



## iStorage diskAshur Pro

Possibly the most secure USB device in existence

**DETAILS**

- Price: 500GB – £209, 1TB – £269, 1.5TB – £319
- Manufacturer: iStorage
- Website: [goo.gl/8lNHd](http://goo.gl/8lNHd)
- Required spec: Spare USB port, OS independent



**W**hat price would you put on the protection of your digital documents? To some, that figure is priceless, especially if they have a need to transport or store sensitive data. Even the home user should really consider a digital vault of some description.

iStorage has a solution that ticks all the necessary boxes, and then some. With a reputation for designing super secure and toughened portable hard drives, it provides a piece of mind for those who regularly transport digital information by hand.

The diskAshur Pro is a pretty impressive solution to your security needs. First off, we have a portable hard drive measuring 19 x 84.5 x 120mm and weighing just 190g. A built-in USB 3.0 cable extends to a reasonable 120mm from the unit, and the toughened, rubberised finish adds an element of water-proofing and

ruggedness not seen in other portable hard drives.

The dominating feature, though, and the selling point here, is the large numeric keypad on the front of the device. From here you can set an admin and five unique user pin codes up to 16-digits in length. This, in combination with the 256-bit AES-XTS military hardware level encryption, means that whatever you store on there will be secure from prying eyes unless they know the pin code.

In addition to the this, there are also some very nifty features that sound like they come straight from Q-branch. You can set a unique self destruct pin that when entered will instantly destroy all pins, data and create a new encryption key.

It's protected against brute force attacks to gain access to the pin, it's OS free and works on any system including thin clients.

There's an SSD version available, and there's no software to install either. It can even withstand a shock or impact up to 1000G when not in operation and 300G when in operation.

The USB 3.0 connection livens up this version of diskAshur from previous versions, and it's further helped by the 128MB buffer and 12ms average seek time. Transfers are swift, over 30MB/s on a standard USB 2 port (faster when on USB 3.0), so watching movies off it is perfectly possible, although a tad overkill. The point is you can quickly transfer data as soon as you enter the pin, then get out, safe in the

knowledge that you're the only one with access.

In the box you get the device itself, along with a padded nylon carry case, a quick start guide and a USB extension cable. The instructions, as mentioned, are easy enough to get to grips with, and after a short while, you'll get used to its way of doing things.

The only concern we had was the lifespan of the keypad. It's certainly robust enough and well-engineered, but what if the numbers rub off? Or what if it develops a fault and one of the buttons fails to be detected when pressed? Thankfully, the two-year warranty iStorage supplies when registering diskAshur will take care of that, so you're in good hands at least.

DiskAshur is an interesting bit of kit. If you're deadly serious about securing your data, either for transport or as a backup or you're in the business of potentially having mission critical and sensitive data on the go, then the range of diskAshur products are going to be crucial for your organisation. Either way, diskAshur is certainly worth looking more into.

**mm David Hayward**

*Seriously, the most secure USB device we've ever come across. Very impressive.*

Technical Specifications	
Interface	USB 3.0 (backwards compatible with USB 2.0 and 1.1)
Power Supply	100% bus powered
Buffer Size	8MB – 128MB
RPM	Available with either a standard 5400rpm hard drive or SSD
Average seek time	12ms – 15ms
Shock	1000G 1ms (non-operating)   300G 2ms (operating)
Dimensions & weight	19mm X 84.5mm X 120mm (0.75" X 3.3" X 4.7"); weight: 190 grams
Warranty	Two-year limited
Approvals	NIST FIPS 140-2 Level 2, FCC & CE, water and dust resistant

