Drobo 5C

Self-Managing USB-C Storage Solution

Drobo has been my go to backup device for any digital file I care about since since the day I was introduced to them. Heck I love this company and products so much I own multiple Drobos and use them all for different types of data. This is the 4th Drobo storage system that I have in my home and the Drobo 5C being the last is connected my main computer for direct access to all my photo and video files. The main reason I'm so sold on Drobo's is that there is no need to mico manage these storage devices and I can mix or match hard drives including drive capacities by simply inserting the hard drives of my choice and Drobo takes care of the rest.

At the heart of the Drobo 5C is Drobo's BeyondRAID which manages your storage effortlessly. With single disk failure mode the 5C operates like RAID 5 and moving to dual disk redundancy which is like RAID 6, your data is safe from failures. Having five drive bays allows you to start off with one or two disks and simply add up to three more when your storage needs grow.

A unique feature of the 5C is an internal rechargeable battery that will protect your data and cache by saving data in the process of writing with the aid of an mSATA hot data cache SSD. This is a feature analogous to higher-end storage systems and unique to Drobo in this segment.
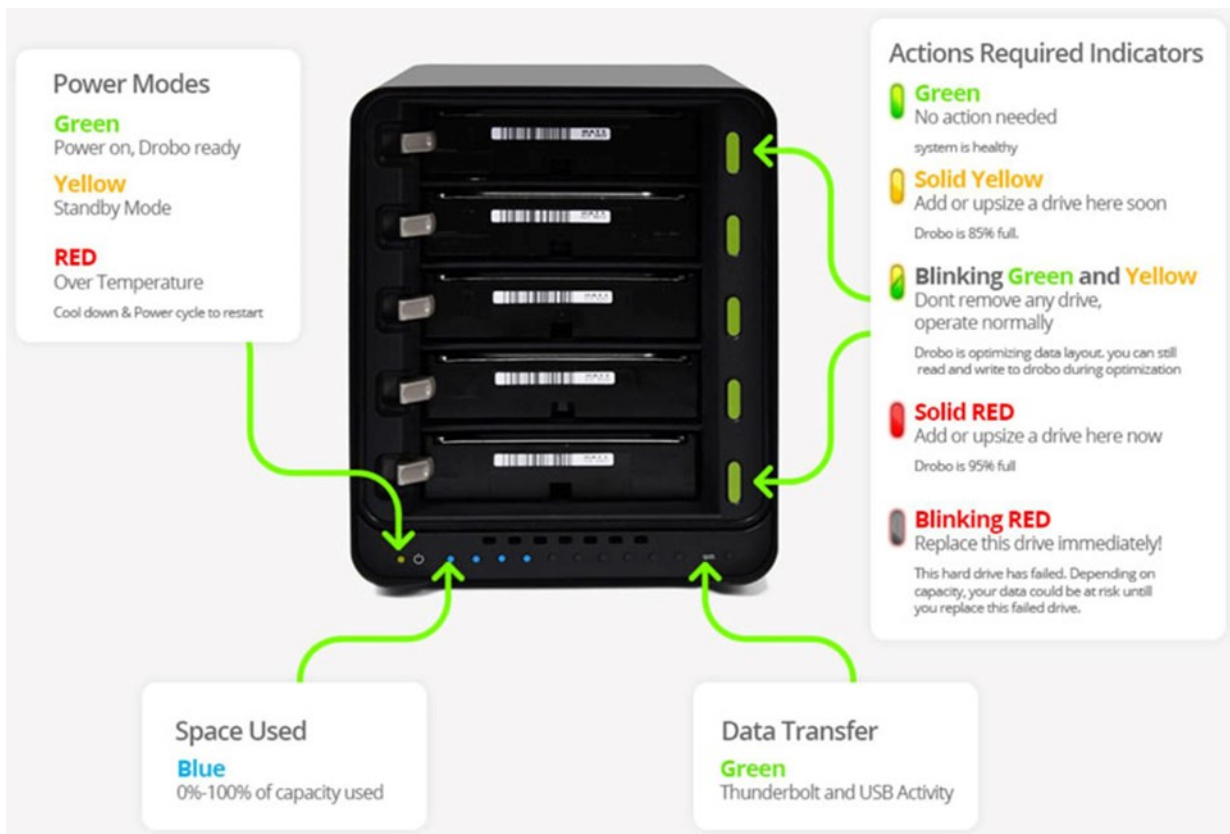

Looking at the front, you will spot an array of LEDs at the bottom of the unit.
Once you remove the front bezel, you will see a label that shows what the status LED mean.

No tools are required for inserting hard drives, pull the locking thumb latch to the side and insert the hard drive. I will lock in place with in final position.

Power Modes

Green
Power on, Drobo ready

Yellow
Standby Mode

RED
Over Temperature
Cool down & Power cycle to restart

Actions Required Indicators

Green
No action needed
system is healthy

Solid Yellow
Add or upsize a drive here soon
Drobo is 85% full.

Blinking Green and Yellow
Dont remove any drive,
operate normally
Drobo is optimizing data layout. you can still read and write to drobo during optimization

Solid RED
Add or upsize a drive here now
Drobo is 95% full

Blinking RED
Replace this drive immediately!
This hard drive has failed. Depending on capacity, your data could be at risk untill you replace this failed drive.

Space Used

Blue
0%-100% of capacity used

Data Transfer

Green
Thunderbolt and USB Activity

This graphic shows what all the status LEDs mean on the 5C. I like that is shows the bottom bar with Blue LED's that represent space used so it's easy to check how full the 5C is getting even without connecting to a management interface.
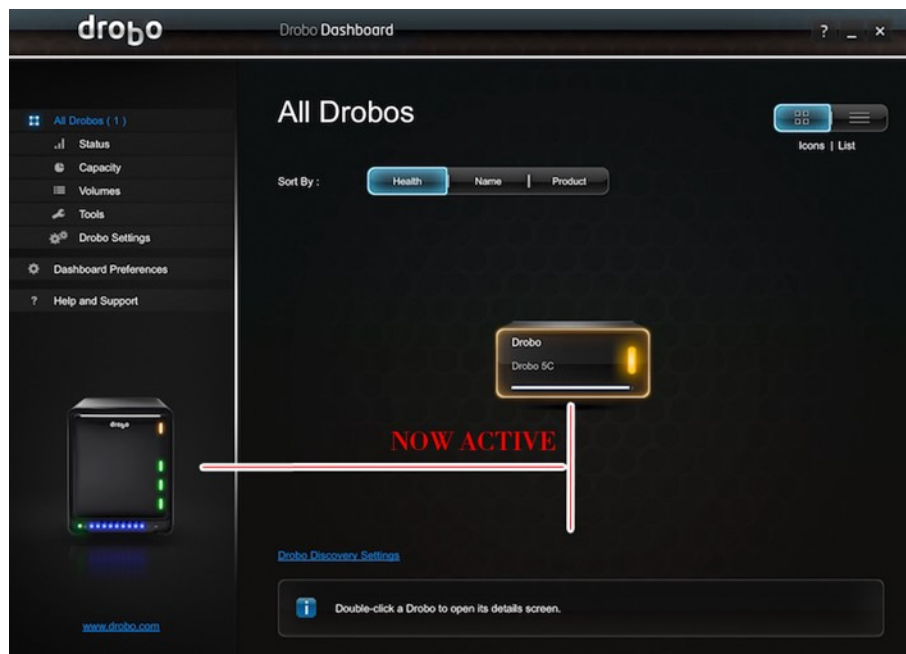
Some other features of Drobos include:

Power Fail Protection – Each Drobo has an internal battery that provides enough power for the Drobo to shut down properly. *Drobo moves any in-flight data to onboard flash in your Drobo so it will be protected and moved to your disk drives once power is restored.*

Kensington Lock Port – This is a really nice security measure since the 5-bay Drobos are very portable. A lock is not included, but you have the option to add one on so that someone doesn't just walk off with your device.

Drive Spin Down – While I love having access to my files at all times, I also want my drives to have a long life. Drobo provides a good answer for this with Drive Spin Down. This helps to save electricity and prolongs the life of your hard drives because they aren't constantly running. You can adjust the time of your Drive Spin Down through the Drobo Dashboard as long as you are logged in as admin.

https://www.mikesroadtrip.com/drobo-5c-raid-data-storage/

I'm so excited to finally be able to access all of my files without having to plug and unplug a series of external hard drives. While I absolutely love my Drobo 5c, I must admit that I'm a bit envious of some of the other Drobo units with additional functionality, however those do come with quite an additional price tag. In order for you to make an informed decision, I have outlined some of the key features of the various models:

- Drobo 5C connects directly to the computer with five bays.
- 5D is also a direct connect, but it has 3 connector ports (2 Thunderbolt and 1 USB 3.0).

- 5DT is similar to the D, but with improved performance using solid-state drive (SSD) acceleratio (via mSATA) and 3 years of DroboCare.
- 5N – This is a networked unit so you can access all of your files wirelessly. This is the unit I sort of wish I had chosen instead.

Lastly, the BeyondRAID feature can even switch from single to dual disk redundancy with just the click of your mouse through the Drobo Dashboard. This ensures enterprise-level dual parity data protection, when needed. If a drive happens to fail, Drobo will automatically re-layout the data to the remaining drives, returning it to a protected state with no user interaction.