# Network Audio DAC (DMS) vs. USB DAC (DMC)

"I'm confused! Don't both connect to a computer?  What's the difference?"

It is confusing!  There are big difference and they do both connect to a computer, albeit differently.  To determine what's best for you, ask yourself this one simple question; *do you want or prefer a computer directly in your audio system?*

**IF YES**, you're a USB DAC person.  This means you connect your computer directly to the DAC via a short USB cable.  Therefore, the computer MUST be right next to your audio system.  Our DAC-200ts, DMC-600, & DMC-600SE are designed specifically for this purpose (The DMC-600 & 600SE product has the added benefit of a built in CD transport). To get the most from the DAC, you have to install the DAC's custom driver on the computer as well as a third party media player suite.  Only one computer can be connected to a USB DAC at any given time.  To control the playback of the music, you must do so from the computer itself, or perhaps via the chosen media player app, if one is available.

**IF YOU ANSWERED NO**, you're a Network Audio DAC person.  This means you connect the Network Audio DAC (also referred to as a network audio player, network audio streamer, streaming DAC, etc.) to your home network.  A units like our DMS-500, DMS-550, DMS-600 can connect to your network router either wirelessly or wired.  Your computer(s) are also connected to your network router, thus creating a home network.  Once your network is setup to share (stream) music, the network audio DAC can access and playback music stored on multiple computers or NAS drives connected to your network.  With this configuration, your computer(s) don't have to be anywhere near your audio system since the music is transmitted to the network audio DAC over the home network.  Some find this to be a "cleaner" solution to accessing and playing digital music files since control is done via the network audio DAC itself and or its iOS and Android apps (not directly from the computer).  However, you must have a good understanding of third party server software and networks.

So, it's about preferred location of the computer(s), how to access control of the music, and the delivery method of the digital bits to the DAC…USB cable vs. Network Ethernet Cable (or Wireless).  Both methods can deliver outstanding performance.  It all boils down to personal preferences and one's own comfort zone and savviness local USB computer vs. networked computers