apc
HOT
PRODUCT

$2,049 | www.draytek.com.au

DrayTek VigorSwitch P2540x

A feature-rich PoE switch with comprehensive management options.

The rack-mountable DrayTek VigorSwitch P2540x stands out with a massive 54 ports all up, and a very competitive $2,049.95 RRP. Of the ports, 48 are Gigabit Ethernet (supporting eight link aggregation groups) with PoE of up to 30W each. Our only niggle is that it's limited to 400W overall (8W per port), meaning that it is possible to run out of power before running out of ports. It then has six 10GbE SPF+ slots for high speed connections.

While overkill for many smaller businesses, the P2540x is well equipped for those medium or larger size enterprises with substantial networking needs. Key uses might be running a security camera array, a VOIP phone system, data services or linking in remote sections of larger premises. Importantly, the six SPF+ connections support optic fibres, rather than copper cables, and offer lower latency, better efficiency and much longer ranges at full speed. It is also possible to use SPF+ modules (costing around $100) that use standard ethernet cabling, for support of existing 10GbE devices such as NAS. So in other words, the P2540x is well equipped to be the core switch in a robust

network for a growing business.

The P2540x pairs the hardware with a comprehensive software feature set – and more than we can cover here. The highlights include Power over Ethernet control with on/off scheduling and the ability to remote power cycle a device if it goes offline. The switch automatically detects IP camera and phone traffic, tags it for quality of service, and for ONVIF devices, displays the topology and even allows image viewing. You can create 256 VLANs, automatically avoid IP conflicts or reserve addresses, have multiple admin accounts, create access control limitations and manage your network security.

To get hands on with the inbuilt network management options, we tested the P2540x with a range of DrayTek access points and routers, plus a bundle of IP cameras. Be aware the fans can get a touch noisy so it's best set up in a dedicated area. The dense but comprehensive web interface is fast and easy to use for overall control, but lacks some advanced features for controlling remote network devices. DrayTek also provides the free VigorConnect software, and while it isn't quite

SPECS
48x RJ-45 1GbE LAN Ports; 6x 10GbE SFP+ slots; PoE: 30W per port, 400W total Switching Capacity: 216 Gbps; VLANS: 256; 19" Rack Mountable 441mm x 330mm x 45mm Weight: 5.66 KG.

as seamless as we'd like, it does make managing multiple devices from the one interface easier.

The more advanced business-focused option is the paid VigorACS 2. The cloud based management is quite advanced (and aimed at your IT staff), and takes a bit of work to get set up correctly. That said, it provides extremely comprehensive remote management, real time monitoring, automatic provisioning, backup, update and data logging options. Every Vigor device comes with a 30 day free trial, (and there's an online demo on the DrayTek website at **www. draytek.com.au/products/ network-management-tools/ vigoracs-2**) but the full version is a paid subscription starting at $349.95 a year for 25 nodes. While that sounds steep, the time savings alone make it more than worth the price for larger businesses.
LINDSAY HANDMER

The VigorSwitch P2540x is an excellent choice for businesses needing comprehensive PoE networking and SPF+ speeds, backed up by powerful management options.
★★★★☆