

NAS Storage Growth Planner (3–5 Year)

Data Categories · Annual Growth · 5-Year Capacity Projection

1 CURRENT DATA INVENTORY

DATA CATEGORY	CURRENT SIZE	ANNUAL GROWTH
Photos / videos (personal)	TB	TB/yr
Video/film projects	TB	TB/yr
Media library (Plex/Jellyfin)	TB	TB/yr
PC / Mac backup (Time Machine, etc.)	TB	TB/yr
Work / documents / projects	TB	TB/yr
Virtual machines / containers	TB	TB/yr
Surveillance / NVR footage	TB	TB/yr
TOTAL	TB	TB/yr

TYPICAL ANNUAL GROWTH RATES

USE CASE	TYPICAL GROWTH	PROFILE
Personal photos/docs only	0.1–0.3 TB/yr	Low
Family + smartphone backup	0.3–1 TB/yr	Moderate
Home + media library (Plex)	1–3 TB/yr	Medium
Content creator / video	2–10 TB/yr	High
Small business / surveillance	2–20 TB/yr	Very High

Planning rule: Target usable capacity = (Current total + Annual growth × 5) × 1.3
 The 1.3× buffer accounts for RAID overhead variance, filesystem reserves, and headroom.

⚠ Most home users underestimate by 50%. Plan for 5 years, not 2.

2 5-YEAR CAPACITY PROJECTION

Fill in your totals from Step 1, then project forward using your annual growth rate.

YEAR	DATA USED	+ RAID OVERHEAD	+ 20% HEADROOM	RAW CAPACITY NEEDED
Now	_____	_____	_____	_____
Year 1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Year 2	_____	_____	_____	_____
Year 3	_____	_____	_____	_____
Year 4	_____	_____	_____	_____
Year 5	_____	_____	_____	_____

3 FINAL NAS SIZING

5-year raw capacity needed: _____ TB

Drive size chosen: _____ TB

Bay count needed: _____ bays

RAID type chosen: _____



RAID Calculator

Bay count rule of thumb:
 5yr need ÷ (drive size × RAID efficiency) = drives needed
 Add 1–2 bays for growth buffer.

- Verify exact usable capacity:
needtoknowit.com.au/tools/raid-calculator/
- Right-size with NAS Sizing Wizard:
needtoknowit.com.au/tools/nas-sizing-wizard/

MORE FREE NAS PLANNING TOOLS

needtoknowit.com.au/tools – RAID Calculator · NAS Sizing Wizard · Backup Calculator
 Drive Failure Risk · Power Calculator · Transfer Speed Estimator

Need to Know IT
 Independent Australian storage guidance
needtoknowit.com.au