definitely a large difference in price. We'll be reviewing the Kingston SSDNow drive in the next couple of days so we'll be able to compare speeds and see whether the diskGenie SSD is actually worth the small fortune they're asking for.

In terms of security, it is second to none. With an easy to use keypad which can hold a passcode upto 16 digits in length, the diskGenie is definitely the most secure external SSD I've used. The rubber casing around the SSD also provides great security and protection.

The speeds we've seen from the drive could be a lot better with it performing just the same as any USB 2.0 [external drive](#). Perhaps, in the future, an eSATA version could be added.

If you don't want to go to the absolute extreme to protect your data, iStorage also offer 128-bit encryption models which start at £129.00 for the 30GB model. Most of the 128-bit models are 10-20% cheaper.

Pros

Security
Durability/Protection

Cons

Price
USB 2.0 connectivity

Bottom Line: If you're looking for a Solid State Drive that offers the highest amount of security and protection, then the diskGenie SSD from iStorage is your best bet.