1.2.2 Windows Server 2012 User Interface Facts

Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2 use Server Manager to manage the system from a graphical administration console. It also provides the PowerShell command line environment that can be used to manage the system using a non-graphical user interface. You can configure and manage either the local server or remote servers using Server Manager or Windows PowerShell.

The following table describes the tools used to administer Windows Server 2012 or Windows Server 2012 R2:

Tool	Description
Server Manager	After installing Windows Server 2012 R2, use Server Manager to set up the server as follows: 1. Configure this local server. 2. Add roles and features. 3. Create a server group (Optional). Options available from the Manage menu are: ▪ Add Roles and Features ▪ Remove Roles and Features ▪ Add Servers ▪ Create Server Group ▪ Server Manager Properties Server management tools are accessed through the Tools menu. Tools are automatically added to the Tools menu when additional server roles and services are installed. Roles and Server Groups display the status of each server and role. The status refresh time can be configured in Manage > Server Manager Properties. A server, server group, or role displayed in red indicates a problem. The following information displays for the local server, all servers, and installed roles: ▪ Manageability ▪ Events ▪ Services (if applicable) ▪ Performance ▪ BPA results

PowerShell	Windows PowerShell is a command-line shell scripting language that allows you to administer, maintain, and configure the system. Designed especially for system administration, Windows PowerShell uses *cmdlets* to control and automate the administration of the Windows operating system and applications that run on Windows. PowerShell:
	
	▪ Is built on the .NET Framework.
	▪ Automates administrative tasks.
	▪ Uses PowerShell commands called cmdlets that:
	  ▪ Allow you to manage the system from a command line.
	  ▪ Use a verb and a noun separated by a hyphen. For example, **Get-Help**, **Get-Process**, and **Start-Service**.
	  ▪ Can execute single commands or large scripts.
	  ▪ Allow you to string together the actions of two or more cmdlets, known as *pipelining* or *piping*. In pipelining, output from one cmdlet is sent to the input of another cmdlet.
	
	    PowerShell provides help for each cmdlet using the **Get-Help** cmdlet. You can use the **Update-Help** cmdlet to download and install the newest versions of help topics for modules installed on your computer.

Windows Server 2012 uses the Metro interface introduced in Windows 8. Windows Server 2012 R2 uses the Windows 8.1 interface. The following table identifies interface elements used to navigate Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2:

Interface Element	Description
Start Screen	Tiles on the Start screen allow you to access Computer, Control Panel, Server Manager, and the desktop. You can pin tiles on the Start screen for the following items: ▪ Desktop applications ▪ Apps ▪ Snap-ins

	For Windows Server 2012, you can access the Start screen by moving the mouse pointer to the lower-left corner or by pressing the Windows logo key. You can return to the desktop by pressing the ESC key or clicking the desktop tile. For Windows Server 2012 R2, you can access the Start screen by clicking the Start Button.
Start Button	Windows Server 2012 does not have a Start Button. Most of the functionality of the Start Button is included in the Charms menu on the right. For Windows Server 2012 R2, the Start button is back on the Taskbar in its usual location. However, the functionality of the Start button in Windows Server 2012 R2 has changed in the following ways: - Clicking the Start button switches the system from the desktop environment to the Metro environment and displays the Start screen. - Right-clicking the Start button displays a pop-up menu with links to the following: - Programs and Features - Power Options - Event Viewer - System - Device Manager - Network Connections - Disk Management - Computer Management - Command Prompt (standard or elevated permissions) - Task Manager - Control Panel - File Explorer - Search - Run - Shut down, sign out, or restart - Desktop
Charms Menu	Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2 use a Charms menu. When you move the mouse pointer to the upper-right or lower-right corner of the screen, the Charms menu displays the following options: **Search** locates items matching searched keywords and displays the results below the Search box. **Start** returns to the start screen. **Settings** is divided into two parts: - At the top of the panel you can access: - Desktop - Control Panel - Personalization - Server info - Help - At the bottom of the panel you can access: - Network - Sound - Screen brightness - Notifications - Power options - Keyboard options

Windows Server 2012 R2 is available in four editions:

- Windows Server 2012 Foundation
- Windows Server 2012 Essentials
- Windows Server 2012 Standard
- Windows Server 2012 Datacenter