Creating Data to be Fed to an NLB Cluster

NLB manages traffic to each host on the cluster by distributing the client requests as per the rules configured for the cluster. The client requests can be from a single client or from multiple clients. Hosts on the cluster receive requests and respond according to configuration rules specified for each of them. In this exercise, you will create data feed for the NLB cluster you created, configured, and augmented in the previous exercises.

To get a better understanding of this technology, please refer to your course material or use your preferred search engine to research this topic in more detail.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this exercise, you will be able to:

- Create data to be fed to an NLB cluster

Your Devices

You will be using the following devices in this lab. Please make sure these are powered on before proceeding.

- **PLABDC01** (Domain Controller - Windows Server 2019)
- **PLABSA01** (Member Server - Windows Server 2019)

PLABDC01
Domain Controller
192.168.0.2/24

PLABSA01
Member Server
192.168.0.4/24

Task 1 - Study the Working of an NLB Cluster

NLB speeds up data transfer from client to server by routing packets of the same data through different hosts on the cluster. These packets then converge at the requesting host. In this task, you will create two separate web pages on the two hosts on the NLB cluster. Then you will access the web page on the cluster browser and differentiate how the client requests converge from both the hosts on the cluster.

To study the working of an NLB cluster, perform the following steps:

Step 1

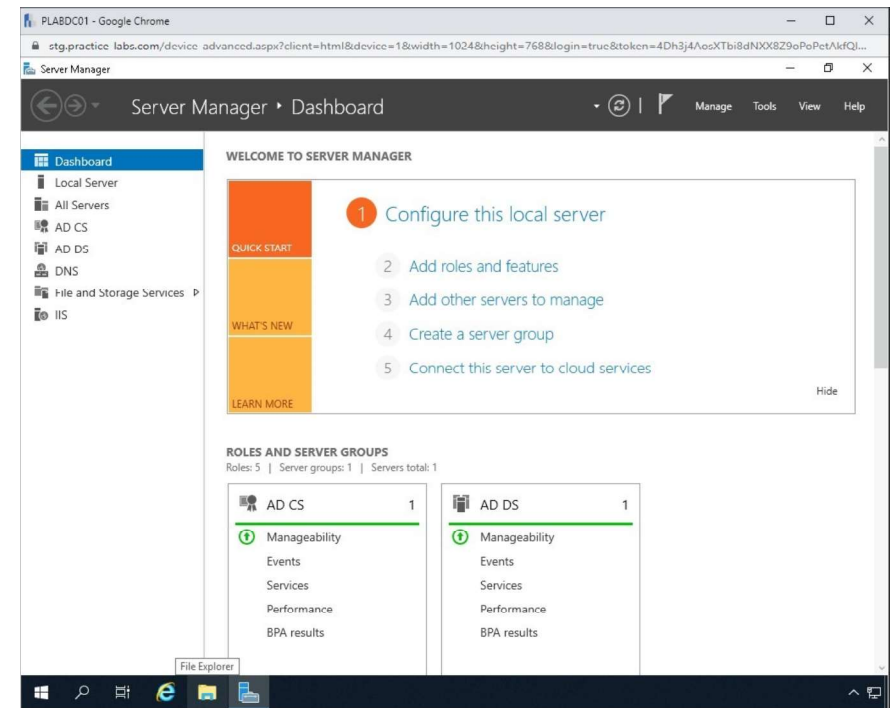Switch to **PLABDC01**.

Click **File Explorer** on the taskbar.

Figure 4.1 Screenshot of the PLABDC01 desktop: File Explorer icon on the taskbar is highlighted on the PLABDC01 Windows desktop.

Step 2

Navigate to **c:\inetpub\wwwroot,** right-click **iisstart.png**, and select **Edit**.
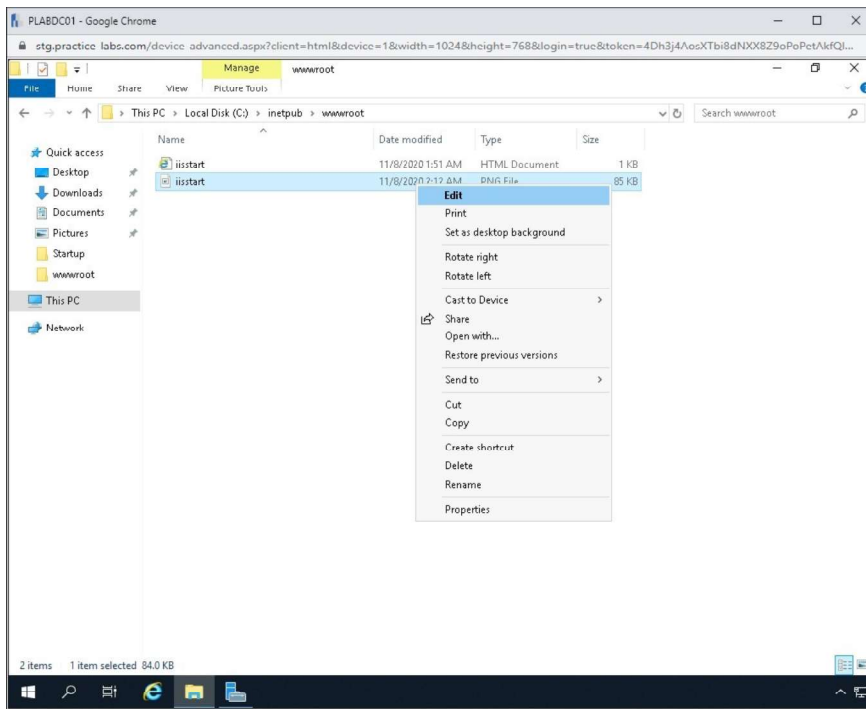
Figure 4.2 Screenshot of the PLABDC01 desktop: Context menu (that appears on right-clicking a listed file) > Edit menu-options are displayed in the file explorer window.
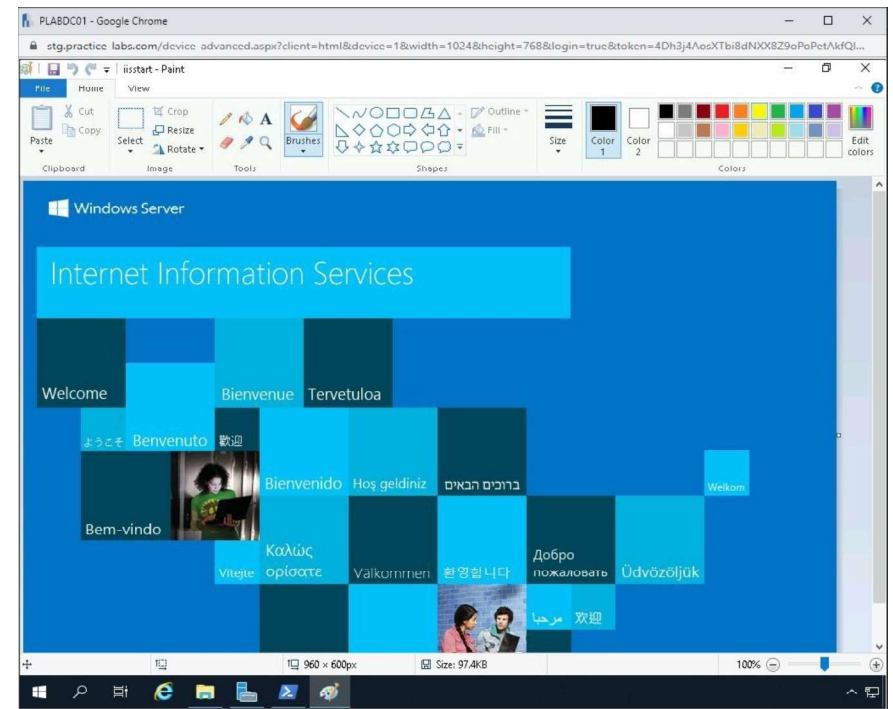

Figure 4.3 Screenshot of the PLABDC01 desktop: The iisstart - Paint window is displayed showing the required color on the color palette selected.

Step 3

The file **iisstart.png** file opens in **Paint**. Maximize the **Paint** window for ease of use.

Locate the color palette and select **Yellow**.

Step 4

Select the text tool by clicking the **A** icon on the toolbar at the top.
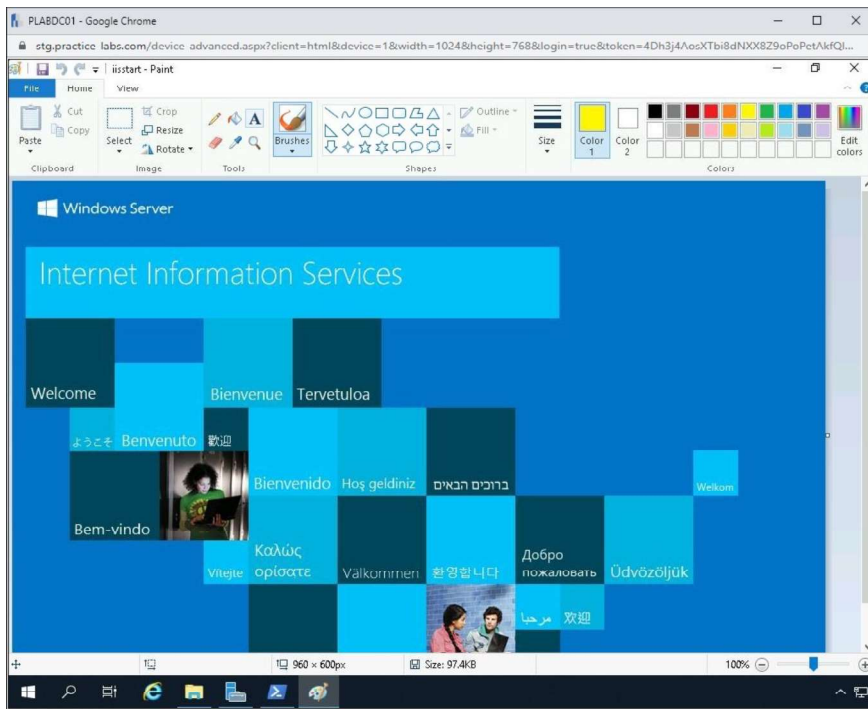
Figure 4.4 Screenshot of the PLABDC01 desktop: The iisstart - Paint window is displayed showing the Text tool on the options ribbon at the top highlighted.
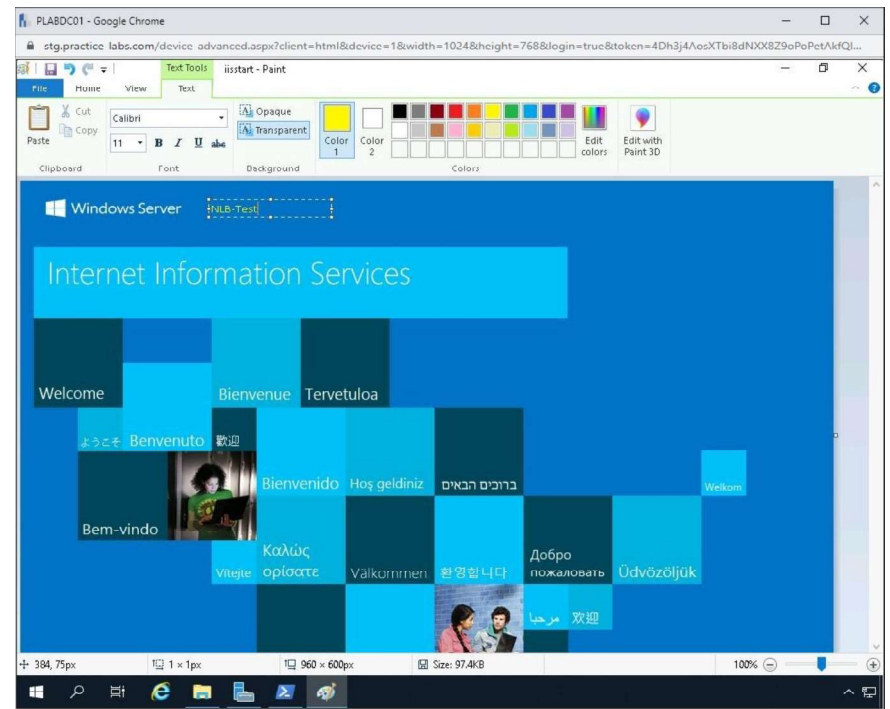

Figure 4.5 Screenshot of the PLABDC01 desktop: The iisstart - Paint window is displayed showing the updated image file with the newly added text at the top.

Step 5

Choose a large font size and click on the **Bold** icon and click on the picture near the **Windows Server** text in the top right. Add the text **NLB-Test** at the top of the image file and save changes.

Close the **iisstart.png** file.

Exit from **File Explorer**.

> *Note: If you encounter an error where paint is unable to save the file reboot* **PLABDC01** *and redo from step 2.*

Step 6

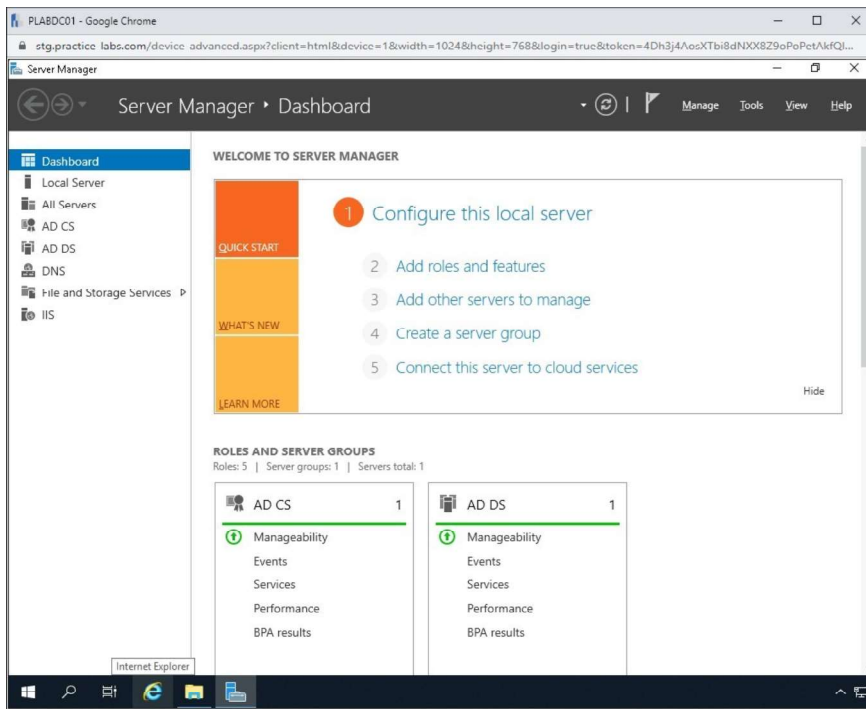Open **Internet Explorer** from the icon in the taskbar.

Figure 4.6 Screenshot of the PLABDC01 desktop: Internet Explorer icon on the taskbar is highlighted on the PLABDC01 Windows desktop.

Step 7

The default **Intranet** site appears.

In the address bar at the top on the web browser, type:
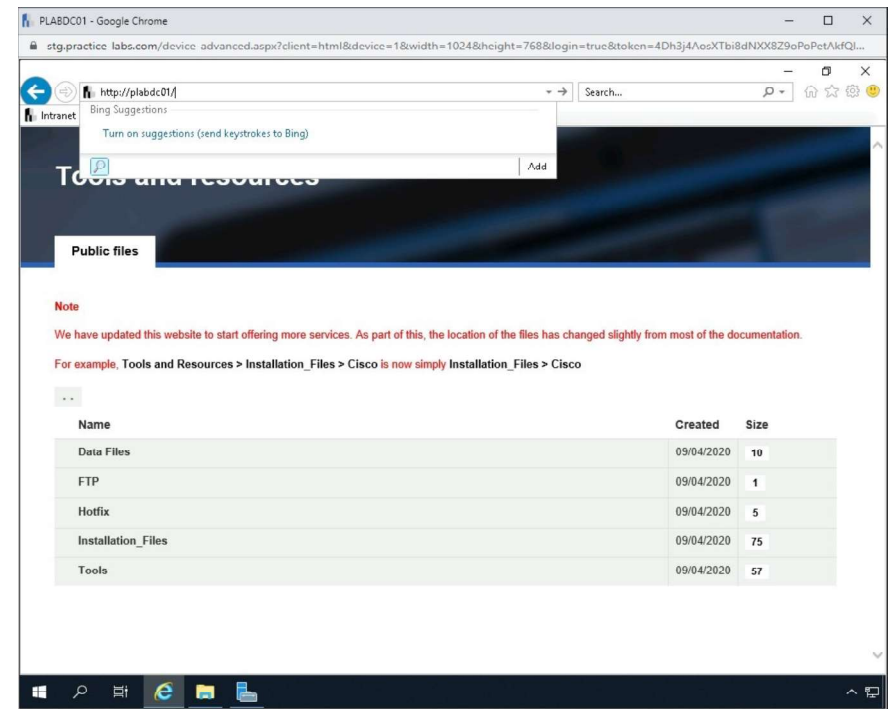
```
http://plabdc01
```

Press **Enter**.

Figure 4.7 Screenshot of the PLABDC01 desktop: Internet Explorer window is displayed showing the required URL typed in the address bar at the top.

Step 8

Notice that the image with the text **NLB Test** added earlier, is visible.
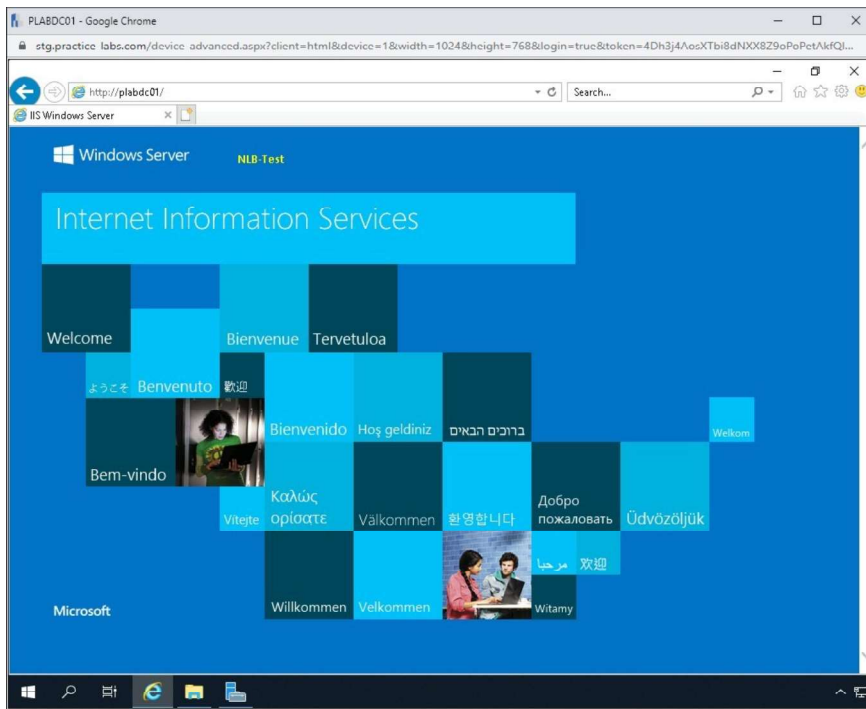
Close **Internet Explorer**.

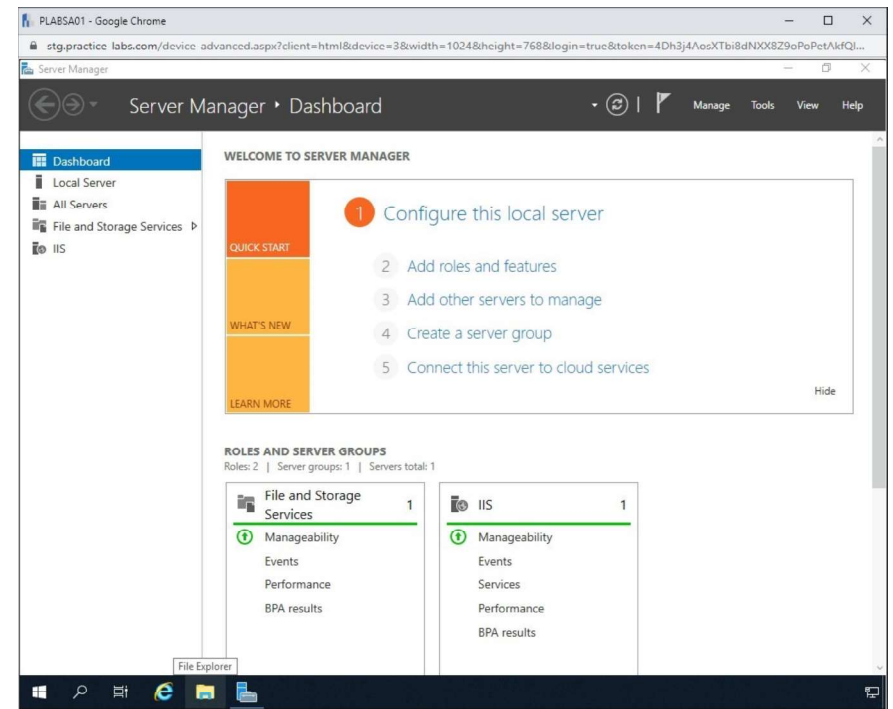Figure 4.8 Screenshot of the PLABDC01 desktop: The updated image file is displayed in the Internet Explorer window.

Figure 4.9 Screenshot of the PLABSA01 desktop: Internet Explorer icon on the taskbar is highlighted on the PLABSA01 Windows desktop.

Step 9

Connect to **PLABSA01**.

Launch **Internet Explorer** from the taskbar.

Step 10

The **Set up Internet Explorer 11** window is displayed.

Click **OK** to accept the default settings and exit the window.
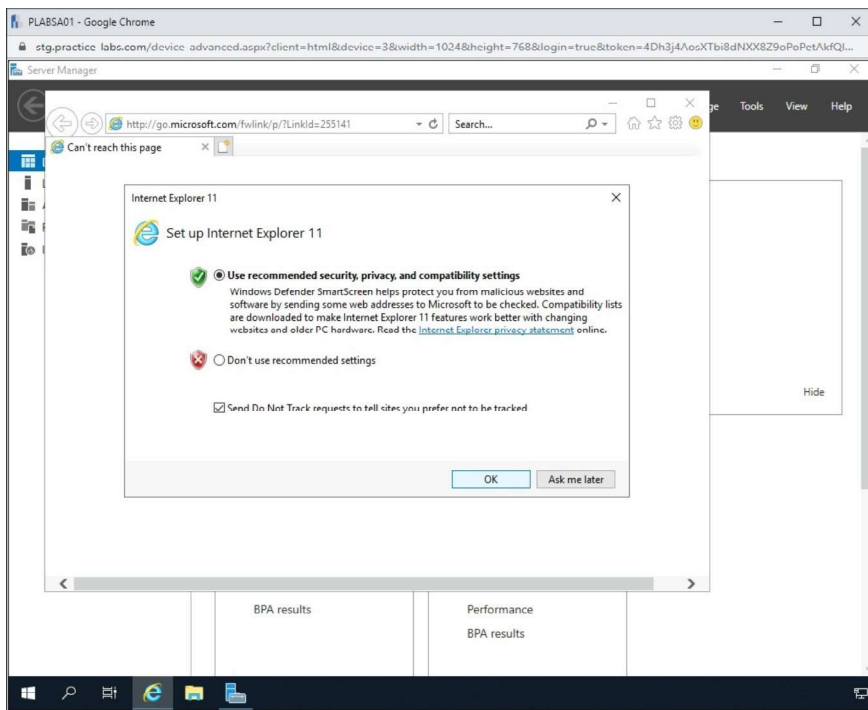
Figure 4.10 Screenshot of the PLABSA01 desktop: Set up Internet Explorer 11 dialog box is displayed showing default selection and the OK button selected.
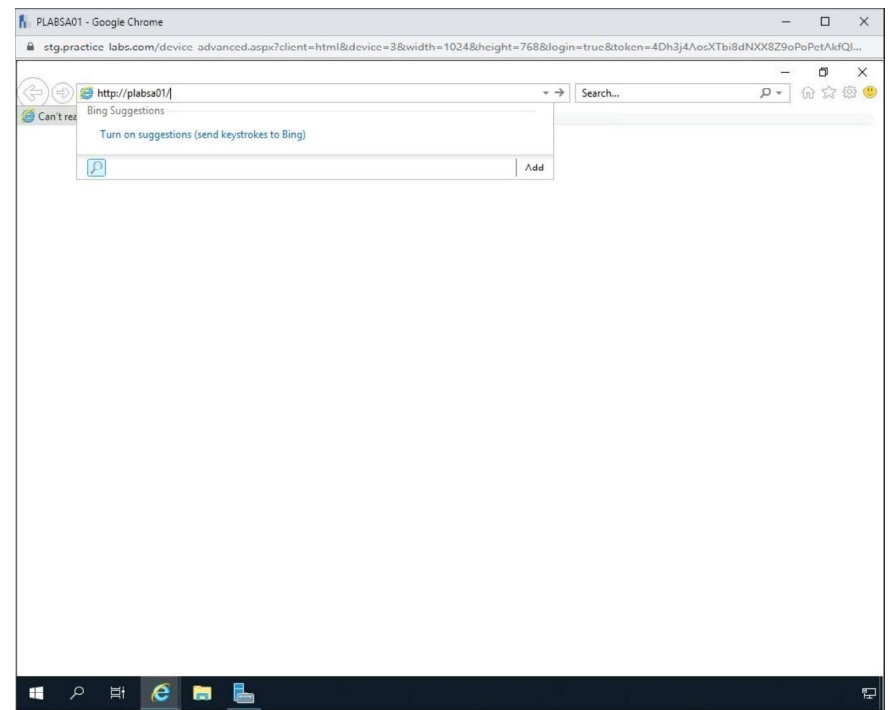

Figure 4.11 Screenshot of the PLABSA01 desktop: Internet Explorer window is displayed showing the required URL typed in the address bar at the top.

Step 11

The web browser window is displayed.

Type **http://plabsa01** in the address bar at the top.

Step 12

Notice that the bitmap image displayed here is different from the one displayed in **Step 8.** The text **NLB Test** is missing from this image.

This confirms that the default web page of the two servers, **PLABSA01** and **PLABDM01,** on the cluster **PLABDC01-NLB,** are indeed distinguishable from each other.
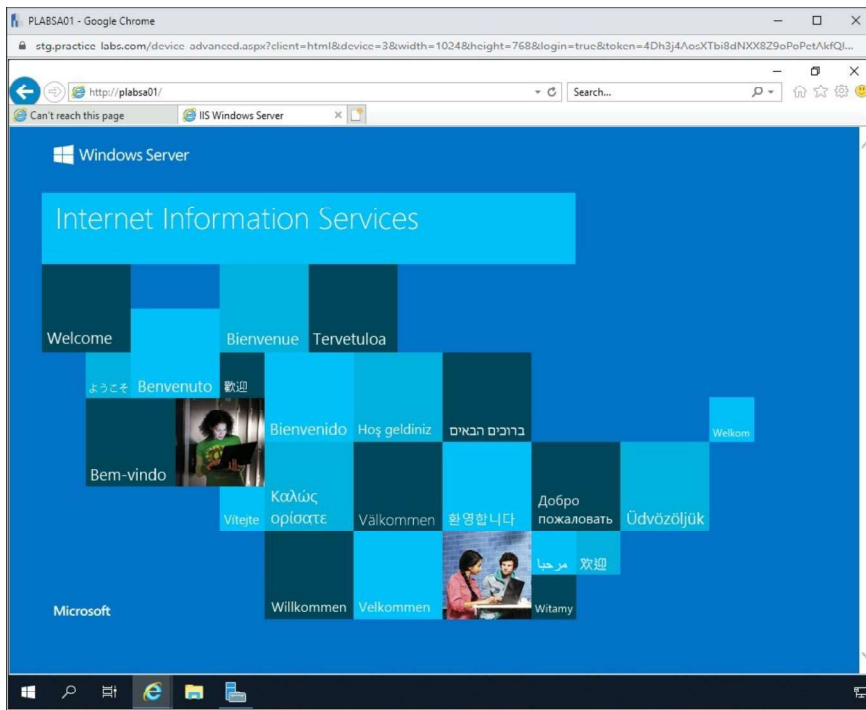
Figure 4.12 Screenshot of the PLABSA01 desktop: Internet Explorer
window is displayed showing the image file without the update.

Close the browser window.

Leave the devices you have powered on in their current state and proceed to
the next exercise.