**Network Attached Storage**

**Consumer equipment**: Buffalo LinkStation 500 series

**Enterprise grade equipment**: Buffalo TeraStation 5010 Series

* **What makes the piece of equipment enterprise grade?** 
  1. Features:  
     The enterprise equipment has more features than the consumer equipment. This is because the business will use more features than the typical user. For example, the enterprise equipment has cloud backup support, and has enterprise-grade storage. Consumer equipment may have standard to premium grade-storage. Reliability could be a reason for the difference in storage grade.
  2. Cost:  
     Although the enterprise version costs significantly more at around $10,000 and the consumer version under $500. This is because the enterprise one is priced because of all the things it offers.
  3. Design:  
     The enterprise equipment is designed for 24/7 operation. Furthermore, it is designed to handle a significantly larger number of users. Business will have more users accessing data simultaneously, therefore the equipment must be made to handle that issue. Home use will not have as many users, so the equipment does not need to handle as many.
  4. Quality:  
     The quality of the enterprise equipment is superior when compared to the consumer equipment. The quality of the enterprise must be greater because of the more rigorous use it will receive. The typical consumer will not require as heavy usage as a business.
* **Compare and contrast the technical aspects of the piece of equipment.**
  1. Number of drive bays:  
     The consumer equipment provides two drive bays for storage. The enterprise equipment has 4 or 12 drive bays. The enterprise version allows for much, much more storage capacity. If you were to have the consumer version and immediately install two drive, then you will be maxed out and have no room to increase (assuming you installed the maximum allotted drive capacity). On the other hand, the enterprise equipment will take longer to max out since it has a much larger capacity.
  2. Power supply:  
     The enterprise equipment has an optional dual power supply, whereas the consumer version does not. An additional power supply is almost a necessity for a business since they would not want any issues at all. An additional power supply would ensure that their equipment is still capable of performing due to one power supply failure. Generally, consumers are not as dependent on their equipment and can afford to wait for a fix.
  3. Memory, Processor:  
     Consumer equipment does not have as robust memory or processors as the enterprise equipment. There is far more demand on the enterprise equipment than the consumer equipment, therefore there must better specifications on the enterprise versions.
* **What is different about support between the two?**
  1. Length of support:  
     The length of support greatly differs between consumer grade and enterprise grade equipment. For these storage devices specifically, the consumer equipment only offers support for 3 years. The enterprise equipment offers support for 3-5 years. After the warranty periods have ended, the enterprise support will still give a “best effort” solution, but the support for consumers will have ended completely. A business would not purchase enterprise equipment where they will lose any type of support after a certain period.
  2. Type of support:  
     The enterprise equipment offers support of more features. The consumer equipment offers support, but not for as many features as the enterprise counterparts. Furthermore, the consumer equipment does not carry as much assistance as the enterprise version. For example, some support for the consumer equipment comes in the form of guided setup articles, whereas the enterprise provides actual support assistance. Generally, the consumer versions are much more simplified, therefore they will not require as much support as enterprise.
  3. Time of support:  
     The enterprise equipment comes with 24/7 support. The consumer equipment only comes with support for normal business hours. A business using enterprise equipment will need far more support than the home user, since it is their business on the line. When a business encounters a problem, it is generally a priority to get it fixed, they cannot wait until normal business hours to receive support.