2.1.3 Server 2012 Installation Facts

Make sure you choose the Windows Server 2012 R2 edition that meets your organization's needs. The following table lists the Windows Server 2012 R2 editions.

Edition	Features
Foundation Edition	The Foundation edition is a scaled-down version of the server operating system. It is used for small businesses and supports most server roles. The Foundation edition supports: • One CPU socket and up to 32 GB of RAM • Up to 15 users • Up to 30 simultaneous SMB network connections Foundation does *not* support: • Server Core installation • Hyper-V virtualization • Server clustering
Essentials Edition	The Essentials edition provides Foundation edition features and additional hardware and role support. The Essentials edition supports: • Two CPU sockets and up to 64 GB of RAM • Up to 25 user accounts • Up to 50 computer accounts • Up to 16777216 simultaneous SMB network connections Essentials does *not* support: • Server Core installation • Hyper-V virtualization • Server clustering
Standard Edition	The Standard edition is available for medium and large businesses. The Standard edition supports: • Up to 64 CPU sockets and 4 TB of RAM • Up to 16777216 simultaneous SMB network connections • Server Core installation • Hyper-V—two Hyper-V guest OS sessions using the same license key as the host • Server clustering—up to 64 nodes per cluster
Datacenter Edition	The Datacenter edition is designed to support very large enterprises. The Datacenter edition supports: • Up to 64 CPU sockets and 4 TB of RAM • Up to 16777216 simultaneous SMB network connections • Server Core installation • Hyper-V—unlimited Hyper-V guest OS sessions using the host's license key • Server clustering—up to 64 nodes per cluster

Both the Standard and the Datacenter editions of Server 2012 are available in two variations:

- **Server with a GUI** installs the server with a full graphical user interface. This option is the easier one to manage because it provides a wide array of graphical management tools. However, it requires more system resources (hard disk, processor, and RAM).
- **Server Core** offers the same functionality as the Server with a GUI option, but without a graphical user interface. As a result, it requires fewer system resources and offers improved performance over the Server with a GUI option. However, it is harder to manage because there is no graphical desktop. Instead, you must use the following to manage the system:
  - PowerShell cmdlets
  - Remote MMCs running on a management system somewhere else in the network

The following table identifies the minimum requirements for all editions of Windows Server 2012 R2..

Component	Minimum
CPU	1.4GHz (x64)

RAM	512 MB
Free space for System Volume	32 GB

Once the operating system has been installed, Server Manager opens automatically when you log on. Use Server Manager to:

- Provide a computer name
- Set the time zone
- Configure network settings