## Introduction to Windows Server

Introduction. Installation Options. Basic Tasks



**SoftUni Team Technical Trainers** 







**Software University** 

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WindowsSystemAdministrationMarch2023/

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## Why Windows (Server)?



- More than 30 years on the market
  - Went all the way from a GUI shell to a full operating system
- Can be seen in (almost) every company
  - It covers wide range of company sizes and industries
- Offers many features out-of-the box
- There is big demand for Windows skills
- Learning is relatively easy, but can be challenging as well ©

## Only Windows (Server)?



- The short answer is NO
- Additional solutions by Microsoft
  - Exchange Server, MS SQL Server, SharePoint, ...
- Plus, solutions by other vendors
  - Relational databases, CRM, ERP, ...
- And finally, the real life is heterogeneous / complex
  - So should be our skill-set



## **Early Years**



- Windows 1.0, 11.1985
  - Initial release, graphical shell for MSDOS
- Windows 2.0, 12.1987
  - Excel and Word for Windows, including 3<sup>rd</sup> party applications
- Windows 3.0, 05.1990
  - Better multitasking, multimedia support, supports 8086/286/386
- Windows 3.1, 04.1992
  - TrueType fonts, removed RealMode, support only for 80286/386

#### **NT** Birth



- Windows NT3.1, 07-08.1993
  - Completely rewritten, stand-alone, Win32 API, LAN support
- Windows 95, 08.1995
  - Mixed code base 16/32-bit, partial adoption of Win32 API
- Windows NT4.0, 07.1996
  - Improvements over NT3.x, Explorer shell from Windows 95
- Windows 98, 06.1998
  - FAT32, USB support

### Millennium Era



- Windows 2000 (Server), 02.2000
  - Active Directory, Terminal Services, DirectX, Windows Media Player, No product activation
- Windows ME, 09.2000
  - System Restore, Windows Media Player 7, Internet Explorer 5.5
- Windows XP, 10.2001
  - First NT based consumer Windows OS
- Windows Server 2003, 04.2003
  - Configuration wizard, 32- and 64-bit offering

### **Last 10+ Years**



- Windows Vista, 01.2007 and Windows Server 2008, 02.2008
  - PowerShell, User Access Control (UAC)
- Windows 7, 10.2009 and Windows Server 2008 R2, 2009
  - Multi-touch, improved booting and UAC. Client 32/64-bit, Server 64-bit
- Windows 8, 10.2012 and Windows Server 2012, 09.2012
  - New UI, USB 3.0, Windows Store
- Windows 8.1, 10.2013 and Windows Server 2012 R2, 10.2013
- Windows 10, 07.2015 and Windows Server 2016, 09.2016
  - Cortana, Edge, Windows Subsystem for Linux, last major version to be released

## Windows Versions (partial list)

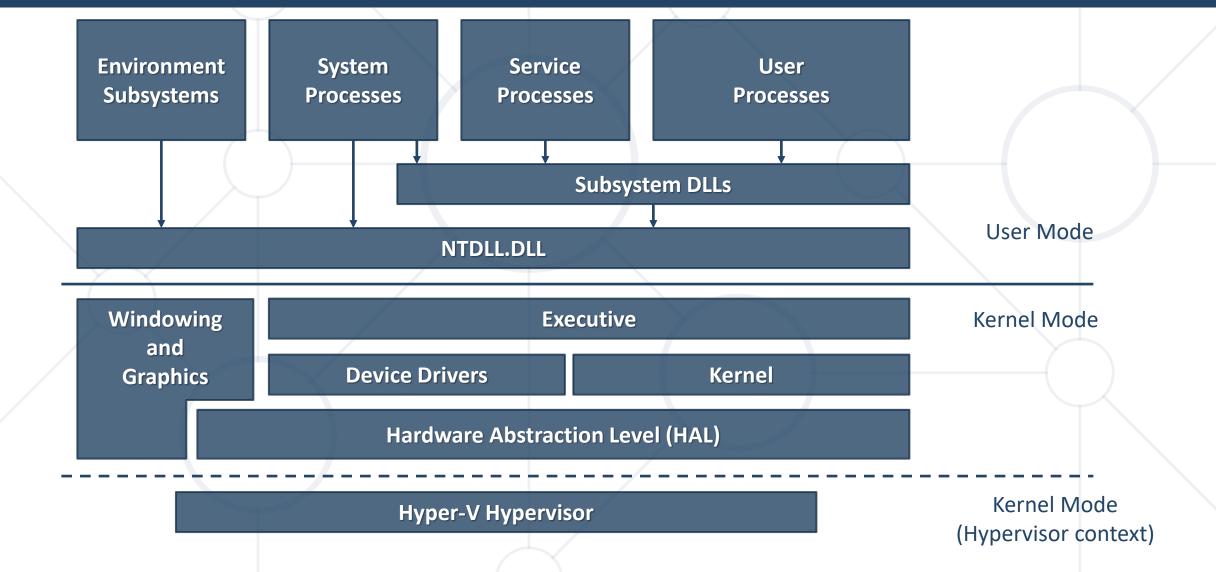


NT10.0	Windows Server 2016/2019/2022 *	Windows 10/11 *
NT6.3	Windows Server 2012 R2	Windows 8.1
NT6.2	Windows Server 2012	Windows 8
NT6.1	Windows Server 2008 R2	Windows 7
NT6.0	Windows Server 2008	Windows Vista
NT5.2	Windows Server 2003 (R2)	Windows XP Professional 64-bit
NT5.1		Windows XP
NT5.0	Windows 2000	Windows Server Professional
4.90	-	Windows ME
4.10		Windows 98
NT4.0	Windows NT 4.0	Windows NT 4.0 Workstation
4.0	-	Windows 95



### **Architecture Overview**





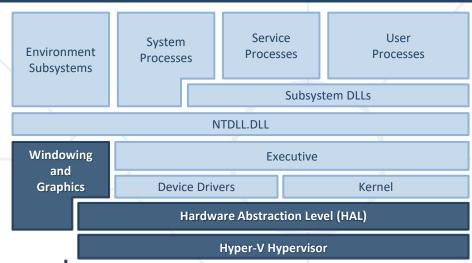
MS Press Book: Windows Internals, Part 1, 7th Ed.

## Kernel Mode Components (1) \*



#### Hypervisor layer

 Hypervisor is composed of multiple internal layers and services



#### Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL)

- Isolation layer between kernel, device drivers, and executive and the platform-specific hardware. It is implemented in the hal.dll
- Windowing and graphics system
  - Implements graphical user interface (GUI) functions, also known as the Windows USER and GDI functions

## Kernel Mode Components (2) \*



#### Device drivers

Both hardware and non-hardware device drivers

#### Service User System Environment **Processes** Processes Processes Subsystems Subsystem DLLs NTDLL.DLL Windowing Executive and **Graphics Device Drivers** Kernel Hardware Abstraction Level (HAL) Hyper-V Hypervisor

#### Kernel

Low-level OS functions such as thread scheduling,
 interrupt and exception dispatching, and multiprocessor synchronization

#### Executive

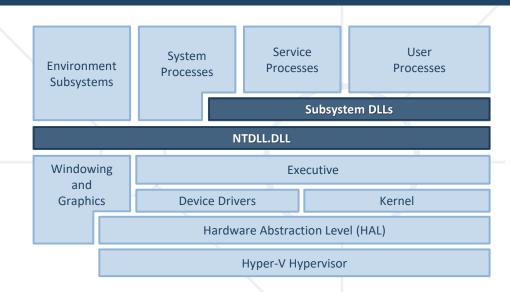
 Base OS services like memory management, process and thread management, security, I/O, networking, and IPC

## User Mode Components (1) \*



#### NTDLL.DLL

Exports the Windows Native API and it the interface used by user-mode components of the operating system that must run without support from Win32 or other API



#### Subsystem DLLs

Subsystem libraries implement various subsets of the Win32 API. Here we can find KERNEL32.DLL, USER32.DLL, GDI32.DLL, etc.

## User Mode Components (2) \*



#### Environment Subsystems

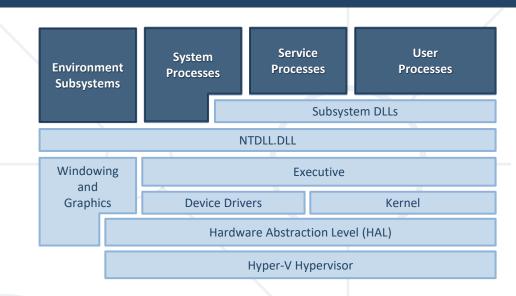
Originally shipped three subsystems:
 Windows, OS/2, and POSIX

#### System Processes

 Services like logon, not started by Service Control Manager

#### Service Processes

- Host Windows services, that run independently of user logons
- User Processes
  - Windows 32- or 64-bit processes





## Requirements



- CPU
  - 1.4 GHz 64-bit processor
  - NX, DEP, CMPXCHG16b, LAHF/SAHF, PrefetchW, SLAT (EPT or NPT)
- RAM
  - 512 MB\* (2 GB for Desktop Experience), ECC
- HDD
  - PCI Express compliant storage adapter
  - 32 GB\* system partition
- Network
  - One Ethernet adapter (at least Gigabit)

## **Editions and Limitations (1)**



#### Windows Server Essentials

- Purpose: Small businesses with basic IT requirements; very small or no IT department
- Virtualization: No, one physical or one virtual installation
- Licensing model: Server-based (up to 25 users and 50 devices)
- CAL requirements: No CAL required
- RAM limit: max. 64 GB
- CPU limit: max. 2 CPUs

- (!) Available only in 2016/2019
- (!!) In 2022 it is Standard with special license

## **Editions and Limitations (2)**



#### Windows Server Standard

- Purpose: For all companies that require advanced features and virtualize to a lesser extent
- Virtualization: 2 virtual machines or 2 Hyper-V Containers
- Licensing model: Core-based
- CAL requirements: Windows Server CAL (required for every user or device accessing a server)
- RAM limit: max. 24 TB (48 TB in 2022)
- CPU limit: max. 512 logical cores

## **Editions and Limitations (3)**



#### Windows Server Datacenter

- Purpose: For all companies with high requirements on IT workloads with large number of virtual systems
- Virtualization: Unlimited virtual machines and Hyper-V Containers
- Licensing model: Core-based
- CAL requirements: Windows Server CAL (required for every user or device accessing a server)
- RAM limit: max. 24 TB (48 TB in 2022)
- CPU limit: max. 512 logical cores

## Windows Server 2016 Changes \*



- Windows Server containers and Hyper-V containers
- Docker integration (for Windows and Linux containers)
- Rolling upgrades for Hyper-V and storage clusters
- Hot add/remove of virtual memory/network adapters from VM
- Nested virtualization (Intel only)
- PowerShell Direct and PowerShell DSC
- Nano Server (only for containers since Windows, version 1709+)

## Windows Server 2019 Changes \*

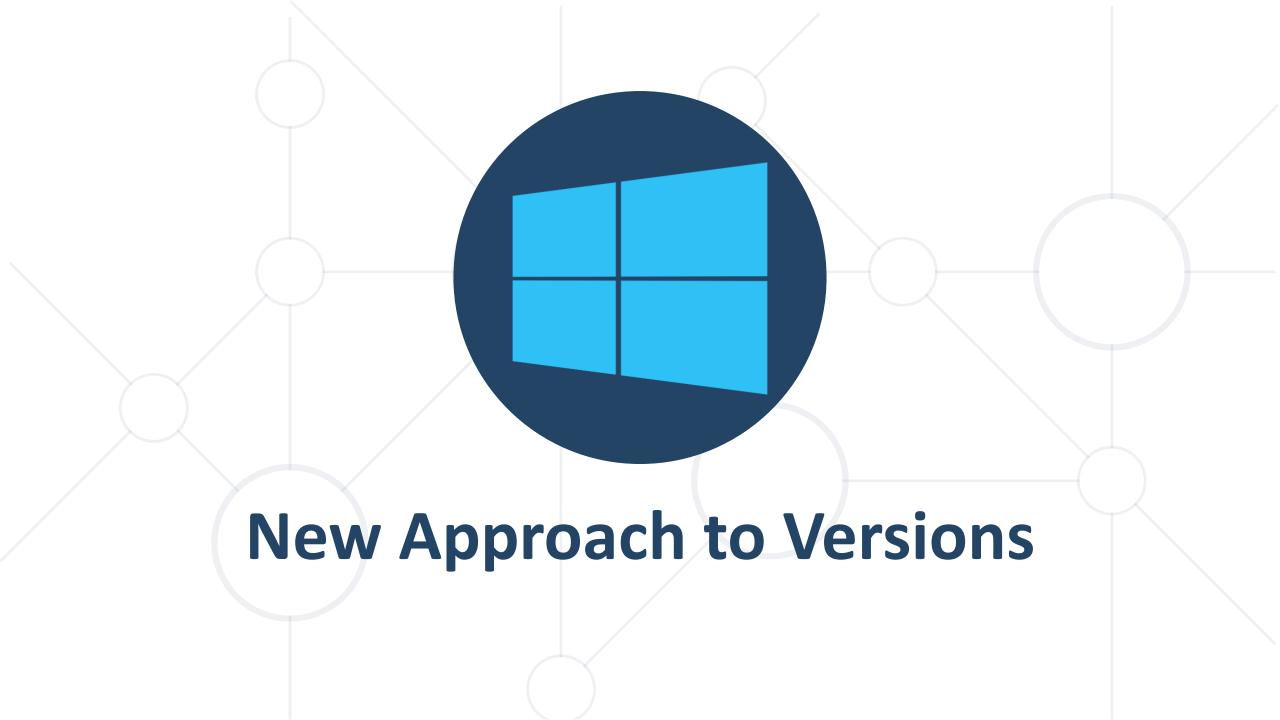


- General (GUI is still here)
- Hybrid Cloud
- Security (Windows Defender ATP, HTTP/2)
- Storage (Migration Service)
- Failover Clustering
- Application Platform (Linux Containers, Kubernetes)

## Windows Server 2022 Changes \*



- Improved security
- Improved network performance
- Even better cloud integration
- Container and Kubernetes related improvements
- Nested virtualization for AMD processors as well
- New edition Datacenter: Azure Edition
- New product Azure Stack HCI



# **Two Servicing Channels**



#### **Long-Term Servicing Channel**

- New release every 2-3 years
- Supported for 5 + 5 years
- All available editions
- Core and Desktop Experience
- Windows Server YYYY

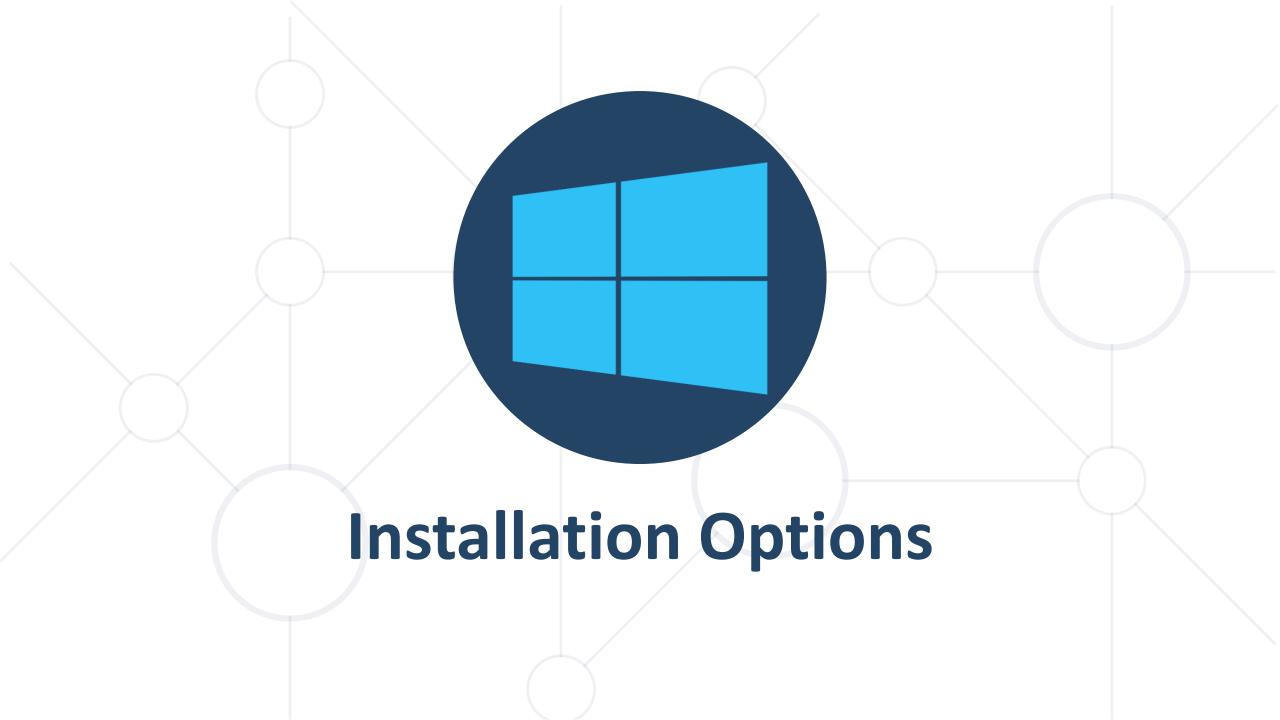
#### **Semi-Annual Channel**

- New release every 6 months
- Supported for 18 months
- Only Standard and Datacenter
- Core and Nano
- Windows Server, version YYMM





Time for a Break (and preparation for the next part)



### **Products and Editions Overview**



- Three Main Product Lines with Multiple Editions
  - Windows Server
    - Essentials
    - Standard
    - Datacenter
  - Windows Storage Server
    - Workgroup
    - Standard
  - Microsoft Hyper-V Server

Since version 2012. Not a separate product in 2022

OEM partners only 2012 (R2) / 2016

Since version 2008 R2. Last version is 2019

## **Installation Options**



- Target profile
  - Core, Desktop Experience, or Nano (only as container)
- Included features
  - Default or Customized
- Installation process
  - Interactive, Unattended, or Auto-deployed
- Target infrastructure
  - Bare metal (physical hardware) or Virtual machine

### Windows Server 2008 R2

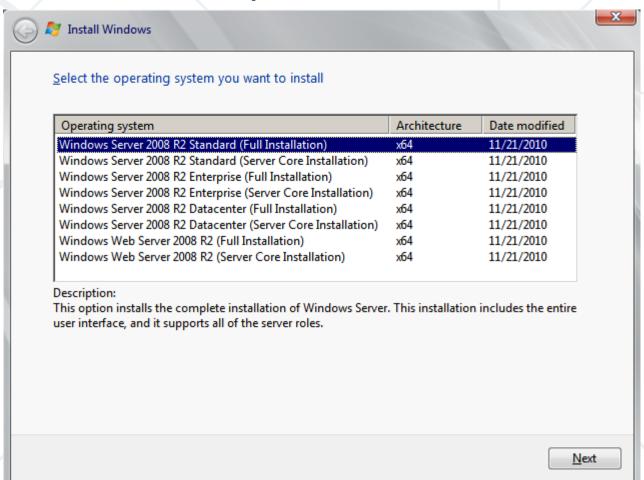


Editions: Foundation, Web, Standard, Enterprise, Datacenter,

Itanium, HPC

Options: Core, Full

Default: Full

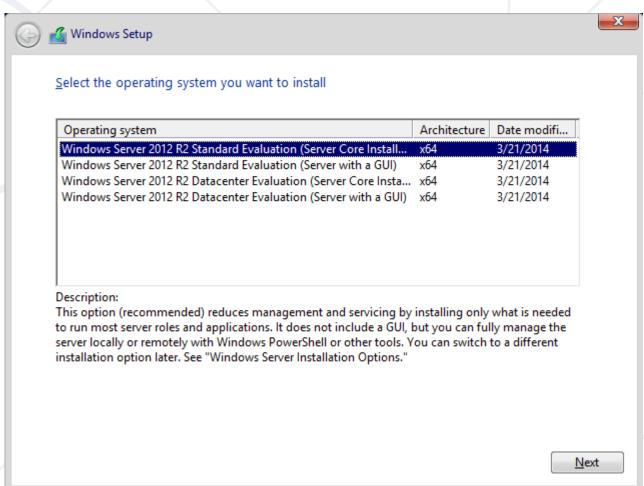


### Windows Server 2012 R2



Editions: Foundation, Essentials, Standard, Datacenter

- Options: Core, With GUI
- Default: Core

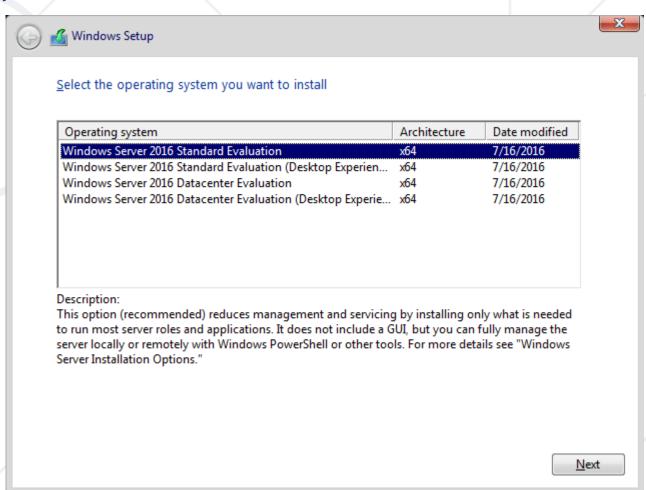


## Windows Server 2016



Editions: Essentials, Standard, Datacenter

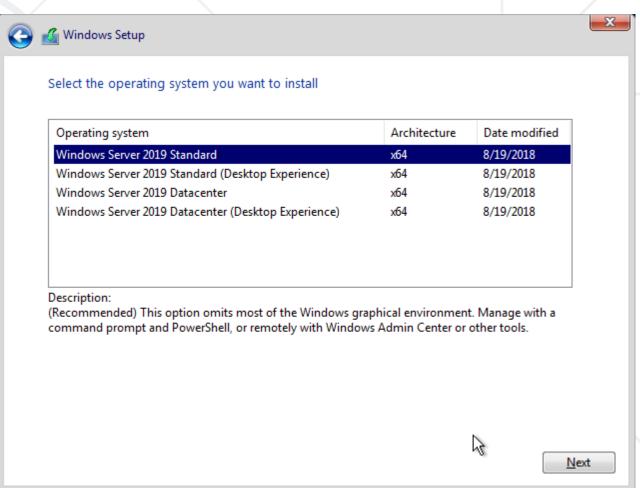
- Options: Core, With GUI
- Default: Core



### **Windows Server 2019**



- Editions: Essentials, Standard, Datacenter
- Options: Core, With GUI
- Default: Core

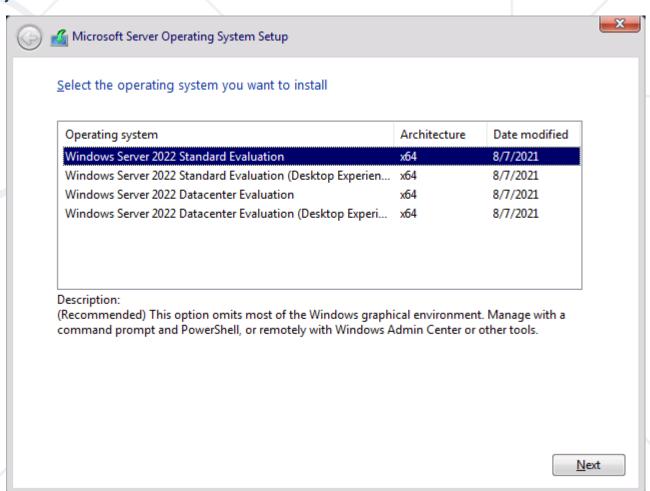


#### Windows Server 2022



Editions: Essentials, Standard, Datacenter

- Options: Core, With GUI
- Default: Core



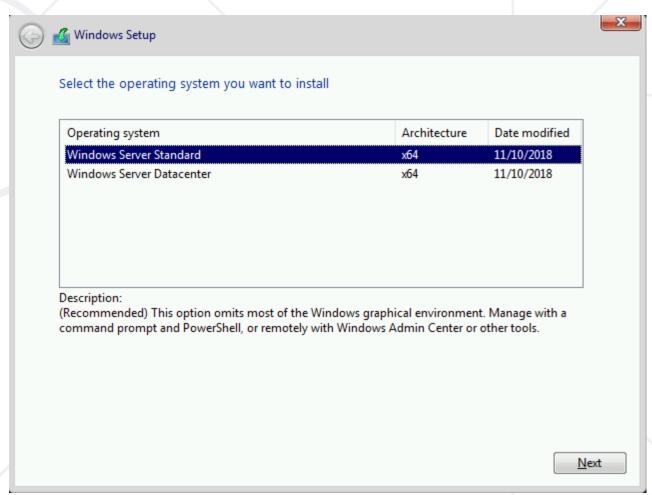
# Windows Server (Semi-Annual Channel)\*



Editions: Standard, Datacenter

Options: Core

Default: Core





# **State of Support**



Windows Server 2022	Supported
Windows Server 2019	Supported
Windows Server 2016	Supported
Windows Server 2012 R2	Until 10.10.2023
Windows Server 2012	Until 10.10.2023
Windows Server 2008 R2	Until 14.01.2020
Windows Server 2008	Until 14.01.2020

#### Many Ways to Get There



#### Clean Install

 Move from a previous version on the same hardware w/o keeping the data

#### In-place Upgrade

 Move from a previous version on the same hardware and keeping the data

#### Migration

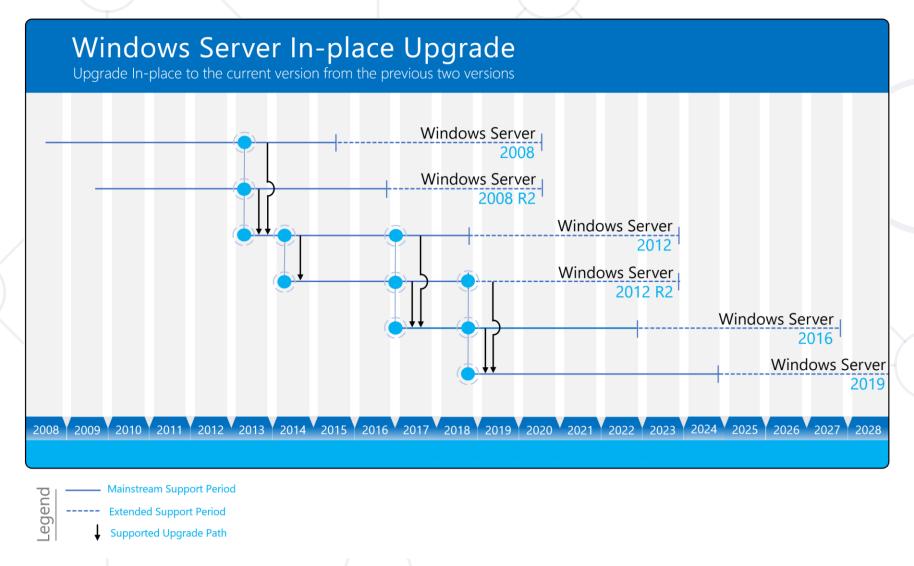
Move existing installation to a new hardware (or VM)

#### Cluster OS Rolling Upgrade

 Gradually upgrade of Windows Server 2012 R2 or Windows Server 2016 cluster nodes

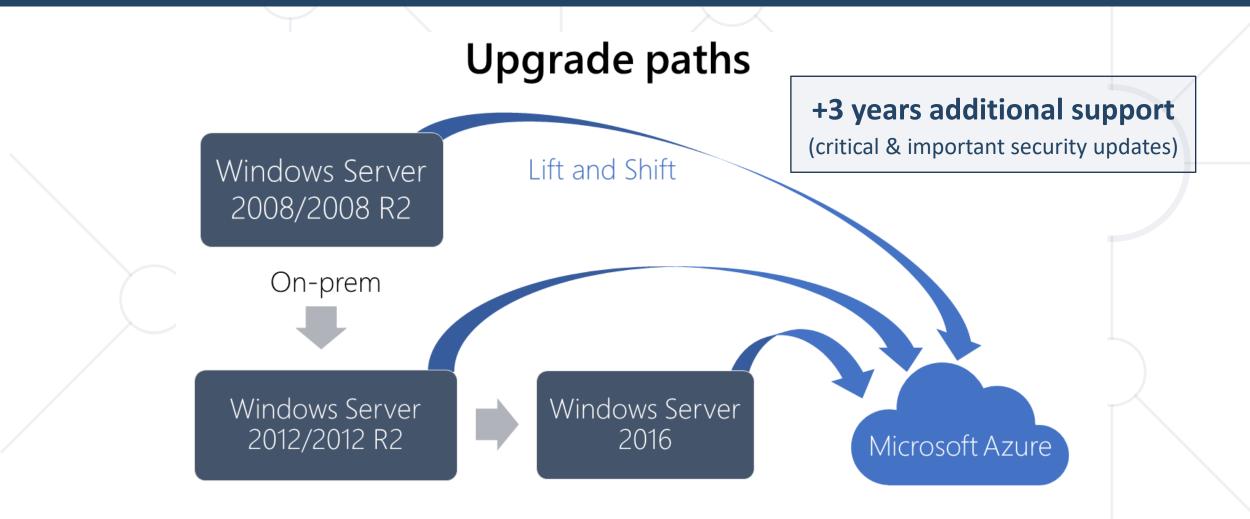
# In-place Upgrade Options





# Alternative Upgrade Options

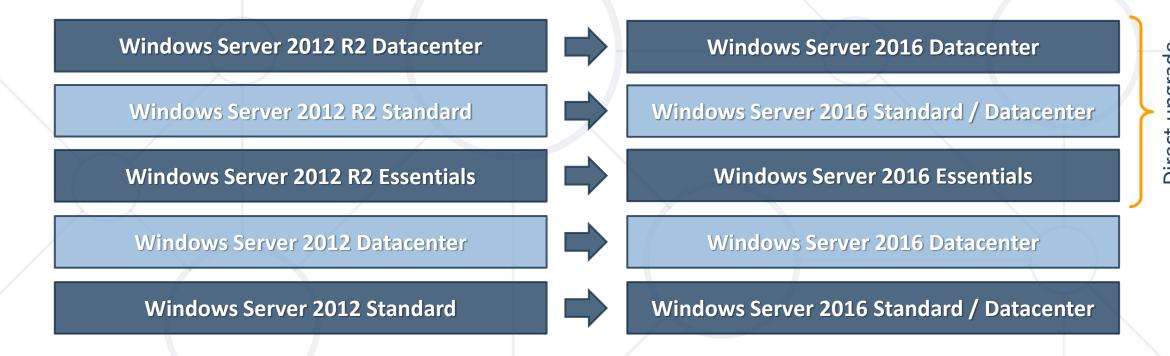




# Direct upgrade to 2019 is possible

# Upgrade Options - 2012 (R2) to 2016 (2019)





# **Upgrade Pitfalls**



- All editions of Windows Server 2016 / 2019 / 2022 are 64-bit
- No upgrade between language versions
- No upgrade between installation types (Core->GUI or vice versa)
- No direct upgrade from Windows Server 2008 (R2)
- Even if upgrade is supported, certain server roles may need reconfiguration
- Even though a valid option, sometimes a clean install is preferred



#### **License Types**



- Retail or Full Packaged Product (FPP) or "boxed"
  - We buy the product key, and we can transfer it to another computer, as long as we deactivate the old device.

#### Volume

It is designed for a large business, education, and government institutions. Usually, a Volume license allows organizations to use one master product key to activate any installation of the operating system. Volume license keys (VLK) may not be transferred with the computer if the computer changes ownership.

#### OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer)

 Product keys are issued by the manufacturer and cannot be sold or transferred to another computer. They may be transferred with the computer if the computer is transferred to new ownership.

#### **Product Activation**



- Microsoft Product Activation is a digital rights management (DRM) technology
- It is applicable to Windows, Windows Server, Office, etc.
- Prohibits or limits the product usage until the license is confirmed
- It is based on combined information coming from some hardware components and the product key
- Usually, a grace period is allowed which varies amongst products
- Reactivation will be required if a significant change in the hardware is detected, or the product key is changed
- Volume activation can be done in three ways Active Directory-based activation,
   Key Management Services (KMS) activation, Multiple Activation Key
   (MAK) activation

#### **Valid Conversions**



- Convert Evaluation edition to Retail edition
  - Standard (eval) to Standard (retail) or Datacenter (retail)
  - Datacenter (eval) to Datacenter (retail)
- Switch between Licensing Schemes
  - Choose from retail, volume-licensing, and OEM
- Prior to 14393.0.161119-1705.RS1\_REFRESH, conversion from evaluation to retail was supported only for installations with Desktop Experience option

#### **Conversion Related Commands**



Check current license

Determine current edition

```
C:\> dism /OnLine /Get-CurrentEdition
```

Change the edition

```
C:\> dism /OnLine /Set-Edition:<EID> /ProductKey:<KEY> /AcceptEULA
```

Convert between licensing schemes (retail, volume, OEM)



# Practice: Windows Server Installation Live Demonstration in Class



Approaches. Tools. Tasks

#### **Approaches and Tools**



- Approaches
  - Local or Remote
  - Standalone or Centralized
  - GUI Applications or Command Line Tools
- Tools
  - Command Line Tools net, wmic, PowerShell cmdlets, ...
  - Microsoft Management Console Snap-ins (\*.msc)
  - Control Panel Applets (\*.cpl)
  - ServerManager.exe
  - Windows Admin Center

# **Typical Tasks**



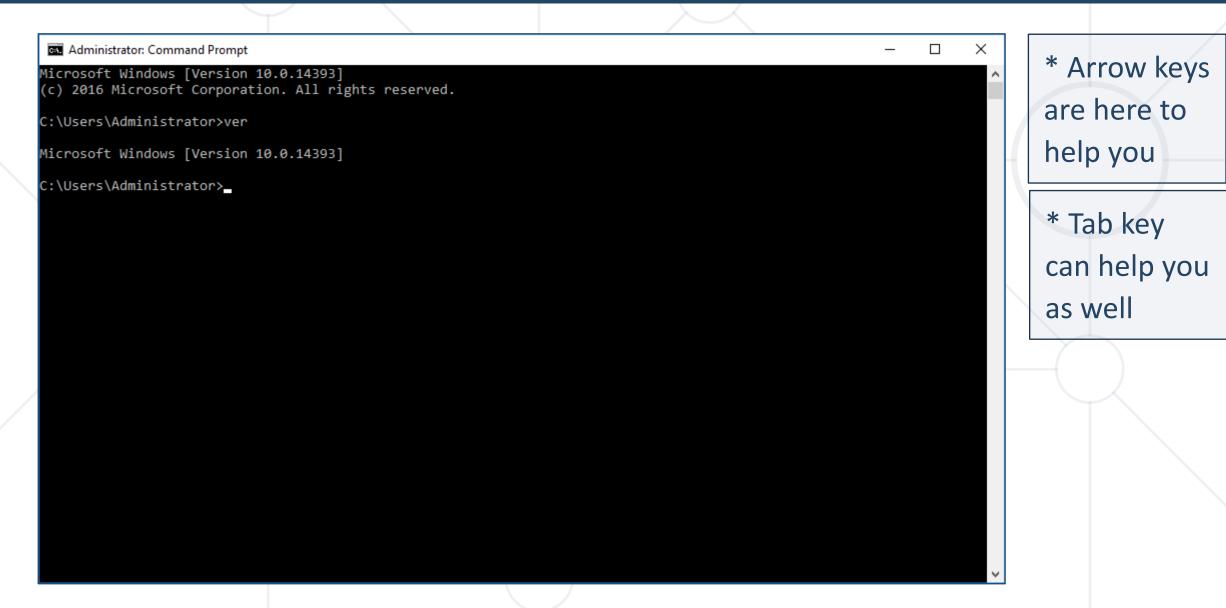
- General System Settings
  - Name, Date and Time, ...
- Hardware Management
  - Disks, Networking, Printers, ...
- Users and Groups Management
- Software Management
  - Installation and/or Modification, Applying Updates
- Services Management
- Monitoring



# Look and Feel. Basic Commands

# Command Shell (cmd.exe)





#### **Looking for Help**



Internal Commands

```
C:\> help
C:\> help ver
```

Internal and External Commands

```
C:\> dir /?
C:\> net /?
```

Some External Commands

```
C:\> net help [sub-command]
```

#### **Know the Environment**



Get list of environment variables and their values

```
C:\> set
...
COMPUTERNAME=WIN-8U972IB04EE
ComSpec=C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
HOMEDRIVE=C:
...
```

Show variable value

C:\> echo %COMPUTERNAME%

#### winver.exe



- Description
  - Display information about Windows version
- Example

:: Display dialog with Windows version

C:\> winver

# systeminfo.exe



- Description
  - Display operating system information configuration information for a local or remote machine, including service pack levels
- Example

:: Display operating system information

C:\> systeminfo

#### shutdown.exe



- Description
  - Power-off or restart the system. Log-off the logged user
- Example

```
:: Turn off the computer
C:\> shutdown /p
:: Shutdown the computer after 15 seconds
C:\> shutdown /s /t 15
:: Abort system shutdown during the time-out period
C:\> shutdown /a
```

#### net.exe



- Description
  - Used for managing users, groups, shares, ...
- Example

```
:: List local users
C:\> net user
:: List local groups
C:\> net localgroup
:: Show user information
C:\> net user administrator
```

#### More Examples: net.exe



- Add local user
  - C:\> net user developer Password1 /add
- Delete local user
  - C:\> net user developer /delete
- Add local group with comment
  - C:\> net localgroup Developers /add /comment:"..."
- Add user to a group
  - C:\> net localgroup Developers developer /add

#### wmic.exe



- Description
  - Windows Management Instrumentation Command-line
- Example

```
:: List local users
C:\> wmic useraccount list brief
:: List local groups
C:\> wmic group list brief
:: Lock/unlock user account
C:\> wmic useraccount where name='username' set
disabled={true|false}
```

# More Examples: wmic.exe



Rename computer

```
C:\> wmic computersystem
  where name="%computername%"
  call rename name="MY-SERVER"
```

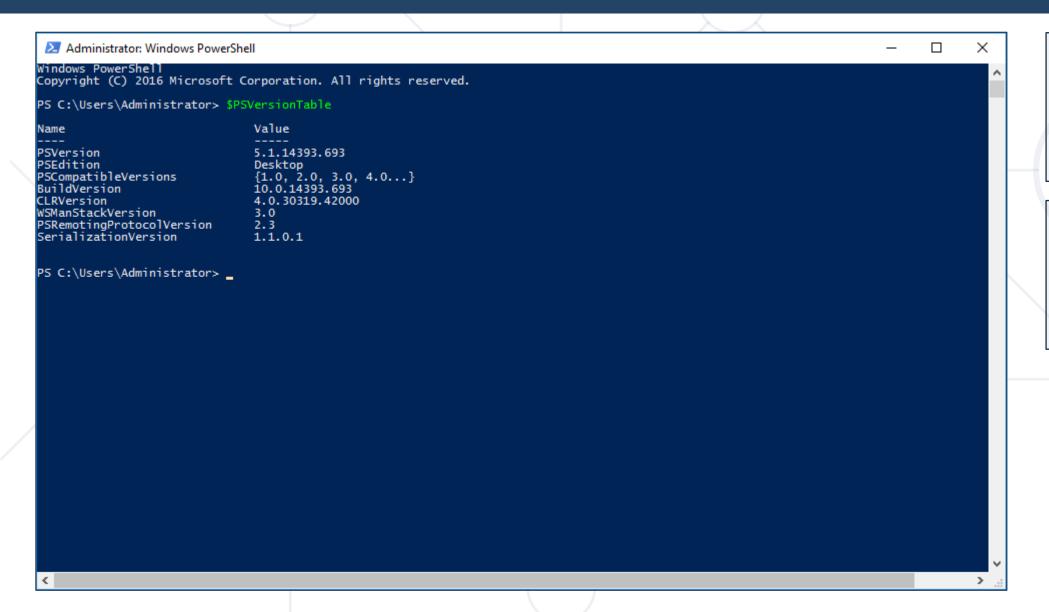
Change computer workgroup

C:\> wmic computersystem
 where name="%computername%"
 call joindomainorworkgroup name="WSA"



#### PowerShell (powershell.exe)





\* Arrow keys are here to help you

\* Tab key is your best friend ©

#### **Update-Help**



- Description
  - Update help information
- Example

```
PS C:\> Update-Help
...
Updating Help for module ...
...
```

#### **Get-Help**



- Description
  - Show help information about cmdlet
- Example

```
# Get brief help about Update-Help cmdlet
PS C:\> Get-Help Update-Help
# Get very detailed help about Update-Help cmdlet
PS C:\> Get-Help Update-Help -Full
# Get examples about Update-Help cmdlet
PS C:\> Get-Help Update-Help -Examples
```

#### **Get-Command**



- Description
  - Show list of all commands that are installed on the system
- Example

```
# List of all commands in a module
PS C:\> Get-Command -Module *LocalAccounts
# List of all command with specific action
PS C:\> Get-Command -Verb Set
# List of all commands containing specific word
PS C:\> Get-Command -Name *Time*
```

#### **Show-Command**



- Description
  - Display dialog window to build a command
- Example

```
# Construct command for Get-Help cmdlet
PS C:\> Show-Command Get-Help
...
PS C:\> Get-Help -Category Cmdlet^M
...
```

#### **Add-Computer**



- Description
  - Add local or remote computer to a domain or workgroup
- Example

```
# Add local computer to a workgroup
PS C:\> Add-Computer -WorkGroupName MY-GROUP
...
```

# Rename-Computer



- Description
  - Rename local or remote computer
- Example

```
# Rename local computer
PS C:\> Rename-Computer - NewName MY-SERVER
...
```

# **ConvertTo-SecureString**



- Description
  - Convert encrypted standard or plain string to secure string
- Example

```
# Convert plain-text string to secure string
PS C:\> ConvertTo-SecureString -AsPlain "Password1"
-Force
...
```

# **New-LocalUser**



- Description
  - Create a local user account
- Example

```
# Add a local user
PS C:\> New-LocalUser -Name Admin -Password (ConvertTo-
SecureString -AsPlain "Password1" -Force)
...
```

# New-LocalGroup



- Description
  - Create a local group
- Example

```
# Add a local group
PS C:\> New-LocalGroup -Name LocalAdmins
...
```

# Add-LocalGroupMember



- Description
  - Add user or group as member of a local group.
- Example

```
# Add two users to a local group
PS C:\> Add-LocalGroupMember -Group LocalAdmins -Member
Admin1, Admin2
...
```



# Practice: Basic Administration Tasks Live Demonstration in Class

# Summary



- Windows Server has huge install base
- Still many installations of 2008 (R2) / 2012 (R2)
- Latest version is Windows Server 2022
- There are three license offerings
- Installations vary by License level and Installation type
- There are different upgrade paths
- Upgrade is not always the best option
- System Administration can be
  - Local or Remote
  - GUI or Command Line Tools



#### Resources



- Windows Server Documentation
   <a href="https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/">https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/</a>
- Microsoft Evaluation Center (for Windows ISO download)
   <a href="https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/evalcenter/">https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/evalcenter/</a>
- Windows Server Feature Comparison (2008 R2 2019)
   <a href="https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/cloud-platform/windows-server-comparison">https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/cloud-platform/windows-server-comparison</a>
- Windows Server 2016 Products and Editions
   <a href="https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/get-started/2016-edition-comparison">https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/get-started/2016-edition-comparison</a>
- Windows Server 2019 Products and Editions
   <a href="https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/get-started-19/editions-comparison-19">https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/get-started-19/editions-comparison-19</a>
- Get started with Windows Server Essentials
   <a href="https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server-essentials/get-started/get-started">https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server-essentials/get-started/get-started</a>





# Questions?

















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