



The DrayTek's admin interface is not for the uninitiated.

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DrayTek Vigor2925Vac Dual-WAN Security Router

A router that boasts a lot of features for a reasonable price.

DrayTek's new Vigor2925Vac occupies an unusual space in the router spectrum, as it's suitable for both high-end consumers and small businesses.

The ports-in-front design, VPN support, multiple SSIDs, load balancing, LAN segmentation, sophisticated application filters and monitoring, complex user management and firewall settings are all potent business abilities, but there are nods to lower-end use, like a number of built-in wizards for setup, as well as VoIP support. But this is not for people who don't know much about networking and plan on managing their own router. Even with the wizards, the configuration is scary and there's very little hand-holding. It's a tool to be managed by very experienced users, or to be managed remotely by a system administrator.

In terms of physical ports, it has five gigabit Ethernet LAN ports and two gigabit WAN ports (with failover and load balancing). It also has a pair of USB 2.0 ports, into which can be plugged storage devices or a 3G/LTE modem; the latter can be integrated into the load-balancing schema. There's two VoIP ports – one for the handsets (FXS) and one for PSTN failover (FXO). Finally, there's the 802.11ac wireless support, hitting 1,300Mbps at peak – when we tested it, it managed 26.6MB/s at 15m through two plaster walls, which was a solid result (as a comparison, a Netgear D6300 hit 27.7MB/s).

It's the VoIP option that confused us. VoIP is a rare beast these days, with only a small handful of routers still supporting it (which is unsurprising, since many providers now offer regular PSTN calls at rates comparable to VoIP calls). What makes this more

unusual is that this is not a DSL modem router – it's a broadband router for small businesses and satellite offices. For larger companies, with IP phones routing through a central server, this doesn't seem all that useful, but for companies that don't have that kind of infrastructure, this could be a long-term money saver. Unfortunately, the VoIP options are not that comprehensive, though the security setup is very solid.

When it comes to the VPN support, you can set it up for both LAN to LAN (client) connectivity, as well as a VPN server with up to 50 IPsec tunnels. We had it connected as a client to a commercial VPN service in a matter of minutes, using L2TP/IPsec. However, the VPN client service wizard did not support OpenVPN (SSL), which is now the default option for many VPN services. The router does support SSL as a server, but

it's switched off by default. It's one of the router's numerous rough edges.

But there's a lot to like about this router. It's packed with features and options, and offers a whole lot for a reasonable price for a business router. However, the management is disjointed, occasionally confusing and poorly explained. But if you're confident of your network bonafides, it's a very capable router, with all the tools that most small and medium businesses will need.

■ Nathan Taylor

Verdict

Features ★★★★★
Performance ★★★★★
Value ★★★★★

A few rough edges, but it boasts an awful lot of features for an entry-level business router.

