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THROUGH CAMERA

iStorage datAshur USB Flash Drive review

iStorage datAshur USB Flash Drive at a glance:

- USB pen drive in capacities from 4GB to 32GB
- Alphanumeric keypad with hardware encryption
- Brute Force Hack defence mechanism
- Works with Windows, Mac and other platforms
- Price £46.80 (4GB)
- Website: www.istorage-uk.com

Billed as the world's most secure USB flash drive, the iStorage datAshur's key feature is an alphanumeric keypad that allows the user to set up a 7 to 15-digit PIN code, with military-grade AES 256-bit hardware encryption. (It can also be configured with separate user and Admin PINs for corporate users.)

Housed within a dust and water-resistant protective aluminium sheath, the drive incorporates a built-in rechargeable battery to power the keypad and is ready to use out of the box, without the need for any software to be installed. The tamper-proof drive is compatible with Windows, Mac, Linux, Android and embedded systems, and features real-time drag-and-drop encryption. To use it, simply enter the PIN and insert the drive into your device. Two LED lights indicate that the code has been accepted (or not) and, once done, your content is automatically re-encrypted on removal of the drive. If you forget your PIN there's a reset function that destroys the data and creates a new randomly generated encryption key to allow the drive to be reused. In addition, a built-in 'Brute Force Hack' defence mechanism wipes the contents if the incorrect PIN is entered 10 consecutive times.

The buttons are, by necessity, quite small and require a firm press, but the use of an on-device keypad makes it more secure than using the computer's keyboard to input passwords. The encryption process adds no time penalty – it takes no more than a second for stored data to be unencrypted.

The iStorage datAshur is available in capacities from 4GB (£46.80) to 32GB (£118.80).

iStorage datAshur USB Flash Drive – Key features

Keypad

Use the alphanumeric keypad to enter a 7 to 15-digit PIN code of your choice. LED lights confirm the lock/unlock status of the drive.

Hardware encryption

The datAshur offers military-grade 256-bit hardware encryption for maximum security.

Protective sheath

The rubberised drive feels solid and well made, but for extra protection it comes with a rugged aluminium sheath that is water and dust-resistant.

SCORE: 5 out of 5