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# Product Reviews

## Networks/Servers

### Nexsan ATAboy2x [PC Pro]

**COMPANY:** Nexsan Technologies

**PRICE:** £9,985 exc VAT Basic warranty 3yrs on-site

**RATING:** ★★★★★

**ISSUE:** 130 **DATE:** Aug 05

**Verdict:** Nexsan delivers another blow to Fibre Channel disk arrays as the ATAboy2x offers greatly reduced costs, superior storage capacity and equally good SAN performance.



Over the past year, ATA and SATA disk array solutions have shown they can provide the capacity and performance needed by companies running data-hungry applications. But the cost is greatly reduced compared to the Fibre Channel (FC) and SCSI alternatives. Nexsan Technologies'

expertise in this area has been particularly impressive, with its aptly named ATABeast winning a well-deserved Recommended award for its unbelievable capacity and excellent value.

Nexsan's ATAboy2x continues this tradition. Its well-built 3U chassis provides a pair of 2Gb/sec FC ports and has room for 14 ATA drives. Remarkably, the price includes a full complement of the latest 400GB Hitachi drives, giving you no less than 5.6TB to play with. Fault tolerance is a key feature, as the ATAboy2x can be configured so that no component represents a single point of failure. For starters, you get two hot-swap power supplies, each with their own cooling fan, and the system also accepts a second RAID controller. Mounted in solid-steel sleds, one controller manages all drives, but adding a second splits ownership down the middle of the chassis. If one controller fails and is removed, the active one takes over and manages its RAID arrays and FC ports. The drives are mounted in solid carriers and the RAID controllers support hot-swap and hot-standby.

Nexsan has made sure the ATAboy2x can be managed from just about any system.



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Its NexScan system offers both CLI and web access. The latter doesn't rely on any Java runtimes, so can be accessed by all the key browser products. The CLI's smart GUI is still one of the best we've seen, while the browser interface is also very intuitive and informative. Its homepage opens to show the status of fans, power supplies and controllers along with enclosure temperatures. Below this is a matrix display of all storage bays along with animated graphics showing the status of each drive. If you have two controllers installed then each has its own management interface, but Nexsan's WorldView allows you to swap between each one.

Simple volumes aren't supported, but you can choose from a good range of RAID arrays. The

ATAboy2x also supports hot-standby drives dedicated to specific arrays or floating spares, which can be grabbed by any array with a failed member. Volumes are

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