

iStorage Datashur 8GB AES 256-bit Flash Drive

Ultra-secure flash drive with hardware encryption and key-code lock

DETAILS

- Price: £70.80 (RRP)
- Manufacturer: iStorage
- Tel No: 020 8537 3435
- Website: www.istorage-uk.com
- Required spec: Windows/Mac OS/Linux/Android/Symbian operating system with USB support

Compared to the storage media of the past, there's almost nothing to hate about flash drives - except that they're easy to lose. Whether left on a train, dropped in the street, or slipped from your pocket by an opportunistic thief, an errant USB key can cause considerable stress - not

least because of the idea that someone else might be rifling through data that you intended to keep private.

However, with the Datashur flash drive from iStorage, you'll lose no sleep over a lost flash drive, regardless of whether it falls into the hands of a colleague, rival, criminal or tabloid reporter. The combination of 256-bit encryption and a hardware-based access code of up to 15 digits ensures that no one but you will be able to get at your drive's contents. The on-board keypad ensures that even a keylogger won't stand a chance of stealing your access code, while the military-grade encryption means that without it, the data is meaningless.

Requiring no additional



drivers or software, the encryption is performed seamlessly in hardware, making the drive compatible with virtually any operating system. It's simple to use - just plug it in, enter the keycode, and your data becomes accessible. Remove it from the USB port, and it locks instantly. You can even configure PIN codes with different rights levels, so 'users' are limited to read-only access, and full access is restricted to those with an admin-level code - perfect for sharing information in a corporate, academic or governmental setting.

Furthermore, the built-in anti-hack protection means the drive will instantly wipe itself if the PIN is entered wrong ten times in a row, providing protection from brute-force techniques. The approach to data security actually extends beyond mere digital intrusion, with a water-resistant and shock-proof aluminium casing designed to shield the unit from the elements. Should you lose

or forget the PIN, a drive reset can render it useable again, but will also clear the contents to prevent unauthorised recovery.

Also available in 4GB and 16GB models, each unit comes with a three-year warranty. The bulk of the cost is in the security hardware, so at £95 RRP, the 16GB version is much better value, if more expensive overall. Still, the cost, even at 8GB, is more than justified by this drive's technical capabilities and robust manufacturing. Encouragingly heavy, with a solid aluminium cover that fits snugly but slides away smoothly, you'll believe that this is a flash drive capable of handling some punishment - exactly what you want from a device designed for security. **mm James Hunt**

Expensive, but if you're serious about data security it's worth the investment

