

By ~~15/02/08~~ Botezatu, Hardware Editor

Gigabyte's P45-DQ6 Motherboard Comes with Four-LAN Connectivity

Looks completely useless, but you never know when you're going to need it

While the vast majority of the mid-range / high-end motherboard manufacturers ship their offerings with dual-Gigabit Ethernet connections, Gigabyte ups the LAN ante with a four-LAN connector model. Most computer users usually connect to the Internet via a single network cable, but if you need more gear for a LAN party, you should check out Gigabyte's high-end DQ6 model. The motherboard is based on Intel's P45 chipset and has reached the final stage of design. Although four LAN RJ-45 jacks may seem a little extreme, the board is especially designed for home server applications that need extra bandwidth from additional network connections. More than that, a computer equipped with such a board could easily act as a high-end network node, with additional firewall and routing software aboard. This is not the first attempt at squeezing as much bandwidth as possible from a wired network. Nvidia introduced a similar feature in its previous chipsets, when it introduced two Gigabit Ethernet connectors for a virtual 2 GB data transfer rate. The higher-end P45-DQ6 also comes with full support for Intel's 45-nanometer processors running at FSB speeds of 1600 MHz. Unfortunately, memory support is limited to the already obsolete DDR2-1200 modules. Other worth-mentioning features are the Gigabyte patented Dynamic Energy Saver technology as well as two PCI-Express 2.0 x16 slots. Since it's a high-end offering, Gigabyte rigged the motherboard with a full-copper cooling system, AMD's CrossFire support and a decent 7.1 channel integrated audio solution. The motherboard comes with SATA-II connectivity (10 ports), able to deliver peak transfer rates of up to 3 Gbps. Although the P45-DQ6 is completely functional, with sample units shipping for a long time now, there is no official release date yet. This is mostly due to the fact that Intel [did not release the chipset](#) as of the moment of writing, probably because it wants to properly introduce its last unit to support the LGA775 socket.