**Initial Server Setup (Windows Server 2025 Standard)**

**What is This About?**

The initial setup is the foundation of every enterprise Windows Server deployment. It involves preparing the machine to serve in a secure, controlled, and scalable way within an IT infrastructure.

**Why is This Important in Real-World Environments?**

* Prevents misconfigurations that lead to **vulnerabilities**
* Sets the stage for **Active Directory**, DNS, DHCP, File Servers
* Establishes **network identity** and **admin controls**
* A solid initial setup prevents lateral movement, unauthorized access, and instability

**How It Helps Protect an organization**

| **Misstep** | **Risk** | **Secure Setup Fix** |
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| Default admin name | Targeted attacks like brute force | Rename and disable defaults |
| No firewall hardening | Open ports to attackers | Controlled rule sets |
| Weak passwords | Easy privilege escalation | Group password policies |
| Dynamic IP for server | DNS failures / spoofing | Static IP for consistency |

**My Home Lab Setup:**

| **Item** | **Value** |
| --- | --- |
| **Server OS** | Windows Server 2025 Standard |
| **Host Machine** | Personal Laptop |
| **Virtualization** | Hyper-V |
| **Static IP** | 192.168. XX. XX |
| **Server Name** | PRK-SRV01 |
| **Domain** | xyz.local |

**Step-by-Step: What I Did**

**Renamed Server and Set Hostname:**

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