

**penguinpunk.net**  
**qnap ts-831x hardware deployment**  
**revision 0.1**

### **synopsis**

QNAP have come a long way since they first launched their NAS range and it shows with their new hardware deployment process. This document provides visual guidance for the process of configuring the NAS from first power on. There's an overview of the process here - <https://start.qnap.com/en/index.php>. You can also read more about the TS-831X (the NAS in this example) here - <https://www.qnap.com/en-au/product/model.php?ll=237> and grab a copy of the user manual here - [https://www.qnap.com/en-au/support/con\\_show.php?op=showone&cid=11](https://www.qnap.com/en-au/support/con_show.php?op=showone&cid=11).

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## overview

The process to deploy a QNAP NAS is fairly straightforward:

- Discover the NAS;
- Update its firmware;
- Setup the network configuration; and
- Configure storage.

## Process

The NAS comes with a sticker on the chassis that talks about a “Cloud Key”. Take a note of this and head to <http://install.qnap.com> to get started.

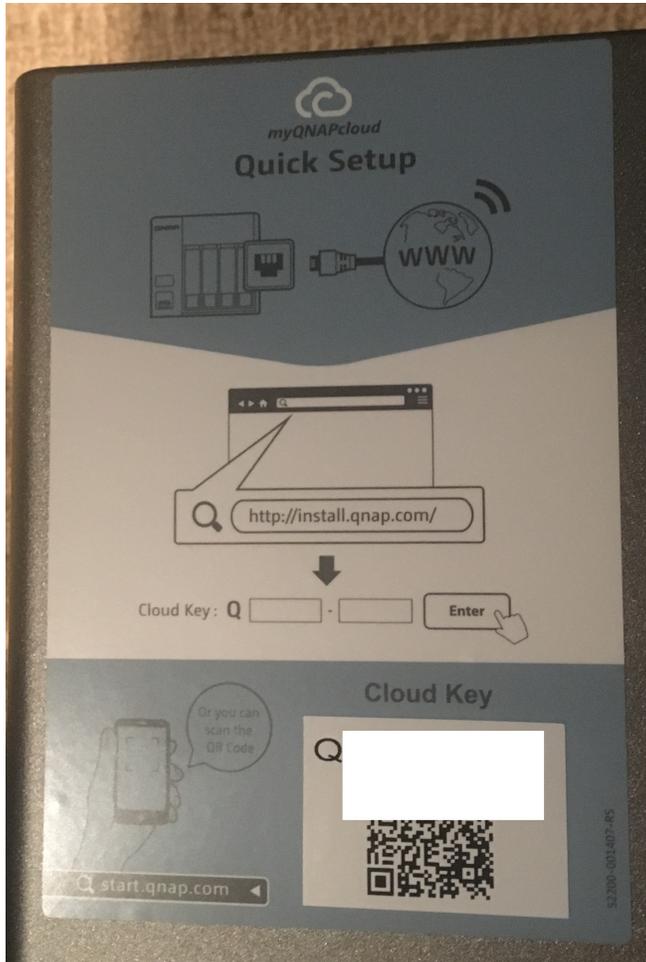


Figure 1 – Cloud Key Sticker

Once you get to this page, you'll need to enter the key.



Figure 2 – QNAP Cloud Installation

The first step is the register for a myQNAPcloud Account. Note that you won't be able to proceed to the next step until you've activated your account via the registration email they send you. This wasn't immediately apparent, but everything went smoothly once I'd confirmed my account.

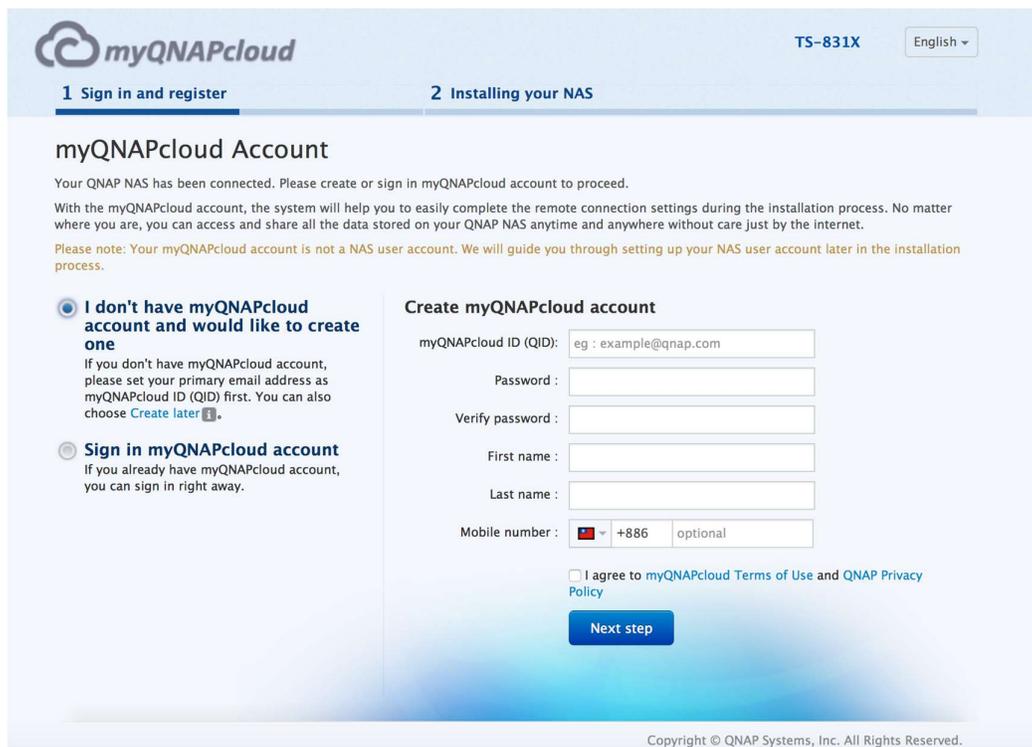


Figure 3 – myQNAPcloud Account

Your myQNAPcloud ID (QID) is your email address. Fill in the details as required (using dots for your password too?) and click Next step.

Figure 4 – myQNAPcloud Details

You'll then need to create a device name. Note that this will need to be unique, so you likely won't be able to use something simple like *qnap831x*.

Figure 5 – Register myQNAPcloud Device Name

Once this is done, you're ready to move on. In this example, I'd fired up the new device without any hard drives installed. You'll need to install at least one though.

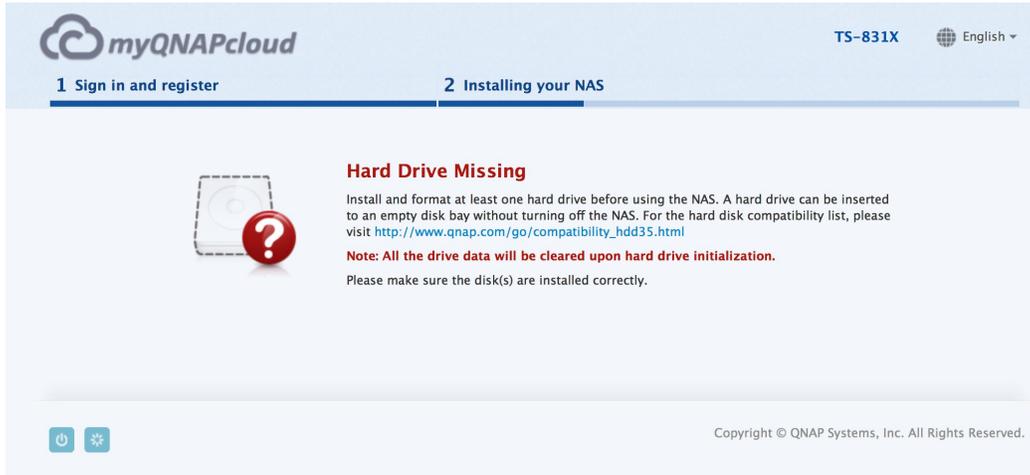


Figure 6 – Hard Drive Missing

Once your drives are installed, the NAS goes and checks and updates the system firmware. The model I bought had shipped with 4.2.x (from mid-2016).

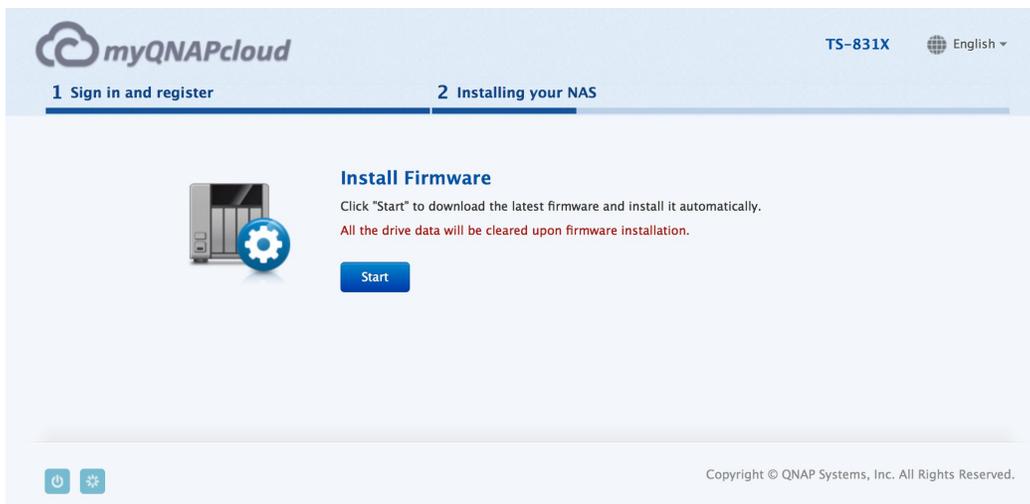
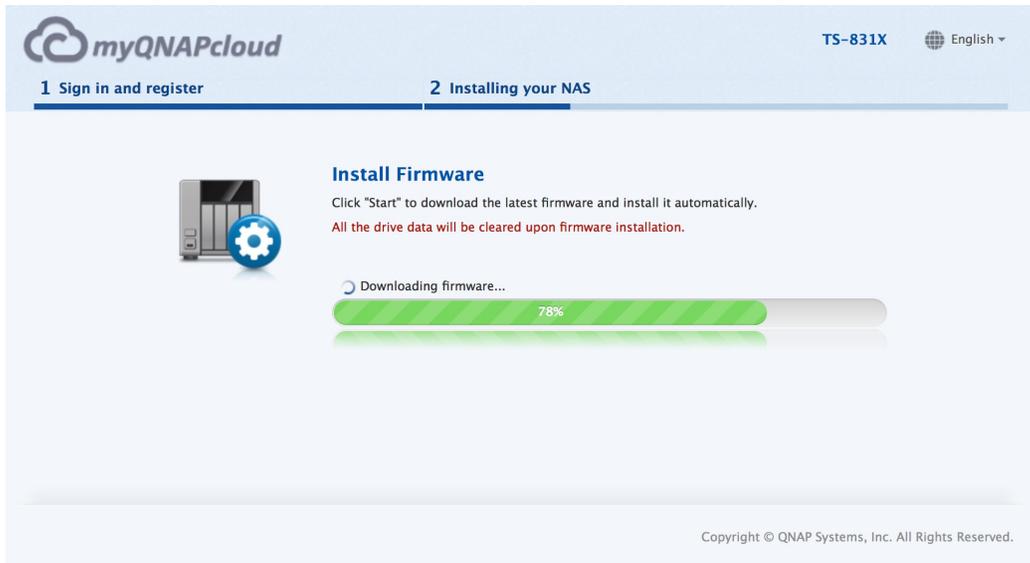


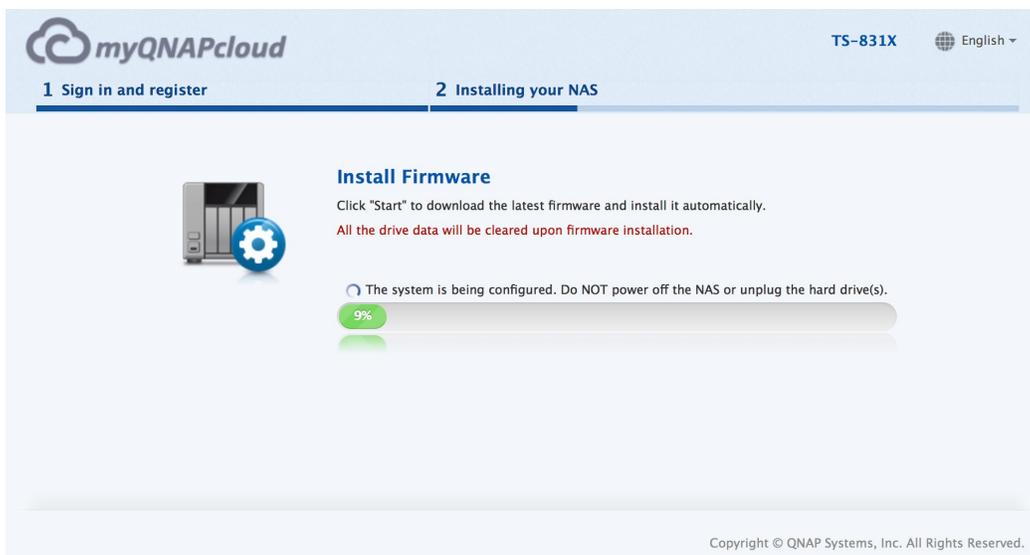
Figure 7 – Install Firmware

Note that this installation will wipe the installed disks. If this is of concern to you, you might need to re-evaluate which disks you want to use in the system.



**Figure 8 – Downloading Firmware**

Once the firmware is downloaded it will start to install. This is not the time to power off your NAS.



**Figure 9 – Firmware Installation**

Once this is completed, you can move on to the “Smart Installation Guide”, which will take you through the steps necessary to configure admin credentials, network connectivity, and basic services to get you started.

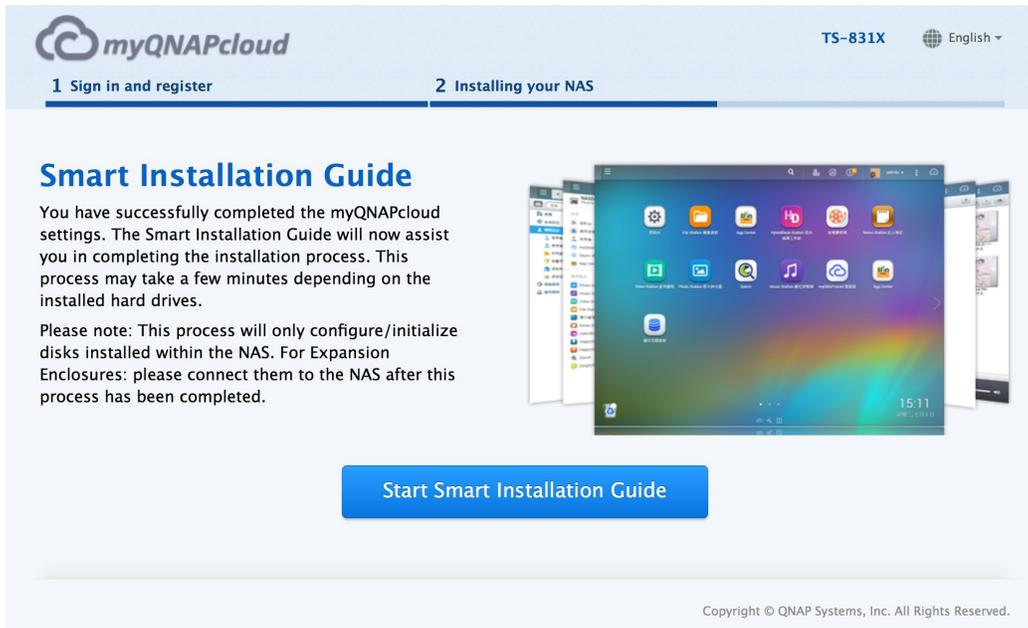


Figure 10 – Smart Installation Guide

You'll likely want to change the name of the NAS from the default, and enter a strong password for the administrator account.

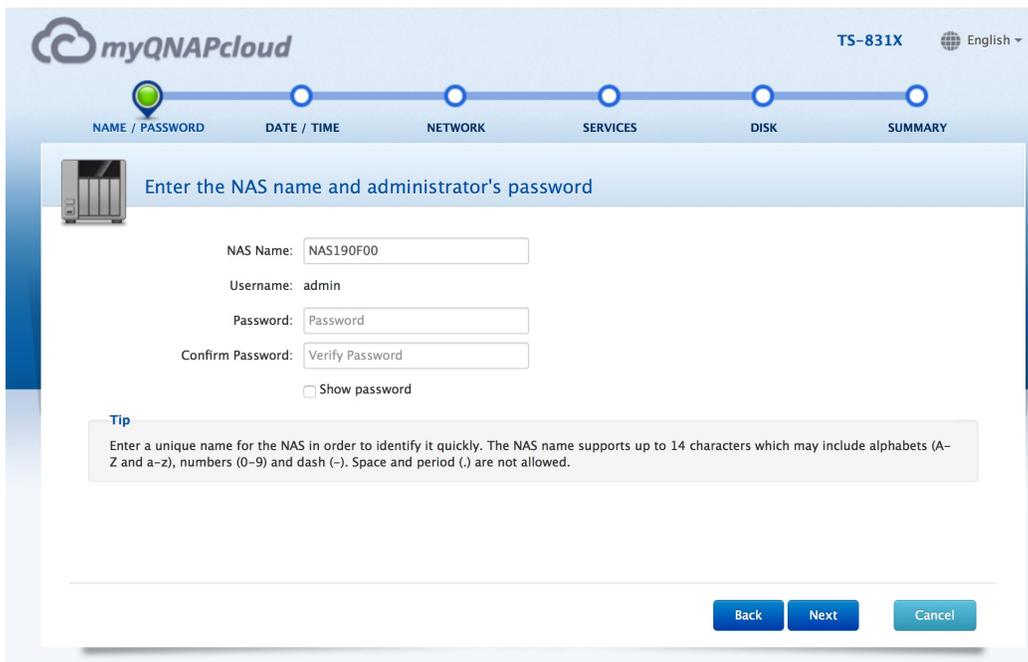


Figure 11 – NAS Name and Administrator Password

You can then set the time zone and time, either manually or via NTP.

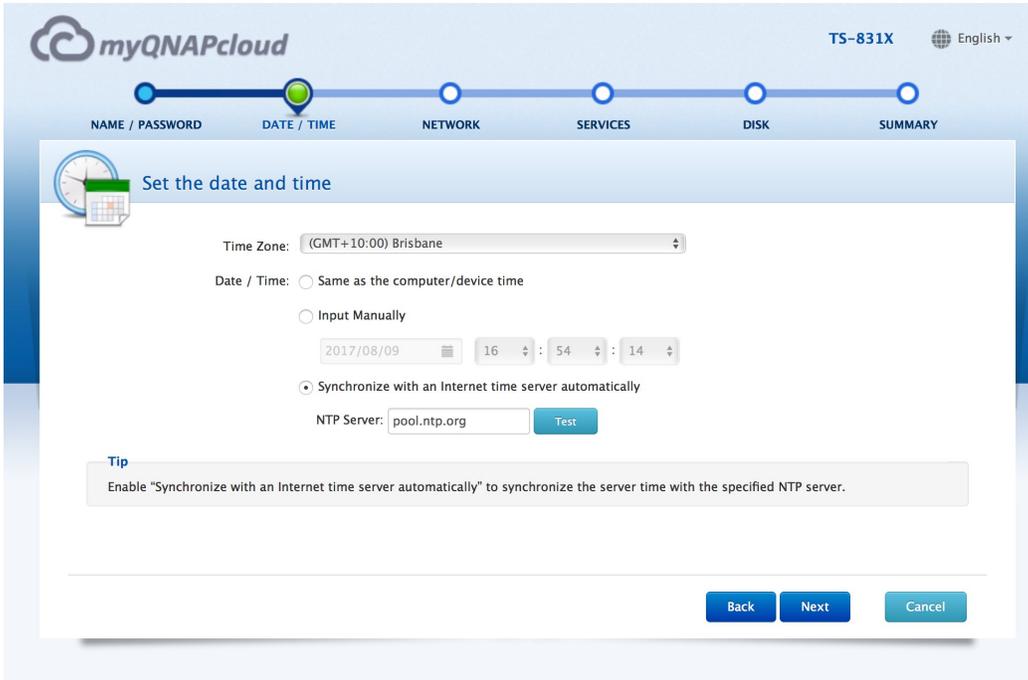


Figure 12 – Set the Date and Time

It's then time to configure the network settings. I left this as DHCP during this process and later set a static IP address. You should be able to set that manually at this stage if you like though. If you lose connectivity, you can use Qfinder to rediscover the NAS if required.

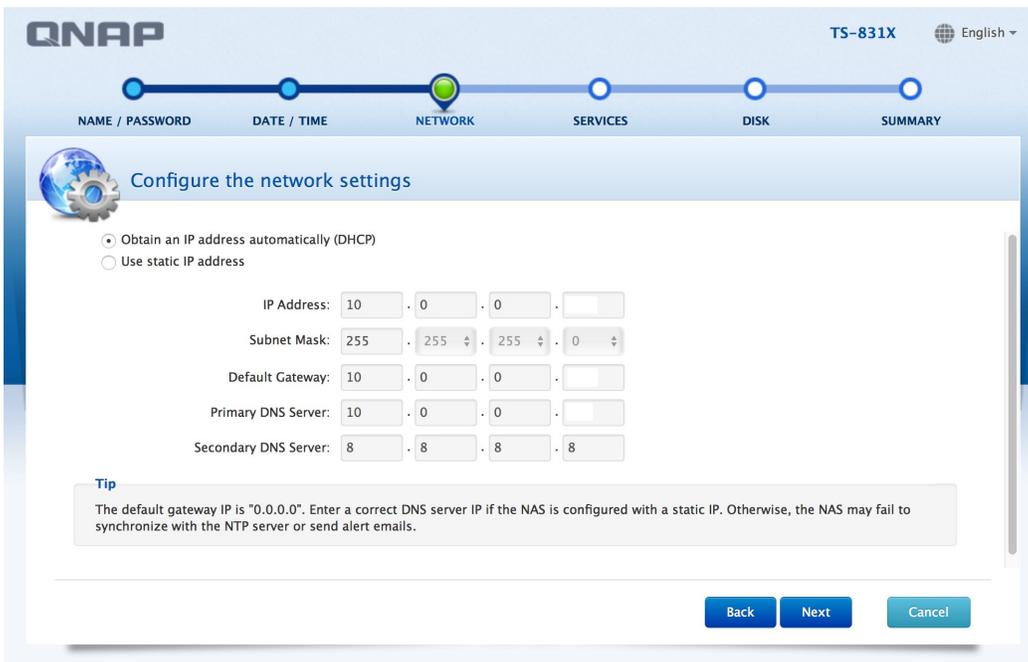
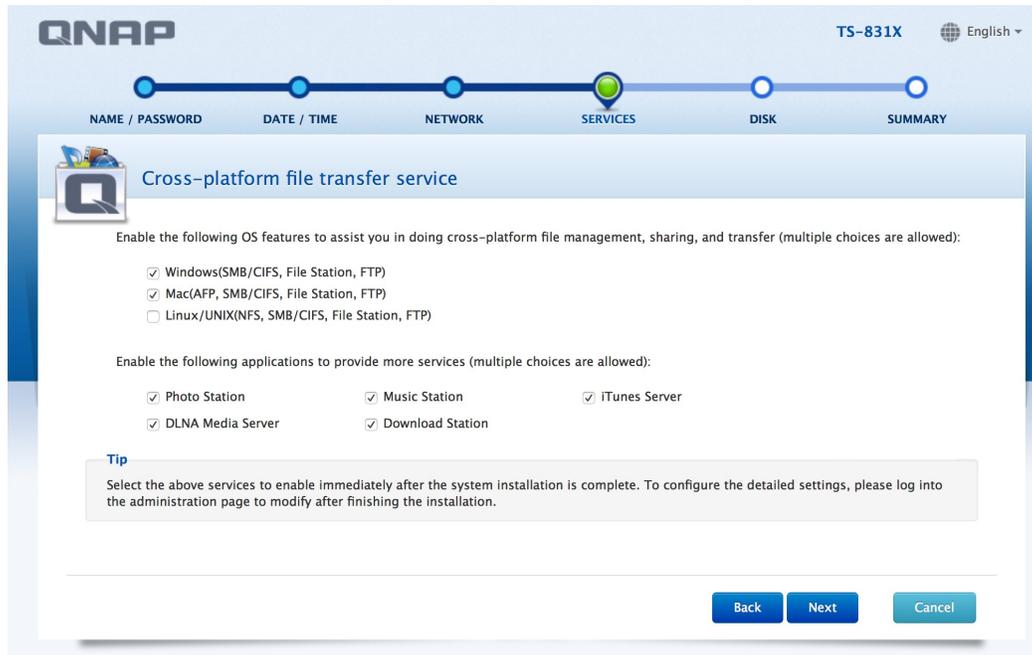


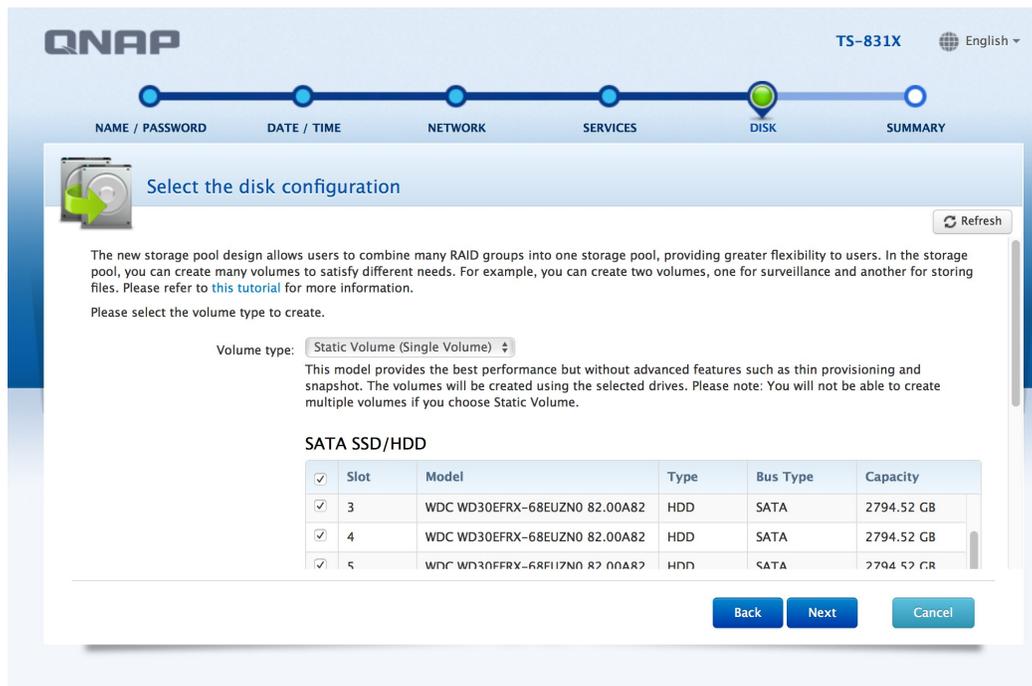
Figure 13 – Configure the Network Settings

Now it's time to select which basic file transfer network services you want to enable (Windows, Mac or Linux). You can also choose to deselect the default QNAP multimedia applications.



**Figure 14 – Cross-platform File Transfer Service**

Now you can configure the disks. In this configuration, I'm keeping it simple and creating a single volume across all of the disks. It's also possible to select multiple thin or thick volumes.



**Figure 15 – Select the Disk Configuration**

The NAS supports a range of RAID configurations as well, although I'd obviously counsel against selecting RAID 0.

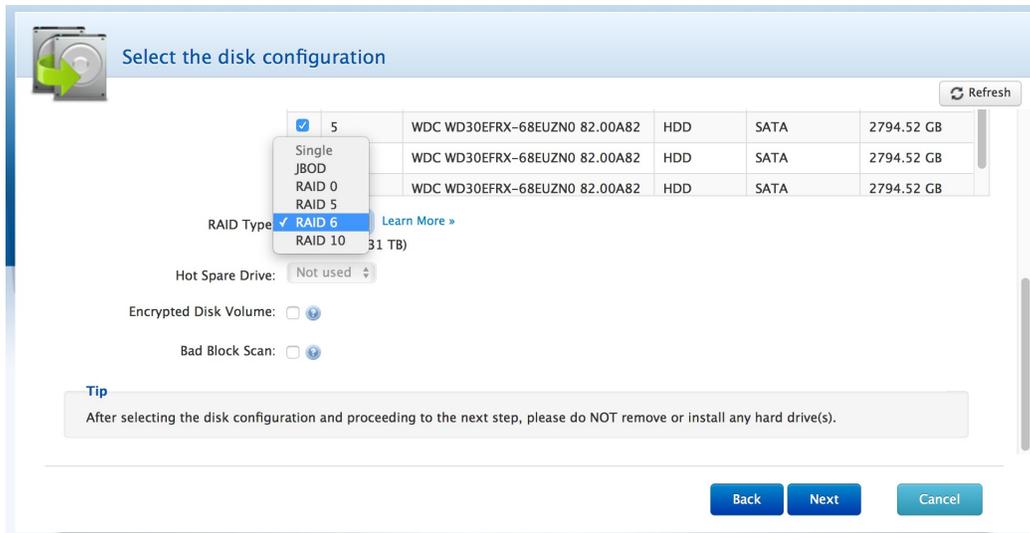


Figure 16 – RAID Types

Once you've done this, you can then apply the configuration.

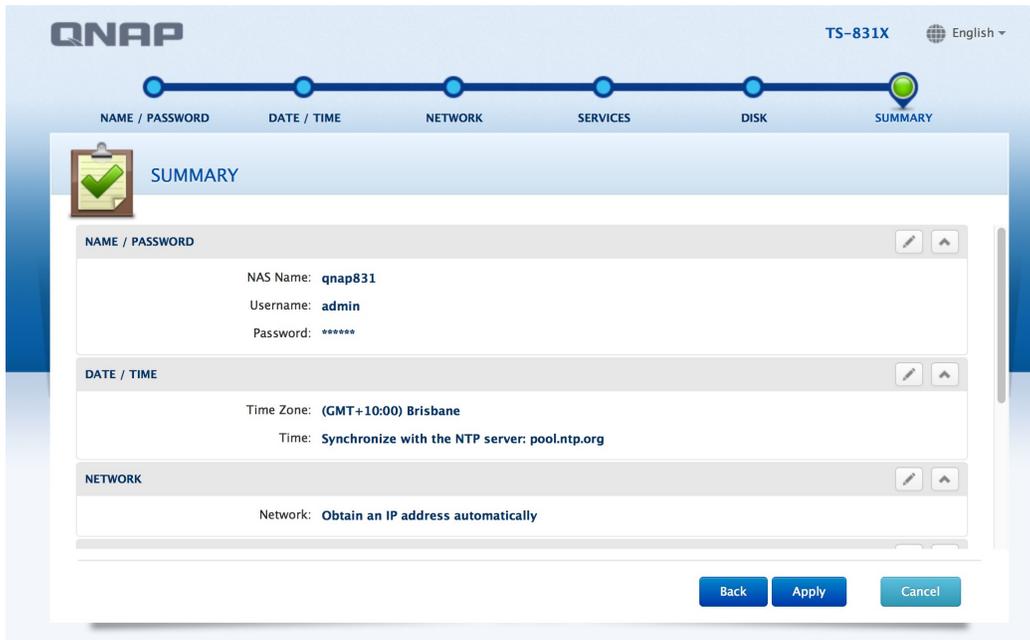
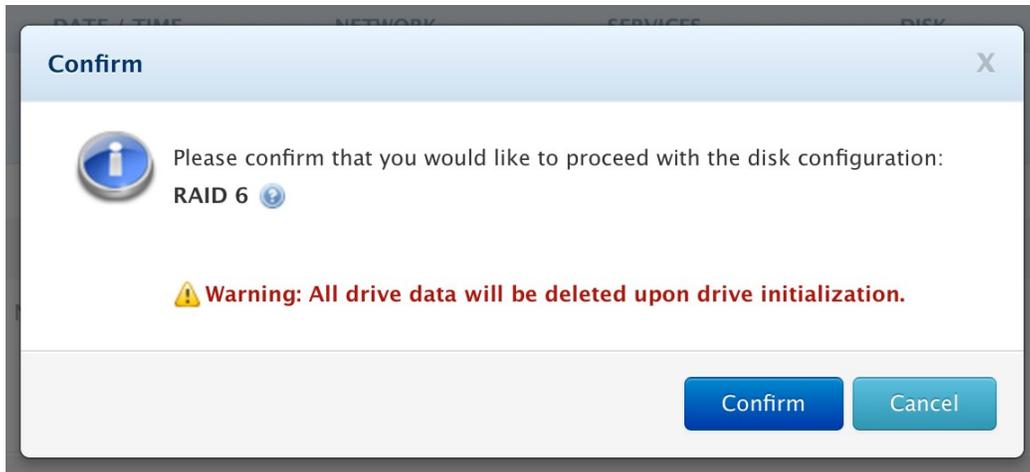


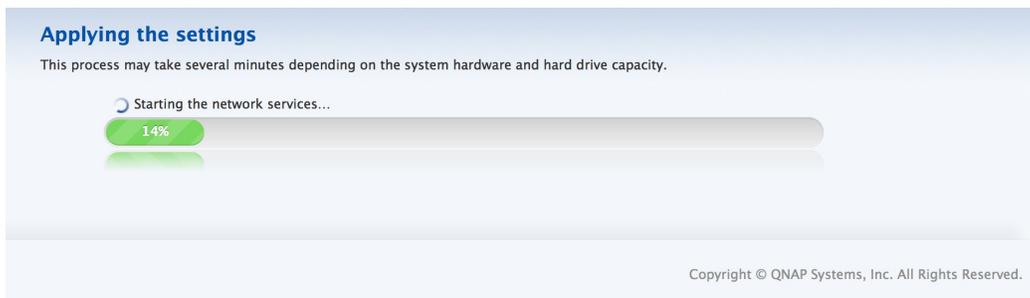
Figure 17 – Summary

You'll be warned again that the disks will be wiped as part of this configuration activity.



**Figure 18 – Confirm Disk Configuration**

The settings are then applied.



**Figure 19 – Applying the Settings**

Once this has finished you should be able to login to the web UI via the IP address or hostname (depending on your DNS configuration) and complete configuration of things such as email notification and share configuration. Note that it will take a while for the volume to complete initialisation, although it will be useable from the start.

### **conclusion**

QNAP have come a long way with their NAS devices in terms of out of the box experience and initial configuration options. Hopefully this guide will help with any aspects of the process that might be confusing.