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Platform: Windows Server Home Lab Project

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Installing Windows Server 2019 on WMware Workstation Pro 17

1. Introduction

This documentation provides a step-by-step guide for installing **Windows Server 2019** on **VMware Workstation**. It is designed for IT support, system administration students, and beginners preparing for hands-on server experience.

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2. Requirements

2.1 Hardware Requirements

Component	Minimum Requirement
Processor	64-bit CPU, 1.4 GHz or faster
RAM	At least 4 GB (8 GB recommended)
Storage	Minimum 60 GB free space
Virtualization	Intel VT-x / AMD-V enabled

2.2 Software Requirements

- VMware Workstation Pro installed
- Windows Server 2019 ISO file (Standard/Datacenter Evaluation from Microsoft)

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3. Steps to Install Windows Server 2019 on VMware

Step 1: Open VMware Workstation

1. Launch **VMware Workstation**.
2. Click **Create a New Virtual Machine**.

Step 2: Choose Configuration

1. Select **Typical (recommended)** → Click **Next**.

Figure 1: New Virtual Machine Wizard configuration.

Step 3: Insert ISO Image Option

1. Choose **I will install operating system later.**
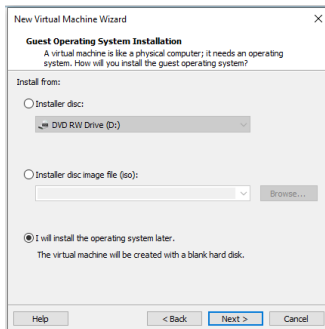
2. Click **Next**.

Figure 2: ISO Image Option selection

I will install operating system later was selected because inserting the ISO Image Option sometimes does not work. Therefore, ISO Image will be inserted late on.

Step 4: Select Guest Operating System

1. Choose:

   o **Microsoft Windows**

   o Version: **Windows Server 2019**
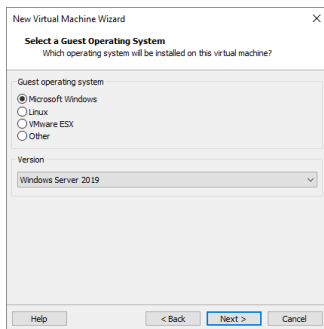
2. Click **Next**.

Figure 3: Selecting Windows Server 2019 as the Guest Operating System in VMware Workstation

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Step 5: Name the Virtual Machine

1. Enter a name such as: **Windows Server 2019**

2. Choose VM installation location

3. Click **Next**.

Step 6: Configure Disk

1. Select **Store virtual disk as a single file**
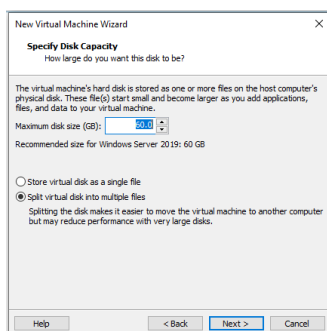
2. Set disk size: **60 GB**

3. Click **Next**.

Figure 4: Disk Configuration specification of disk capacity

4. Click **Finish.**

Step 7: Selecting the ISO Image file.

1. In VMware Workstation, select your virtual machine (Windows Server 2019).
2. Click **Edit virtual machine settings**.

3. In the **Hardware** tab, click **CD/DVD (SATA)** from the list of devices.
4. Ensure the device status:

   o **Connect at power on**

5. Under the **Connection** section, select the option:
   o **Use ISO image file**

6. Click **Browse...**
7. Navigate to the folder where the Windows Server 2019 ISO file was downloaded (e.g., Downloads folder).
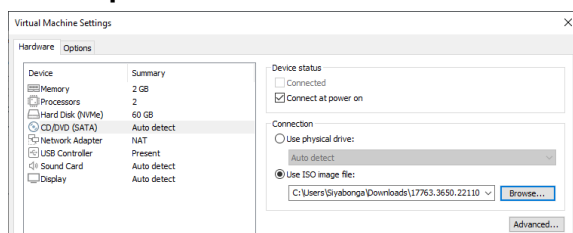8. Select the ISO file
9. Click **Open**.

Figure 5: Selecting the ISO Image file

Step 8: Confirm and Apply the Settings

1. After the ISO file is selected, verify that the file path appears next to **Use ISO image file**.
2. Click **OK** to save the configuration.

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4. Installing Windows Server 2019 Inside VM

Step 1: Start VM

1. Click **Power on this virtual machine**

Step 2: Begin Installation

1. Select language, time, and keyboard layout

2. Click **Next → Install Now**

Step 3: Choose Server Edition

Available:

- **Server Core**

- **Server with Desktop Experience (recommended)**

Select **Desktop Experience** → Click **Next**

Step 4: Accept License Terms

Check **I accept** → Click **Next**

Step 5: Select Installation Type

Choose:

- **Custom: Install Windows only**

Step 6: Create Partition

1. Select the unallocated space

2. Click   **Next**
   Windows will start installing (this may take a few minutes).

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5. Initial Configuration

Step 1: Set Administrator Password

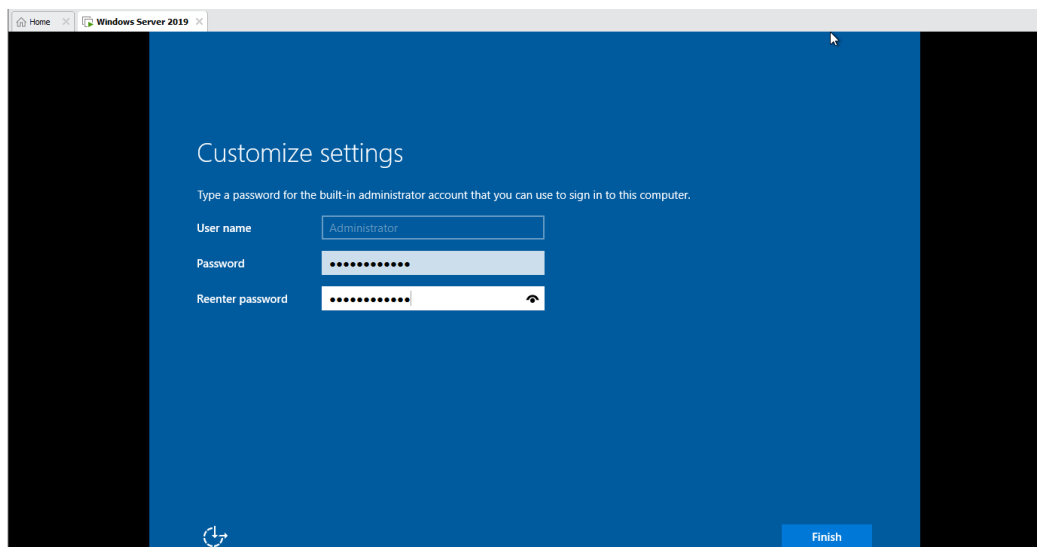After installation, set a strong Administrator password.

Figure 6: Administrator strong password setup.

Step 2: Login to Server

1. Press **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** in VMware

2. Log in using the Administrator account.

Step 3: Install VMware Tools

1. On the VMware menu, click **VM → Install VMware Tools**

2. Inside Windows Server, open the setup

3. Choose **Typical Installation**

4. Restart the VM

This improves:

- Mouse performance

- Display resolution

- Network drivers

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6. Post-Installation Tasks (Optional but Recommended)

Task	Purpose
Rename the server	Easier identification on network
Configure static IP	Required for server roles
Enable Remote Desktop	Remote management
Run Windows Update	Security patches
Add roles via Server Manager AD DS, DHCP, DNS, File Server etc.	

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7. Conclusion

You have successfully installed **Windows Server 2019 on VMware**. This setup is ideal for IT labs, studying server administration, practicing Active Directory, DNS, DHCP, Group Policy, and more.