

The Server
Manager
Dashboard

Adding Server Roles and Features

Server roles are the roles that your server can play on your network — roles such as file server, web server, or DHCP or DNS server. Features are additional capabilities of the Windows operating system itself, such as the .NET Framework or Windows Backup. Truthfully, the distinctions between roles and features are a bit arbitrary. The web server is considered to be a role, for example, but the Telnet server is a feature. Go figure.

The following procedure describes how to install server roles. The procedure for installing server features is similar. For this example, we'll install the Active Directory Domain Services and DNS Server roles. These roles are required to create a domain and designate this server as a domain controller.

Click Add Roles and Features on the Server Manager Dashboard.

The Add Roles and Features Wizard appears, as shown in Figure 11-7.

2. Click Next.

The wizard asks which of two installation types you want to perform. In most cases, you want to leave the default choice (Role-Based or Feature-Based Installation) selected. Select the alternative (Remote Desktop Services Installation) only if you're configuring a remote virtual server.