

Team Foundation Server 2017

Installation Guide



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Chapter 1: Install Windows Server 2016

Introduction

The first step for installing Team Foundation Server 2017 (TFS2017) is to install Windows Server. In this guide, I'm going to be using Windows Server 2016. I'm also assuming that you'll be installing TFS2017 in a single server configuration – aka. the TFS Application Tier and SQL Server will be installed on a single machine.

Install Windows Server 2016

I'm assuming that you've got an Active Directory Domain already set up and configured and that we'll eventually be joining this new server to that domain.

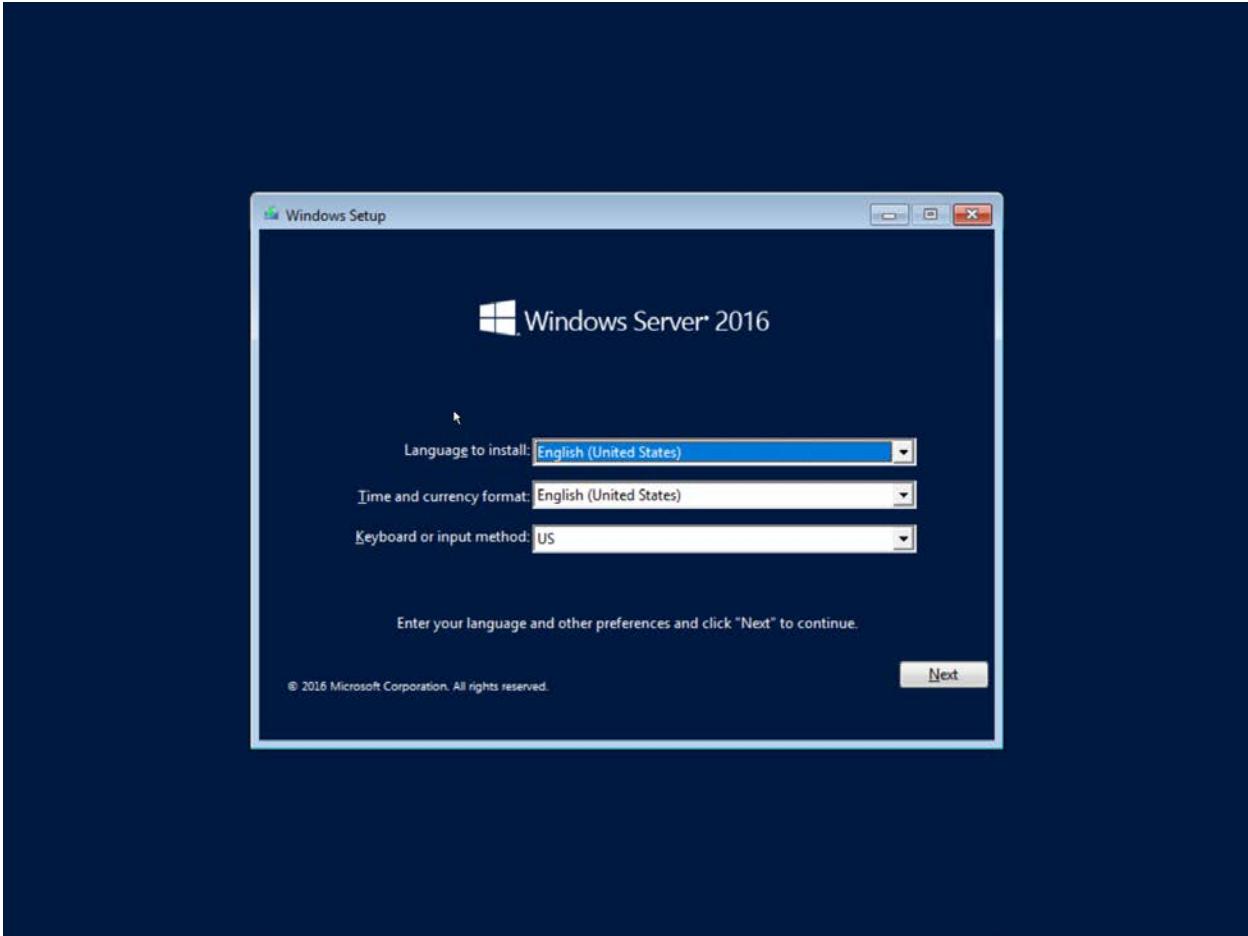
- Either insert your **Windows Server 2016 DVD** into the DVD drive or mount the **Windows Server 2016 ISO image** into the DVD drive for your virtual machine.
- Start the machine

You will see the **Press any key to boot from CD or DVD....** message appear.

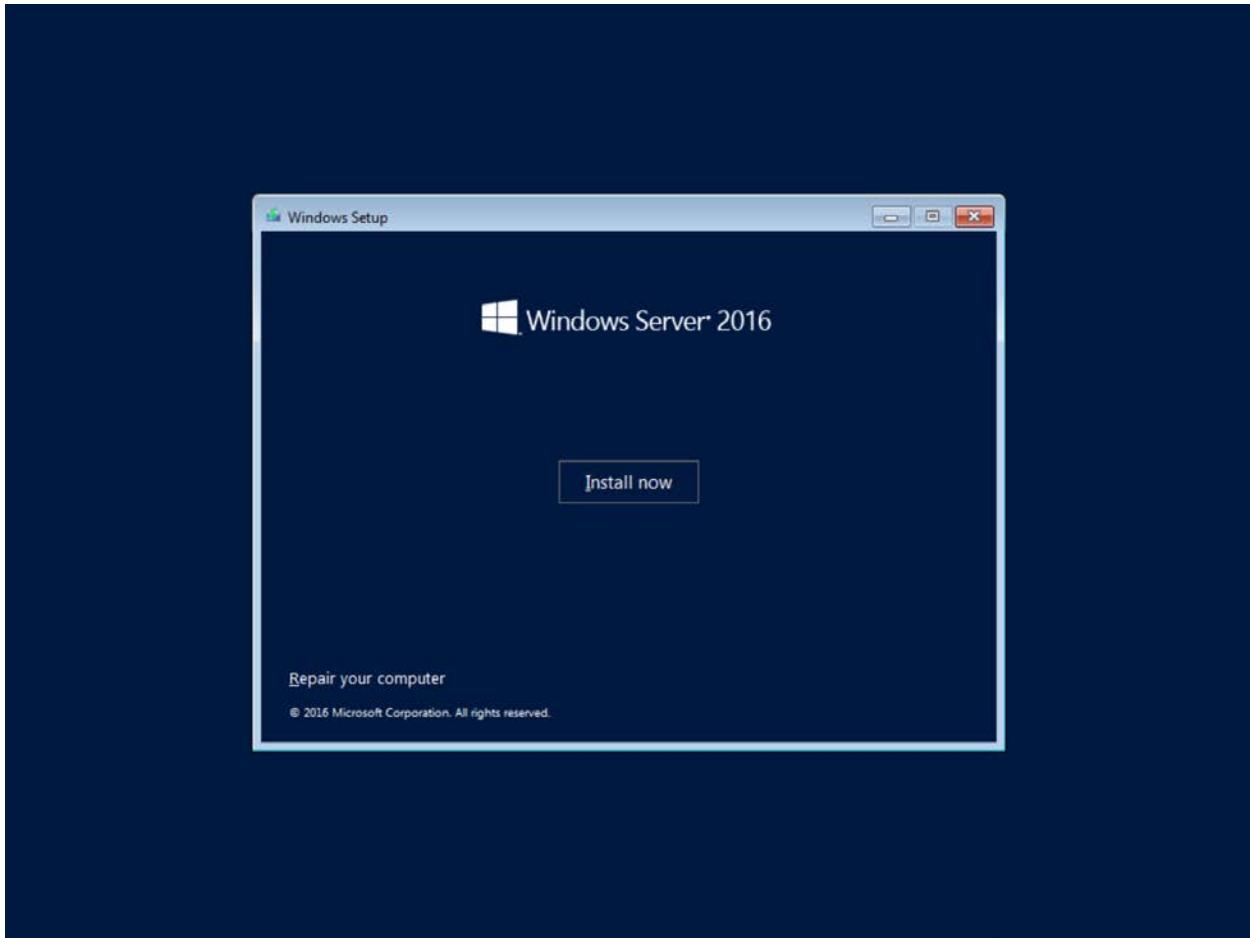


- Press any key to boot from the DVD drive

You should see the Windows Setup welcome screen.



- Click **Next**

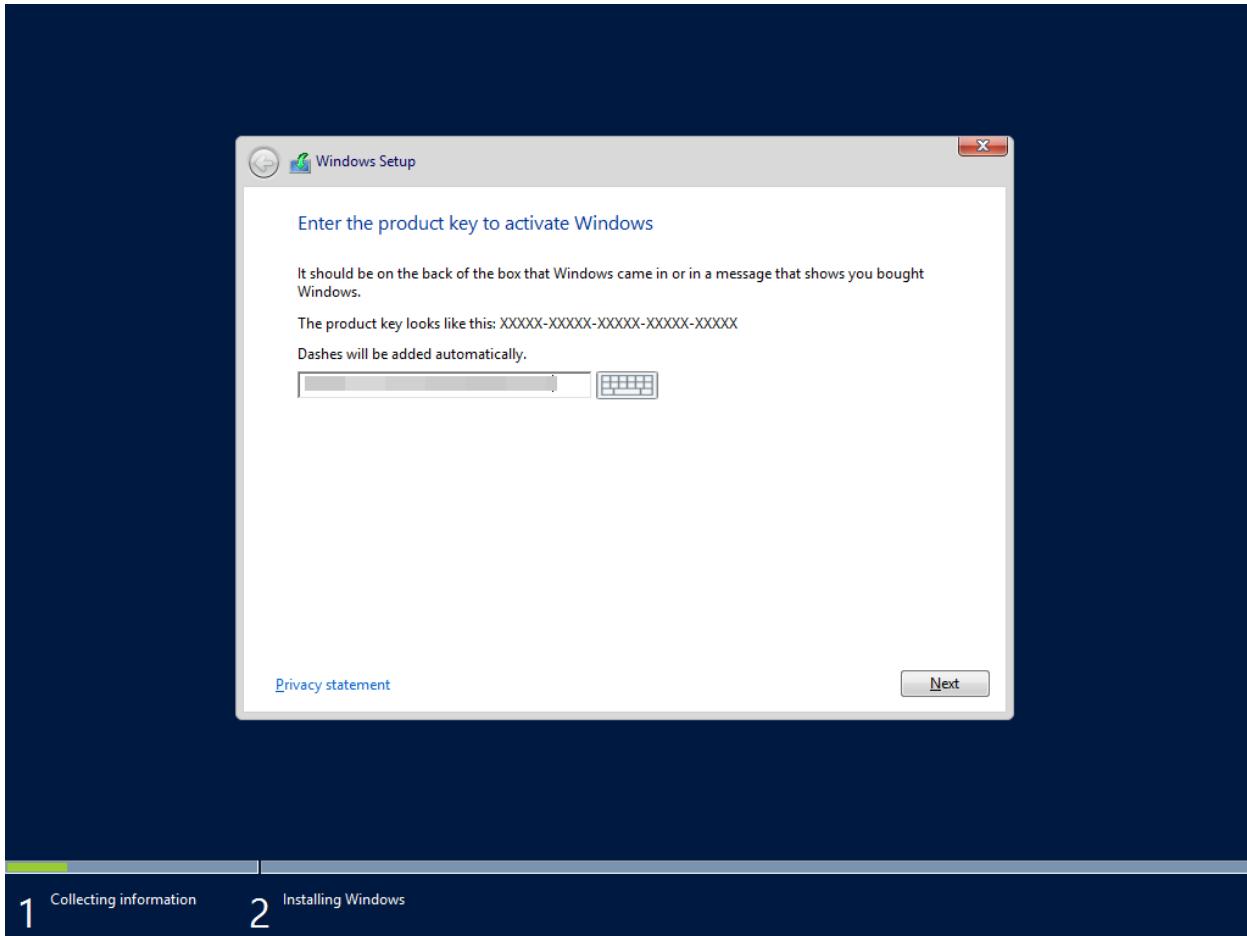


- Click the **Install now** button

You should see a screen saying that setup is starting.

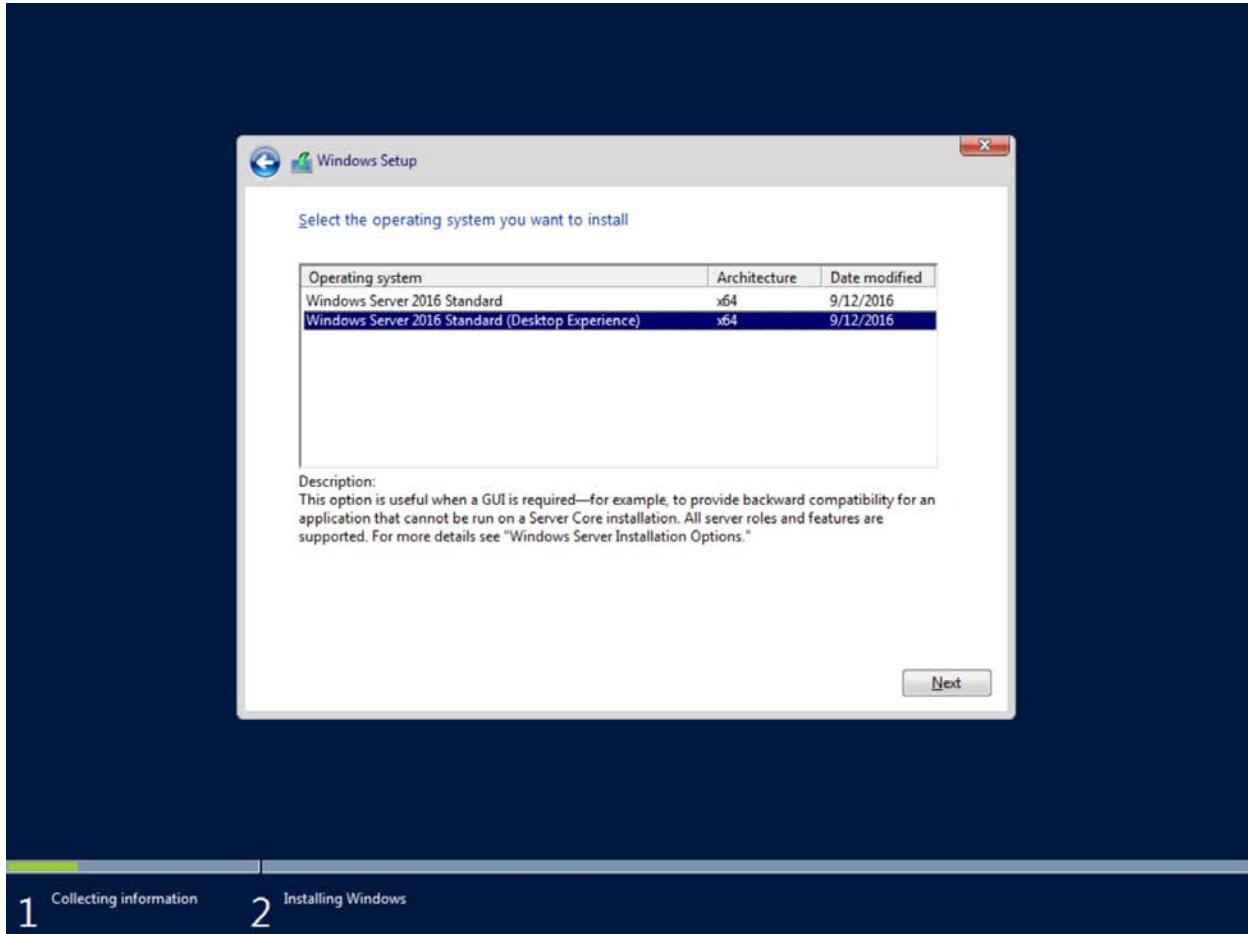


You'll be prompted for a license key.



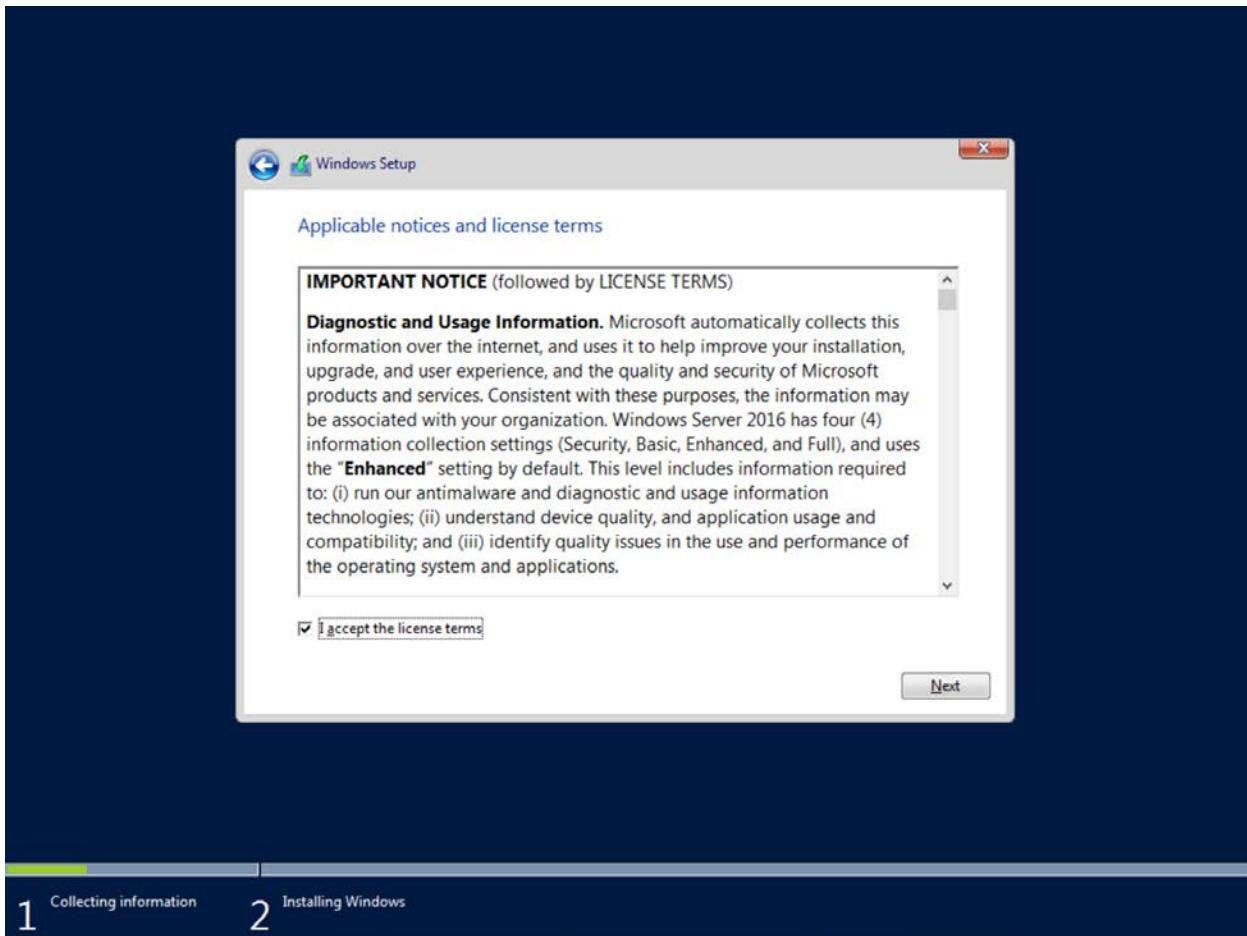
- Enter your license key
- Click the **Next** button

You'll be prompted to choose what version of Windows Server 2016 that you'd like to install. This guide assumes that you'll be installing Windows Server 2016 Standard and that you'll be installing the graphical user interface (GUI).



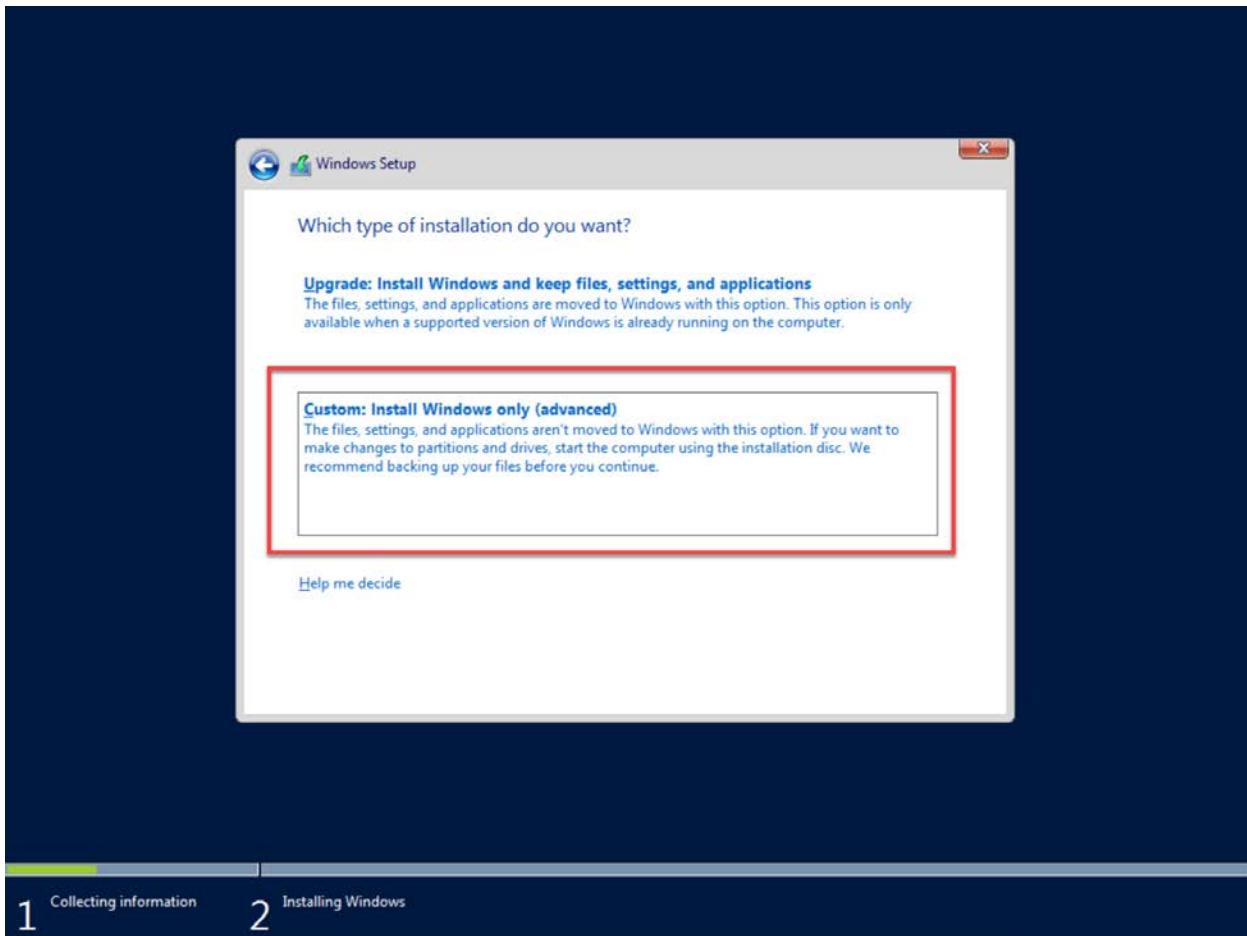
- Choose **Windows Server 2016 Standard (Desktop Experience)**
- Click the **Next** button

You'll be shown the license terms.



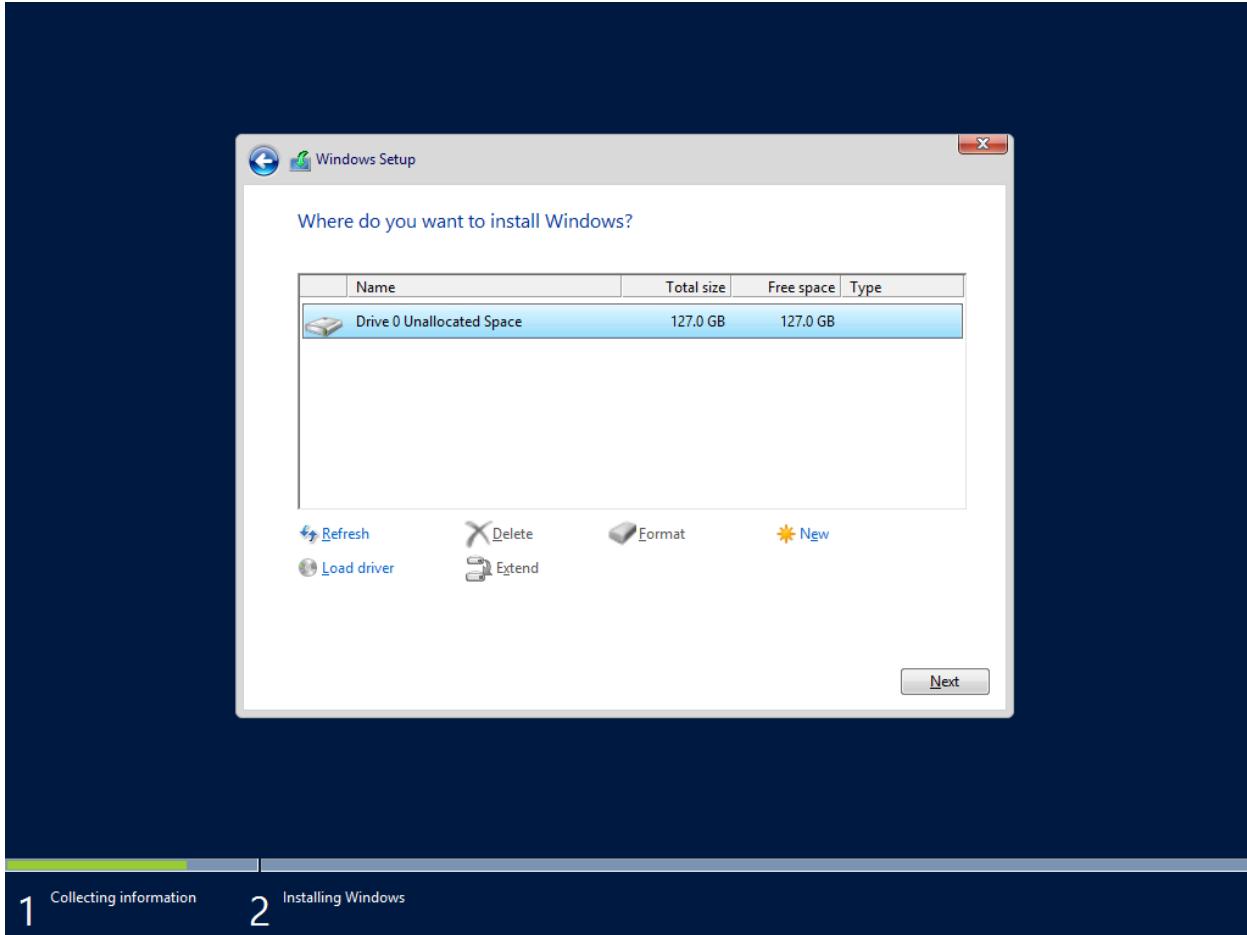
- Read the license terms in painstaking detail
- Check the **I accept the license terms** box
- Click the **Next** button

We'll be doing a new installation rather than an upgrade.



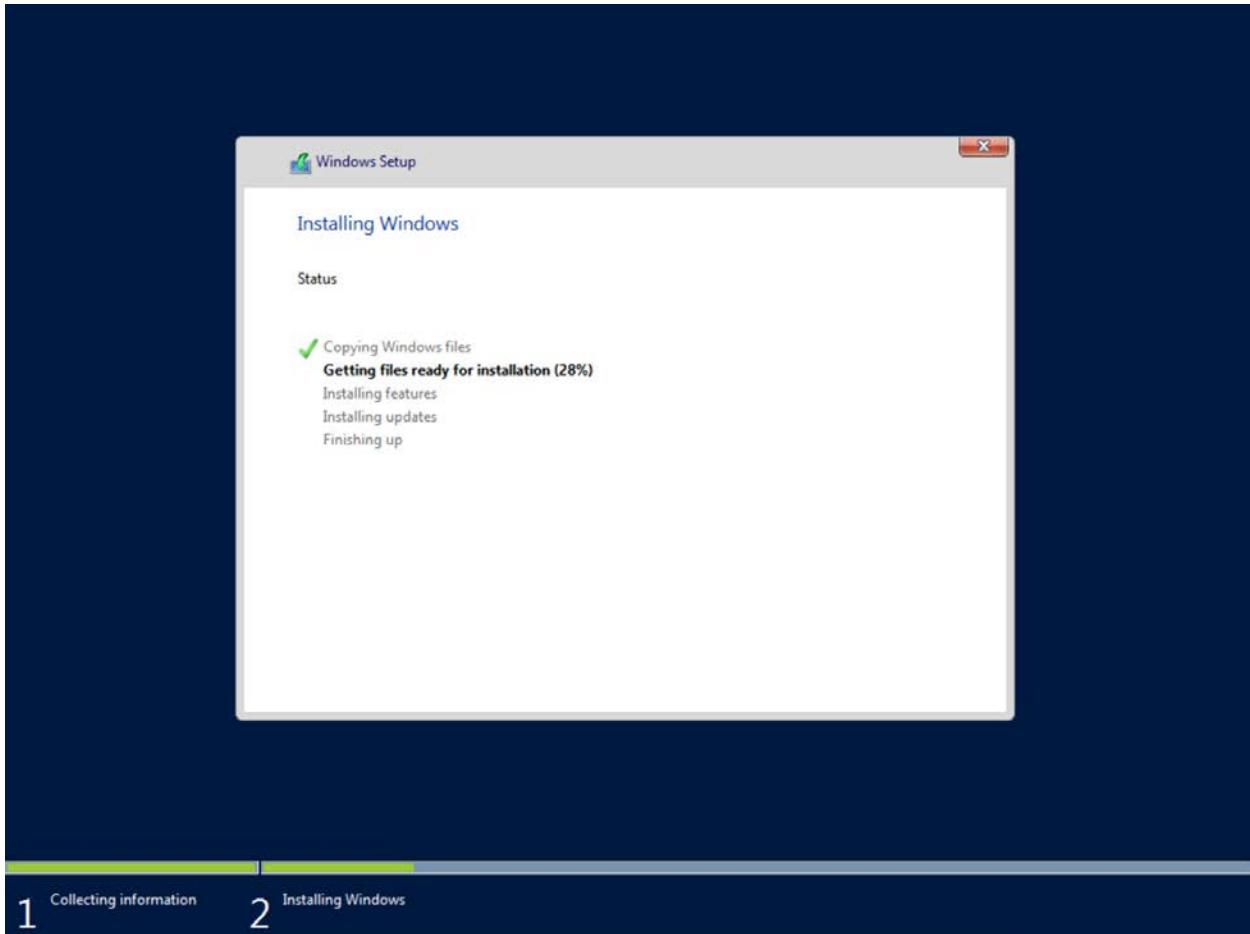
- Click **Custom: Install Windows only (advanced)**

You should now see a dialog that lets you choose where you'd like to install windows. I'm assuming that we'll be installing on a new computer without any existing partitions on the disk.

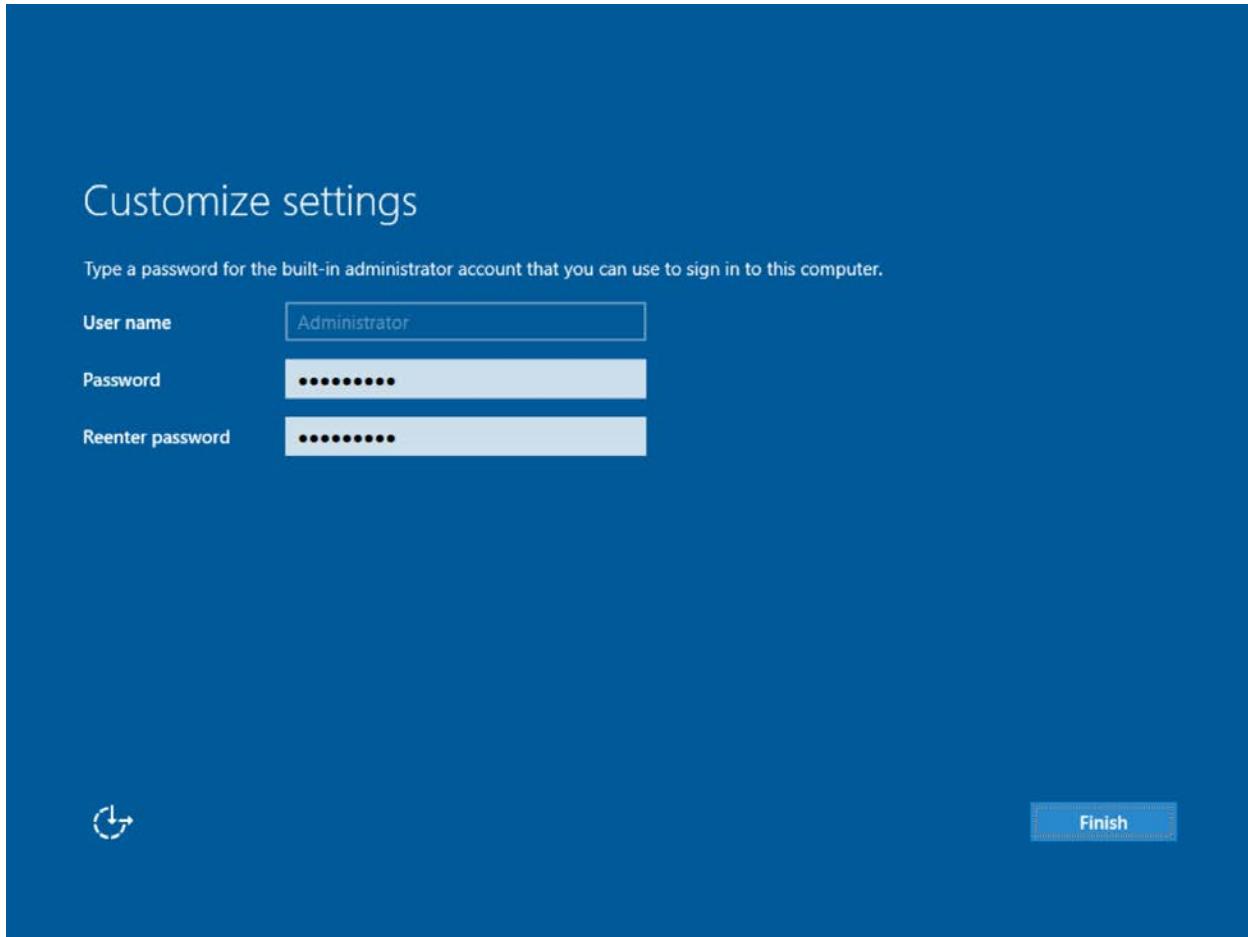


- Choose **Drive 0 Unallocated Space** or another appropriate partition or unallocated disk space
- Click **Next**

The installation should now be running.



Your server will automatically reboot when the installation is complete and you'll be prompted to create an administrator password.



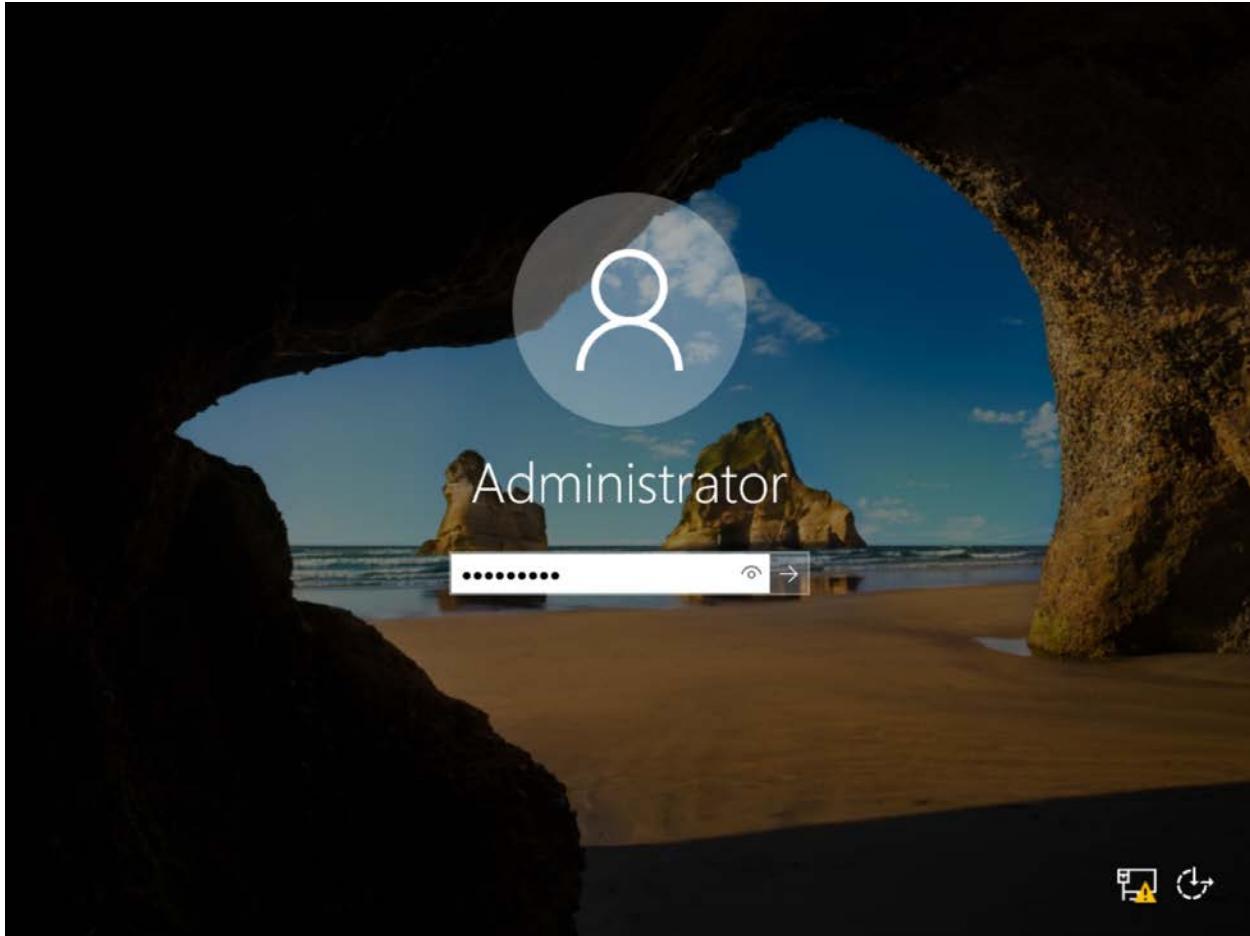
- Enter your password in the **Password** box
- Enter your password in the **Reenter password** box
- Click the **Finish** button

You should now see the lock screen for your new server.



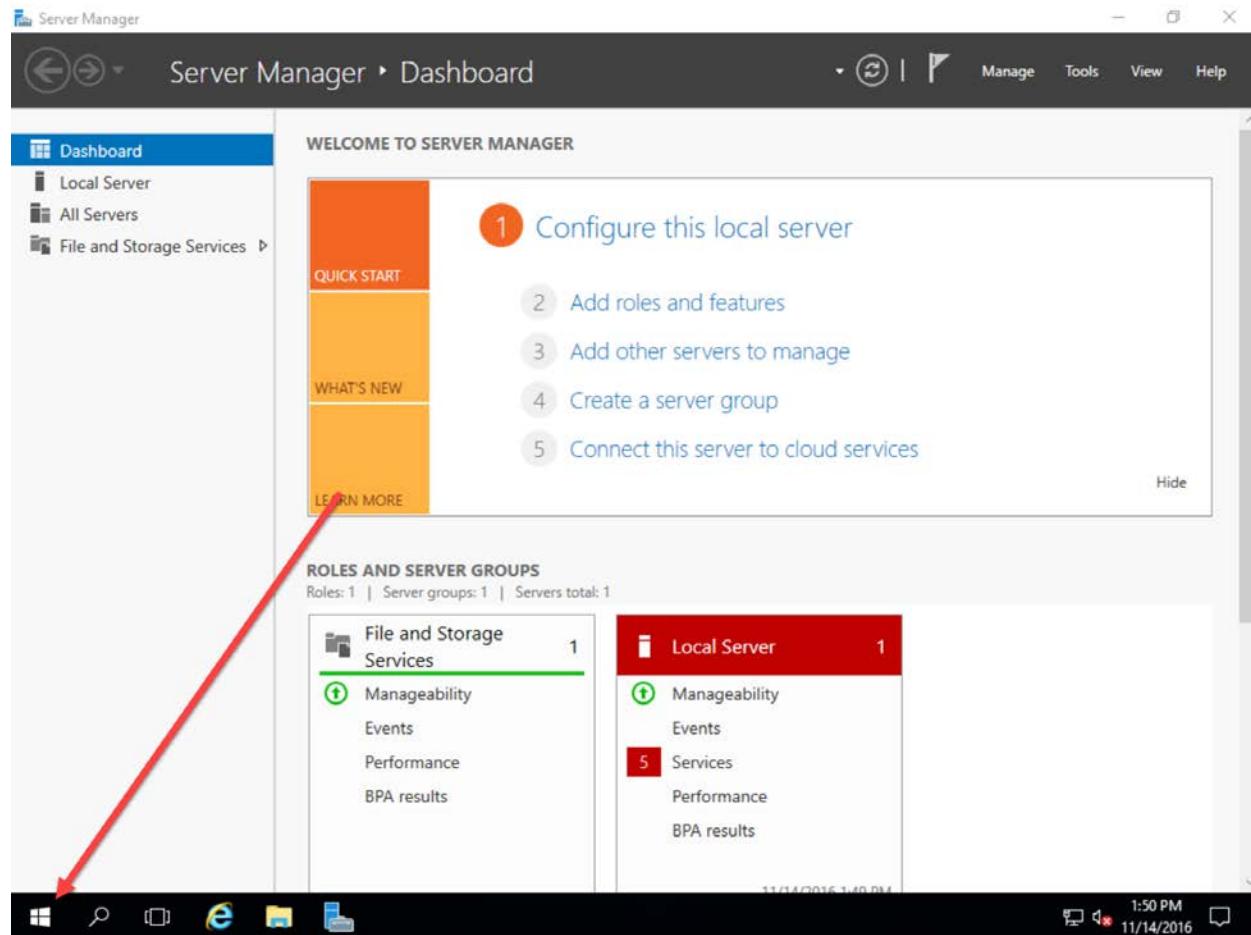
- Type **CTRL-ALT-DEL** to open a login prompt

You should see the login prompt.



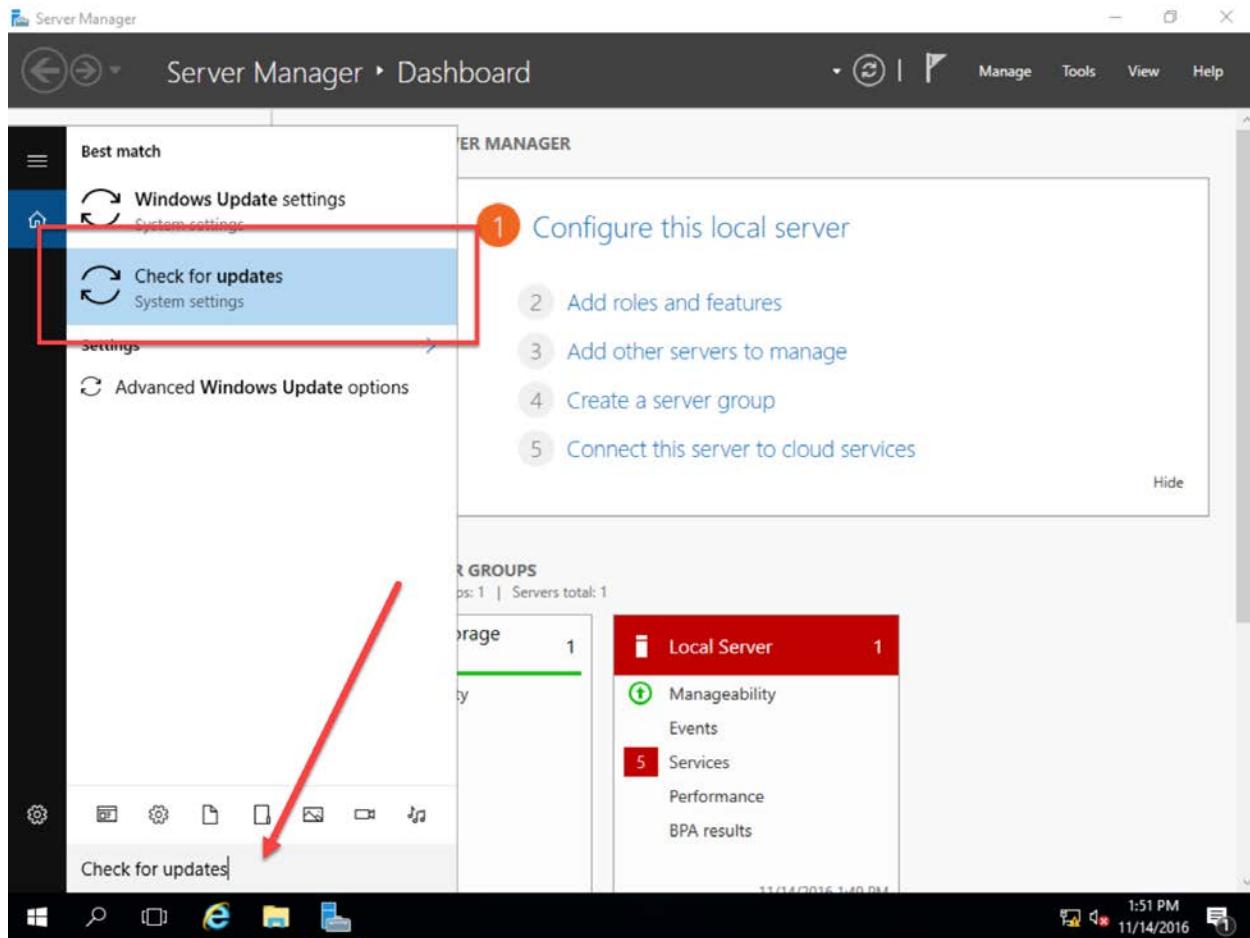
- Enter your **password** followed by <ENTER>

You should now be logged in and you should see the server manager dashboard. The next step is to run Windows Update to patch this server.



- Click the **Windows button** in the bottom left of the screen to navigate to the Start screen

You should now be at the Start menu.



- In the search box, type **Check for updates**
- Click **Check for updates** in the search results

You should now see the Settings window. By default, Windows Update only gets patches for Windows itself but we want to enable patches for other products as well.

Update status

No updates are available. We'll continue to check daily for newer updates.

[Check for updates](#)

[Update history](#)

Update settings

Available updates will be downloaded and installed automatically, except over metered connections (where charges may apply).

[Change active hours](#)

[Restart options](#)

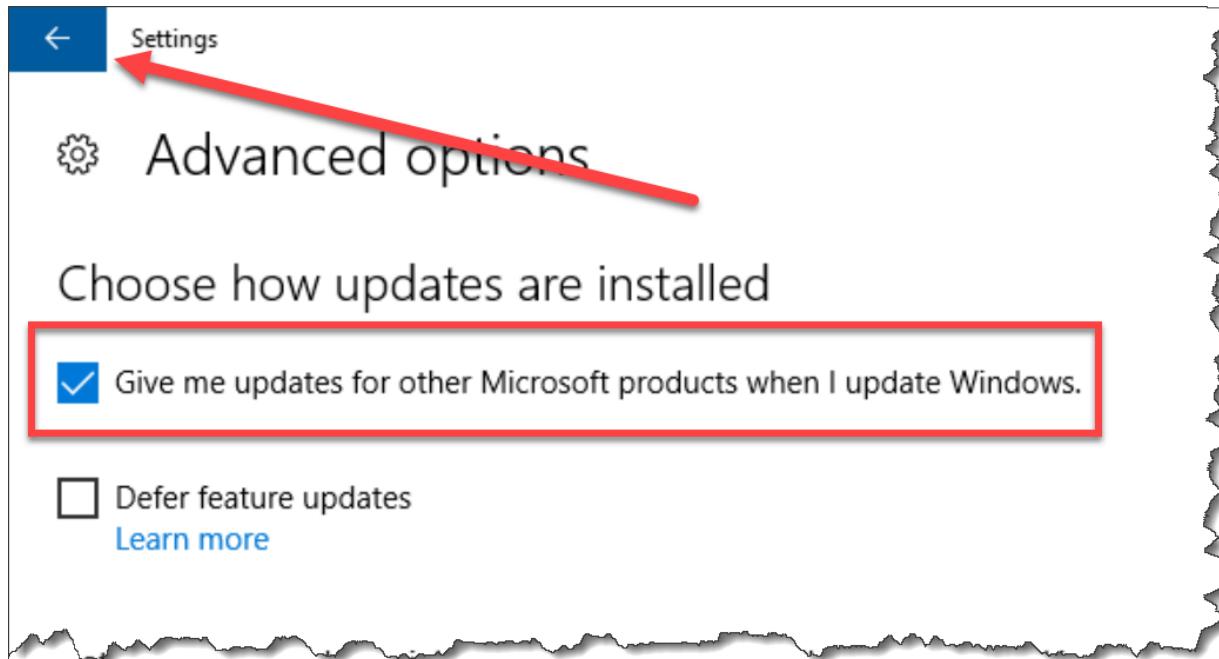
[Advanced options](#)

Looking for info on the latest updates?

[Learn more](#)

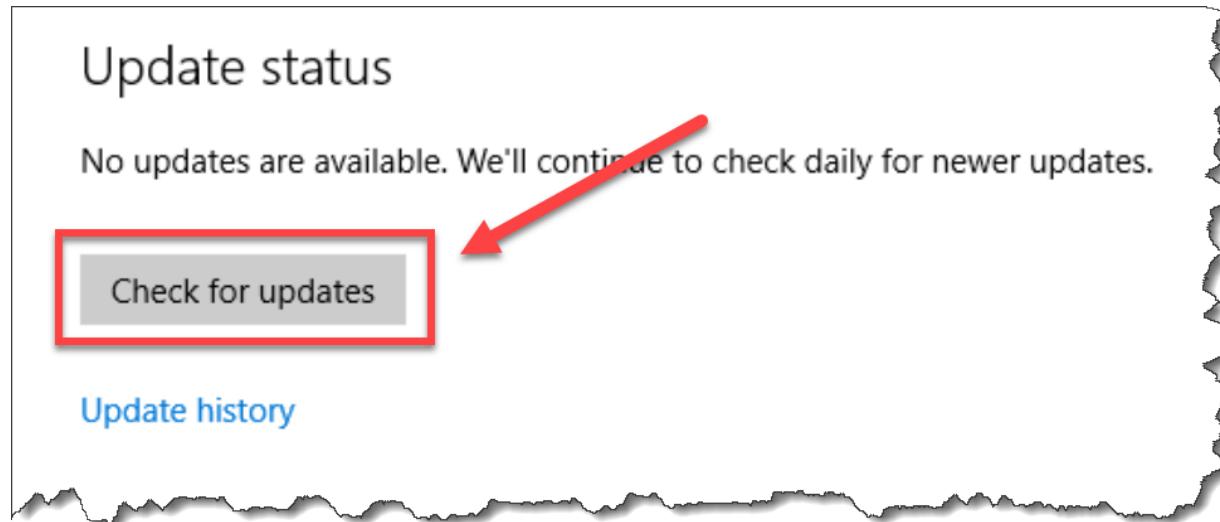
- Click the **Advanced options** link

You should be on a screen with the title **Advanced options**.



- Check **Give me updates for other Microsoft products when I update Windows**
- In the upper left corner of the screen, click the back arrow button

You should be back on the **Update status** screen.



- Click the **Check for updates** button

Windows Update should now be checking for updates.

Update status

• • • •

Checking for updates...

Update history

Windows Update will probably find a ton of available updates. Let them all run and reboot your server as needed.

When the patches are all finished applying, make sure you're logged in as Administrator and continue on to the next page where I'll walk you through the optional step of disabling a useless and annoying anti-feature in Windows called IE Enhanced Security.

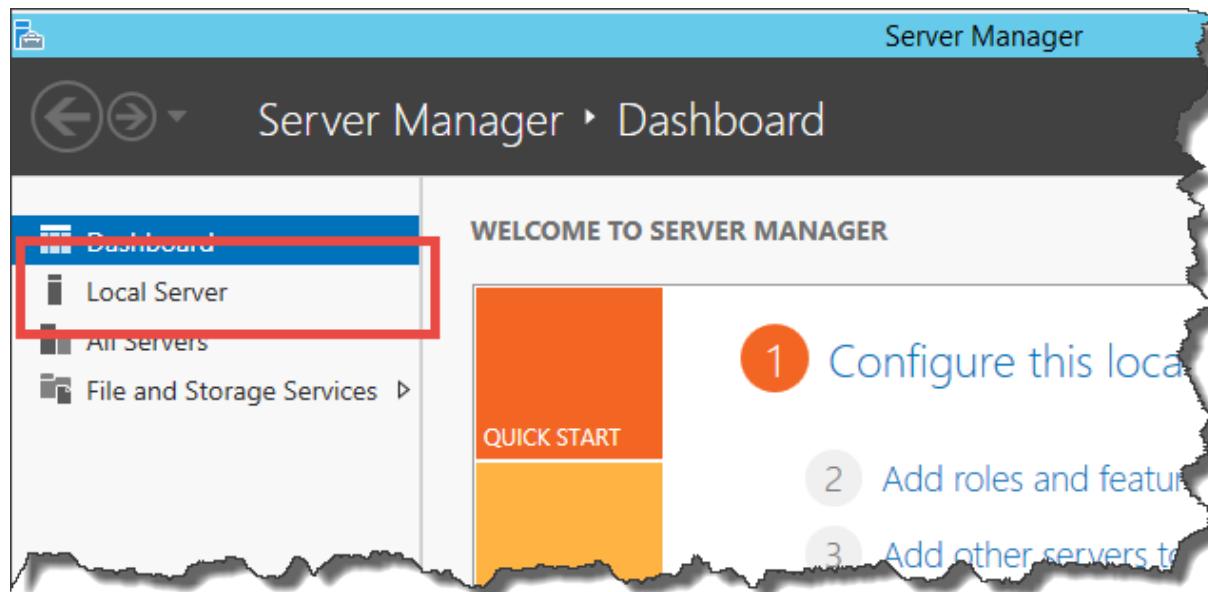
(Optional) Turn off IE Enhanced Security Configuration

Ok. So if you're paranoid about the internet and making sure that your server doesn't accidentally get infected by a virus that comes in because of someone's hapless browsing habits, you'll probably want to skip this section.

If you don't wear a tinfoil hat every day to keep the illuminati's evil space rays from controlling your mind, then you're probably like me and find IE Enhanced Security to be a royal pain in the behind. At some point, you're going to want to use the Internet Explorer web browser on this server and it'll be painful if IE Enhanced Security is turned on.

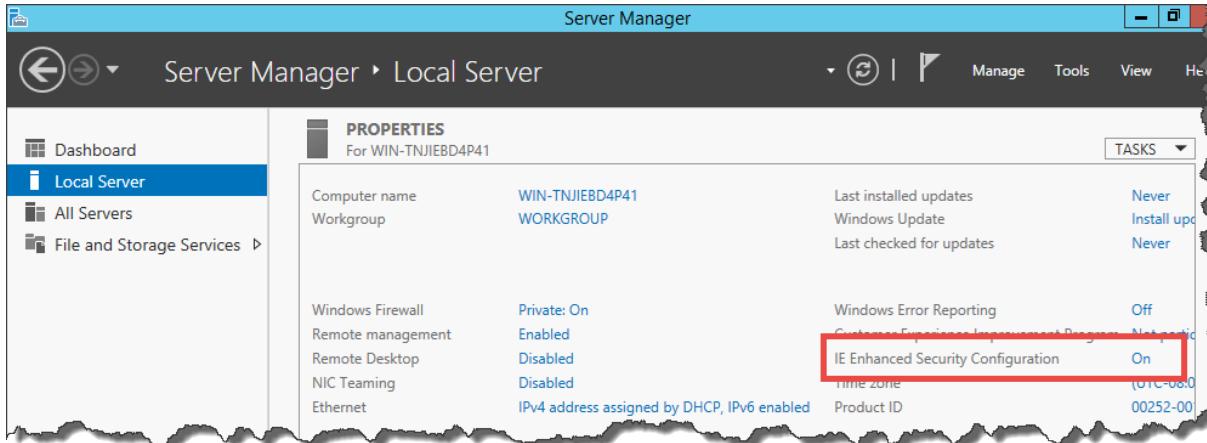
Let's turn it off.

You'll start this process by using **Server Manager**.



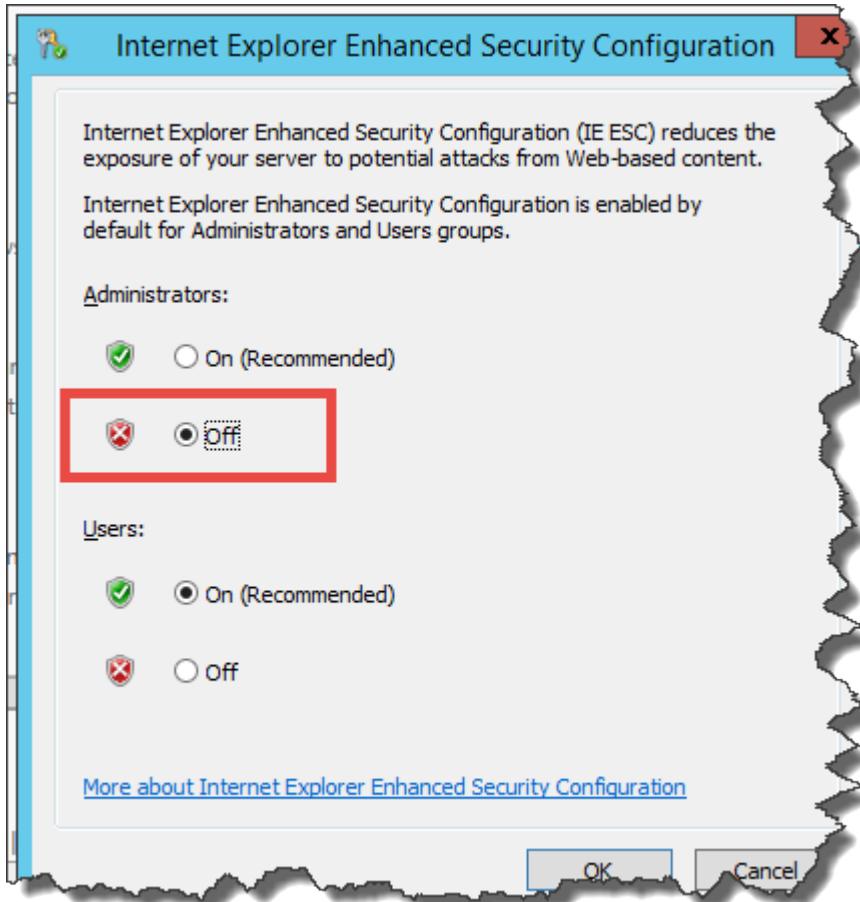
- In the left column of Server Manager, click **Local Server**

Towards the right side of the Server Manager window, you'll see an item that says **IE Enhanced Security Configuration**. It'll be set to **On**.



- Click the link that says **On**

You should now see the **Internet Explorer Enhanced Security Configuration** dialog.



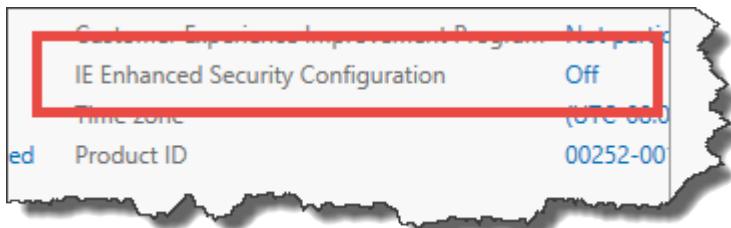
- Under Administrators, select the **Off** radio button
- (Optional) Under Users, select the **Off** radio button
- Click the **OK** button

You should now be back at the main page of the Server Manager.



- Click the **Refresh** button

IE Enhanced Security Configuration should now be set to Off.



(Optional) Enable Remote Desktop

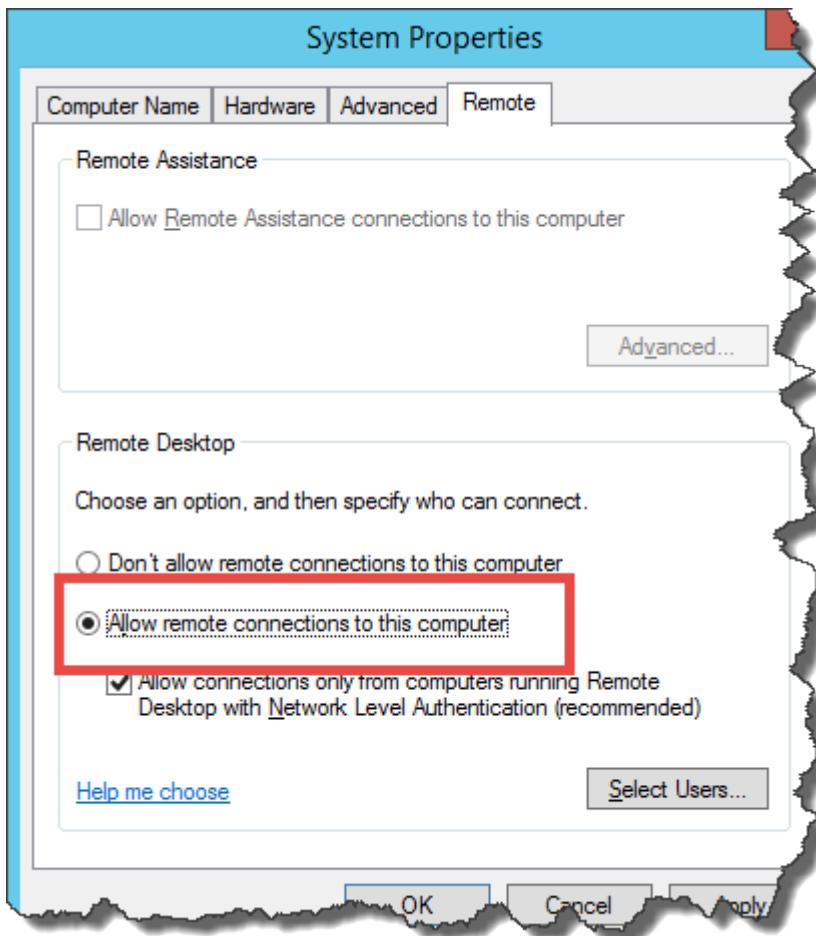
Are you lazy or maybe lazy-ish? Do you like convenience? Yah. Me, too. So that means that you'll probably want to enable Remote Desktop. If you're a member of the Tinfoil Hat Patrol, you'll probably want to skip this section.

- Find **Remote Desktop** in Server Manager



- Click the **Disabled** link to the right of Remote Desktop

You should now see the **System Properties** dialog.



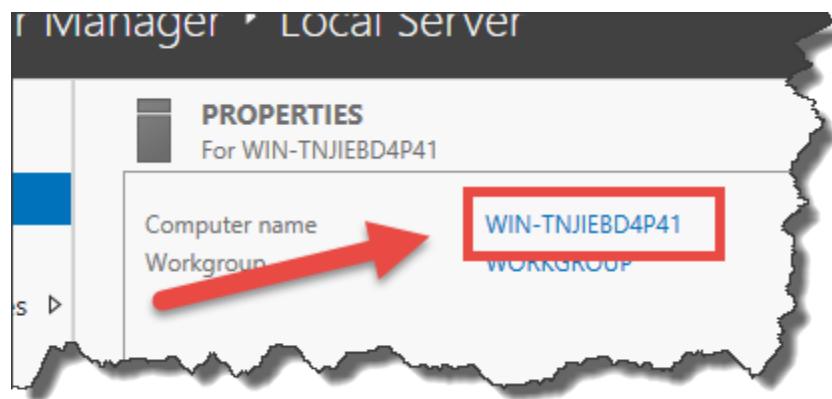
- In the Remote Desktop group, choose **Allow remote connections to this computer**
- Click the **OK** button

Remote Desktop is enabled.

Join this Server to the Active Directory Domain

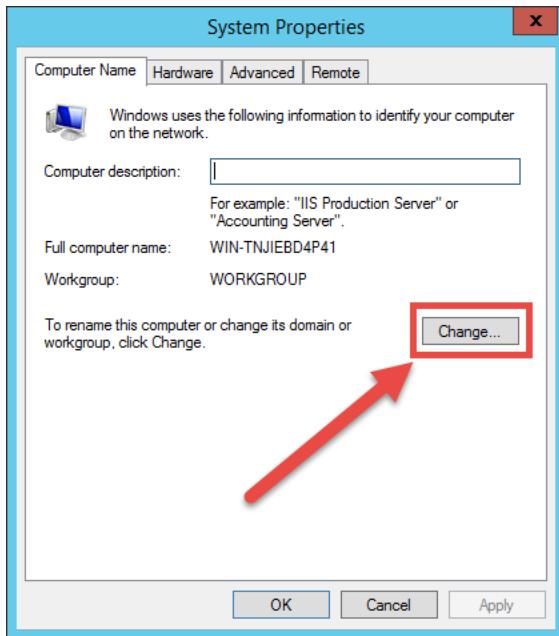
At the moment, you've got a stand-alone server with a wacky name that's not attached to anything. Workgroups? That's like the networking equivalent of having a stand-alone MP3 player that only syncs over USB. Who does that? What year is this?! 2005?! Not very useful. You'll now rename this computer and join it to your Active Directory domain so that it plays nicely with others.

In Server Manager, you'll see **Computer name** and **Workgroup**.



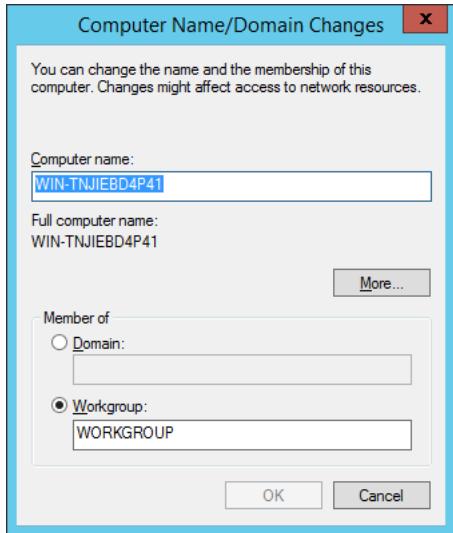
- Click on the computer name link

You should now see the **System Properties** dialog.

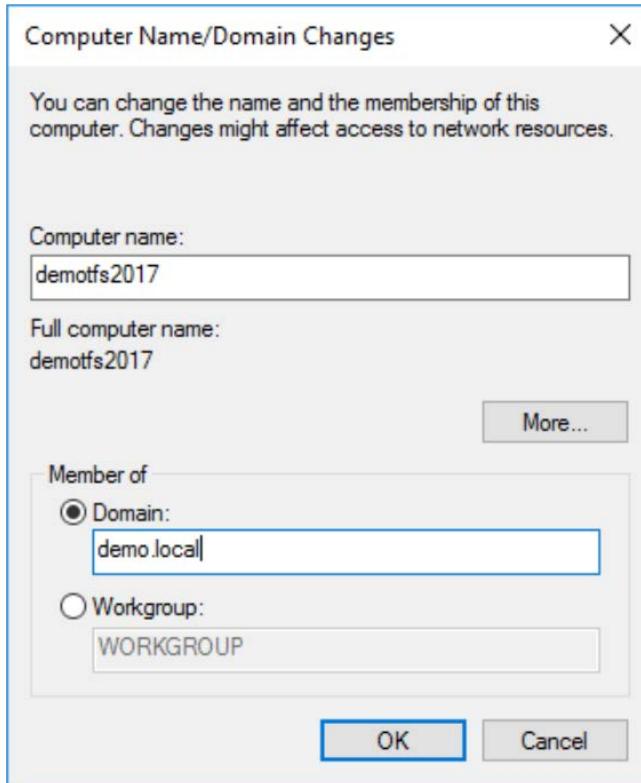


- Click the **Change...** button

You should now be on the **Computer Name/Domain Changes** dialog. The dialog should be showing you the current name of the computer and the workgroup membership.

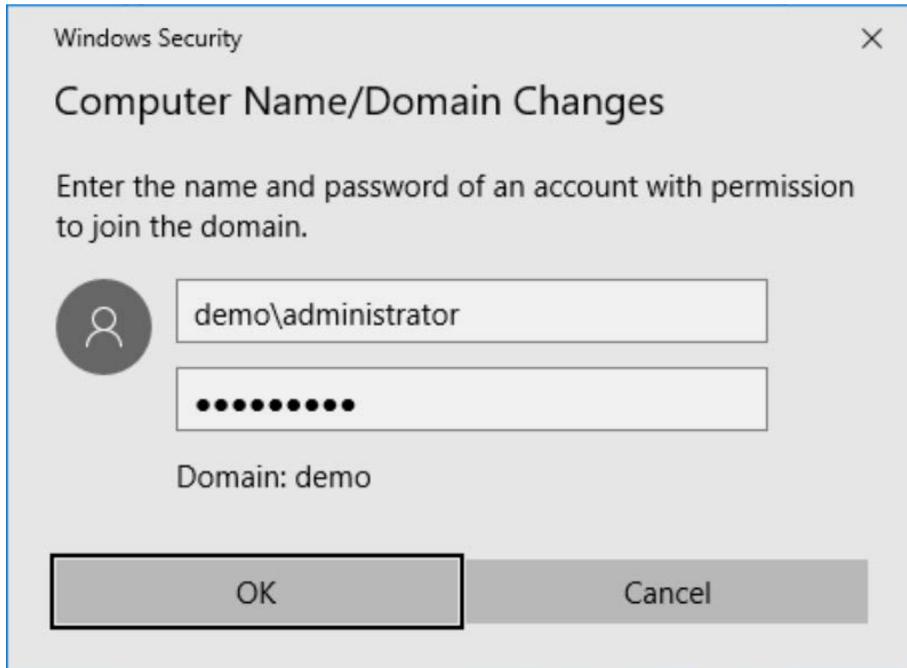


You should now change the values to be what you want the server to be named and the Active Directory domain that it should be attached to.



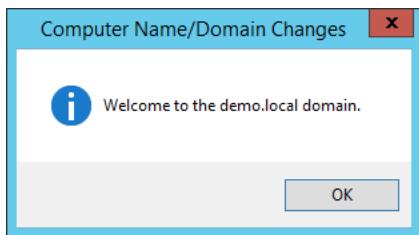
- In the Computer name textbox, enter the desired name for this server
- Under **Member of** choose the **Domain** radio button
- In the **Domain** textbox, enter the name of the Active Directory domain
- Click the **OK** button

You'll be prompted for the username and password for a domain administrator for the target domain.



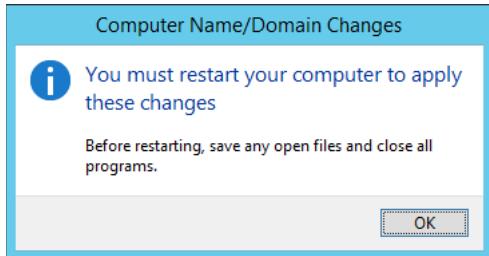
- Enter the username and password
- Click **OK**

You should see a dialog welcoming you to the new domain.

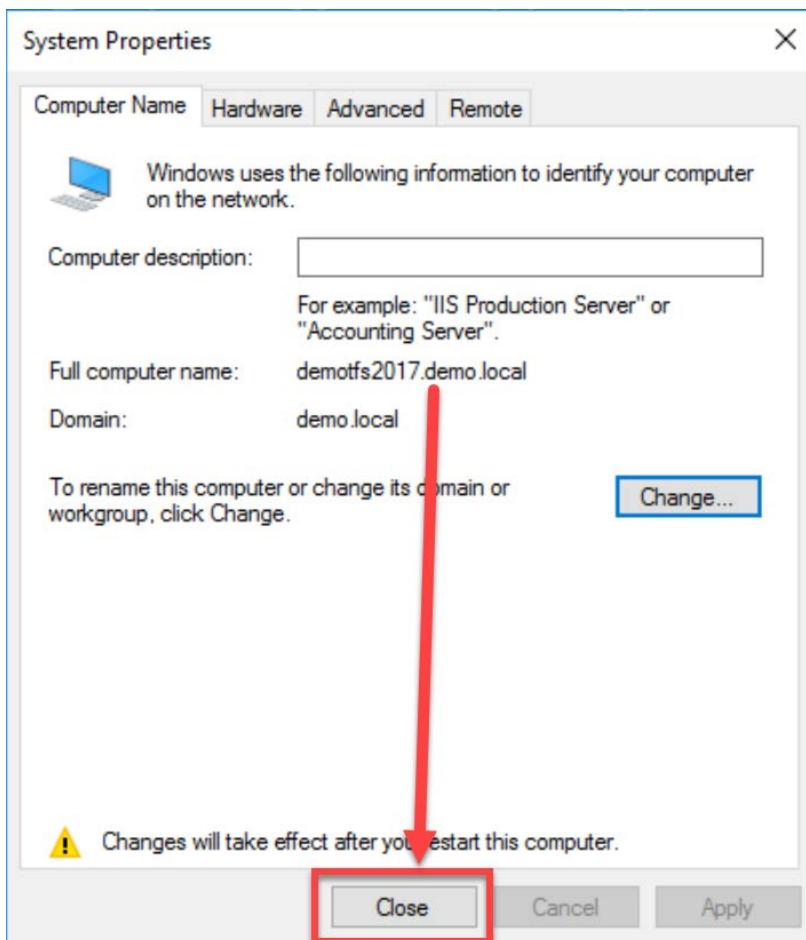


- Click **OK**

You'll be notified that you'll need to reboot this server.



- Click the **OK** button



- Click the **Close** button



- Click the **Restart Now** button

The server will restart and return you to the lock screen. The server has been installed and joined to the domain.

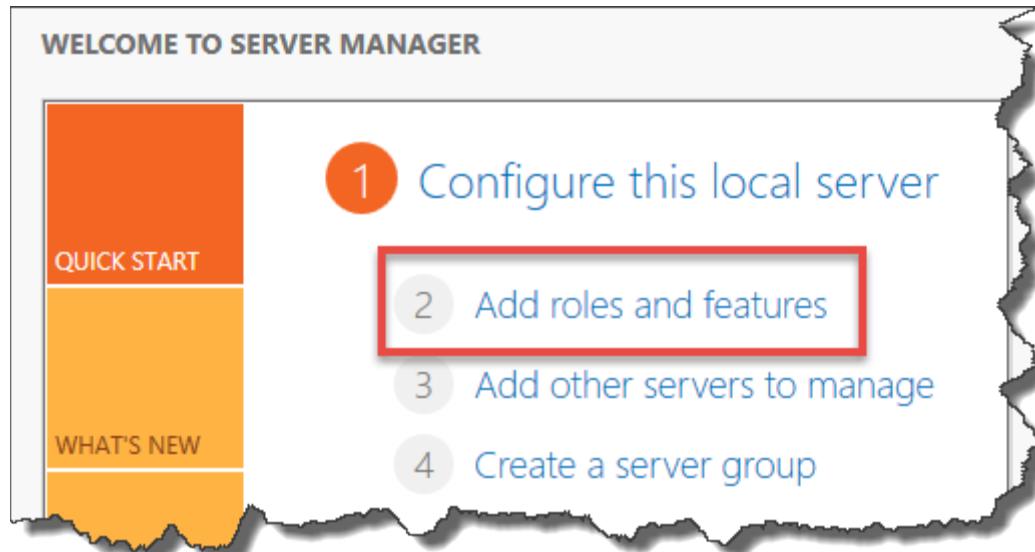
NOTE: It is *optional* but you might find it helpful to configure this server to have a static IP address and a static A record entry in your DNS server.

Chapter 2: Install Pre-requisites for SQL Server 2016 and Team Foundation Server 2017

Before you can install SQL Server or Team Foundation Server, you'll need to enable their pre-requisite roles and features in Windows Server.

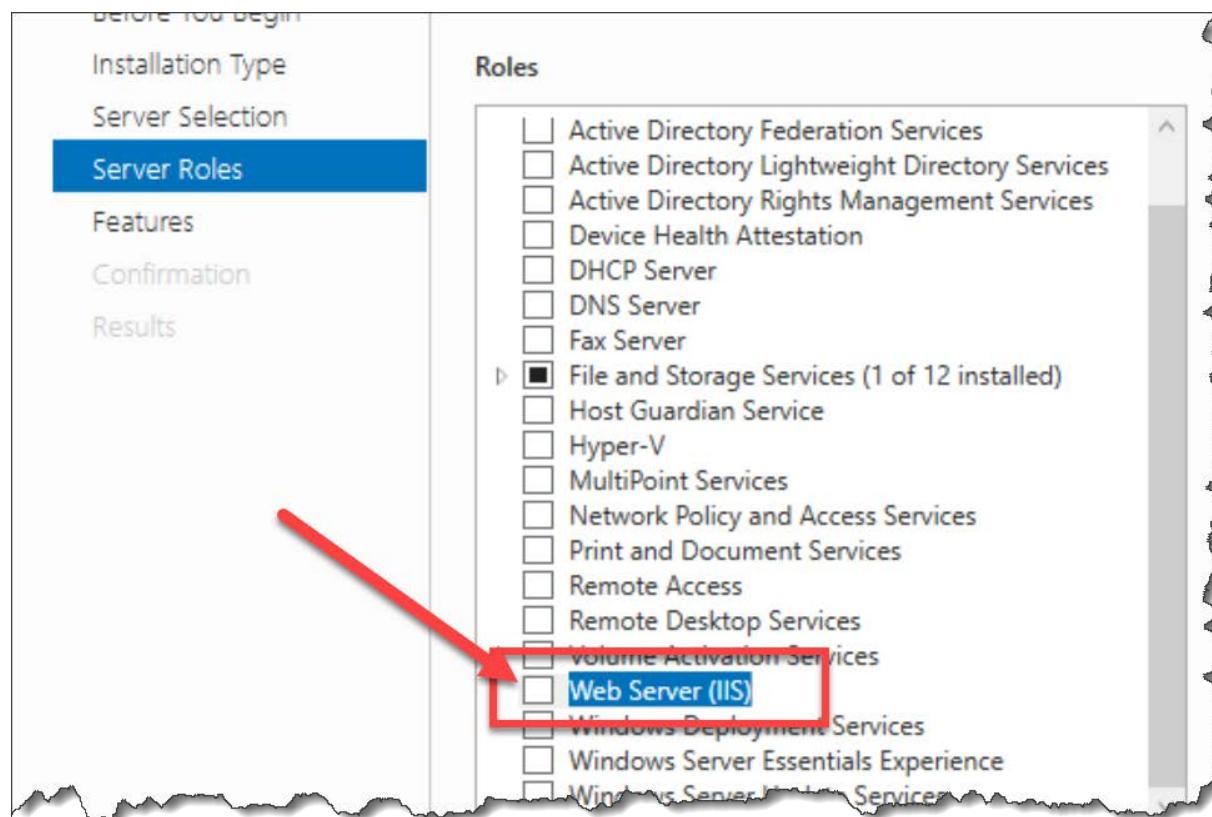
- Log on to the server using an account that is a member of the **Administrators** group
- Run **Server Manager**

First we need to verify that the .NET Framework 3.5 features are installed on this server.



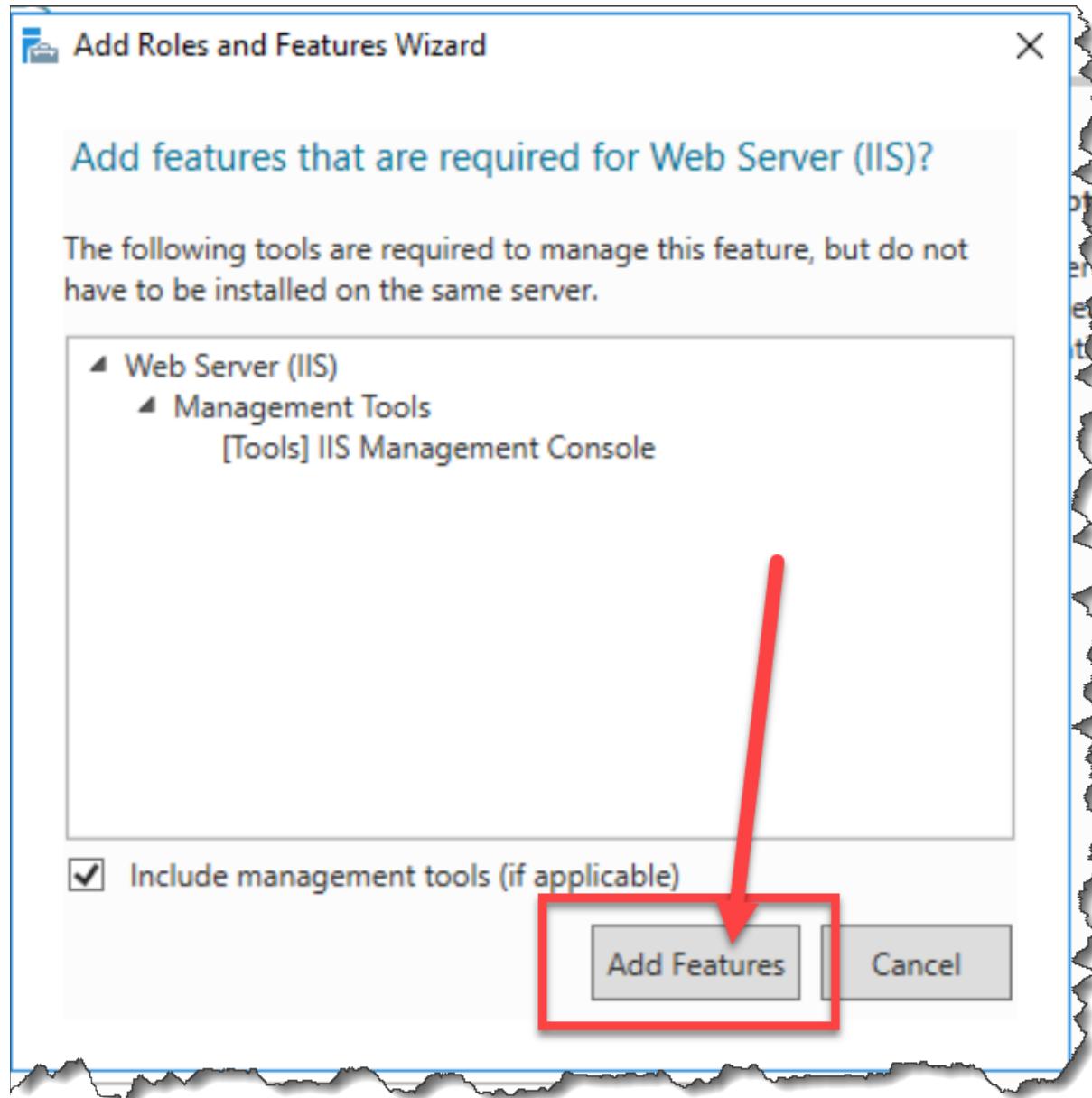
- In Server Manager, click **Add roles and features**
- On the **Before you begin** page of the wizard, click **Next**
- On the **Select installation type** page, choose **Role-based or feature-based installation** and click **Next**
- On the **Select destination server** page
 - Choose **Select a server from the server pool**
 - Select the name of the current server
 - Click **Next**

You should now be on the **Select server roles** page of the wizard.



- Check **Web Server (IIS)**

You'll see an **Add Roles and Features Wizard** dialog prompting you to add some additional features.



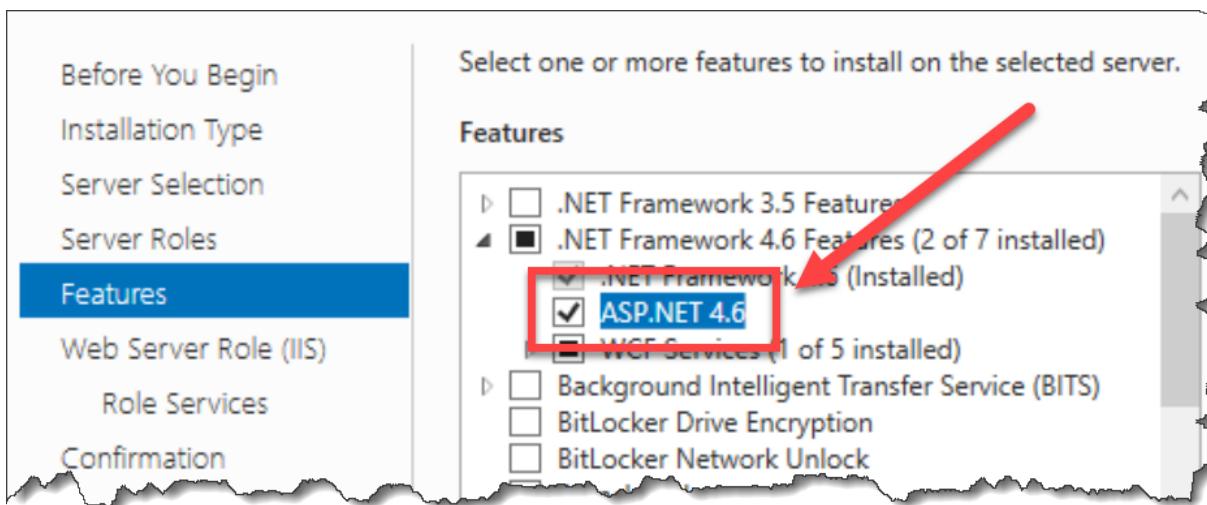
- Click **Add Features**

Web Server (IIS) should now be checked.



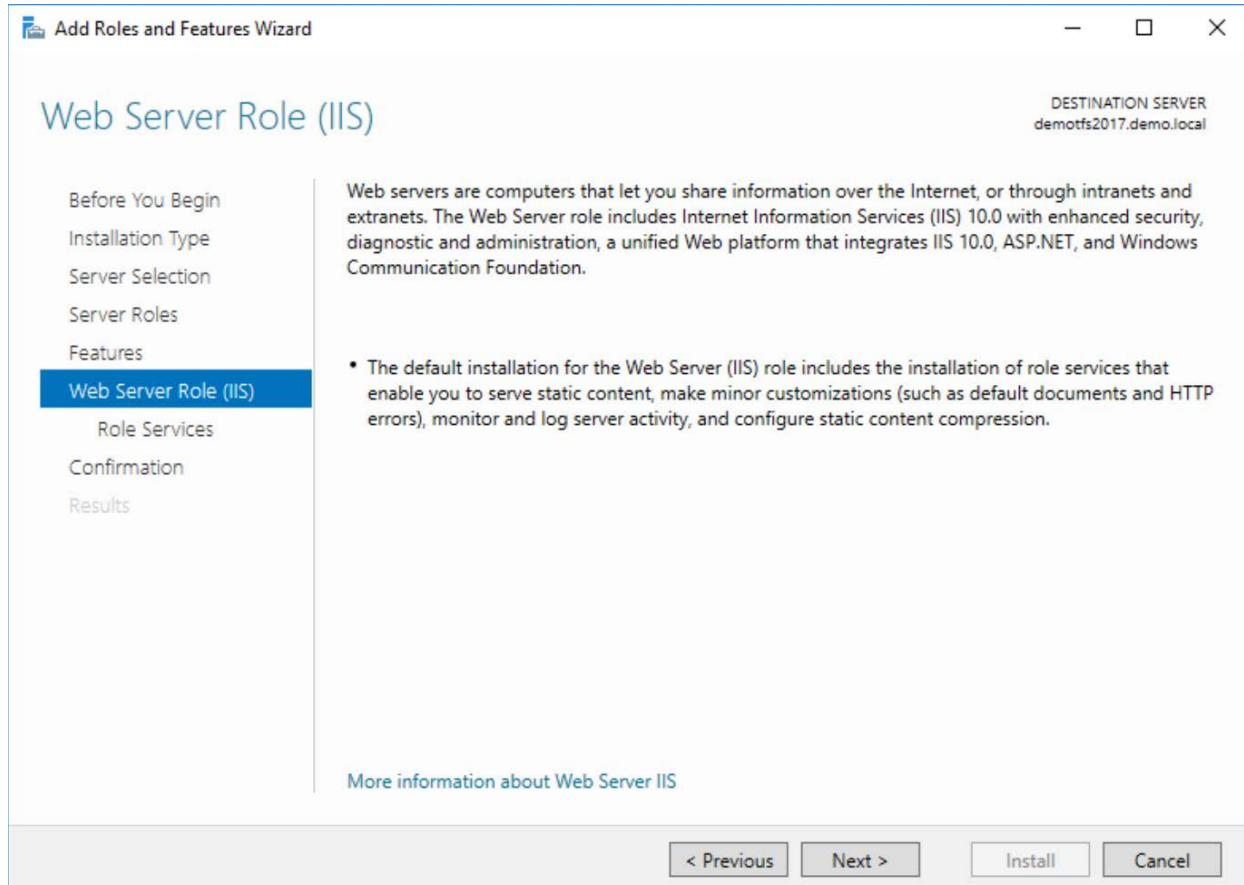
- Click **Next**

You should now be on the **Select features** page.



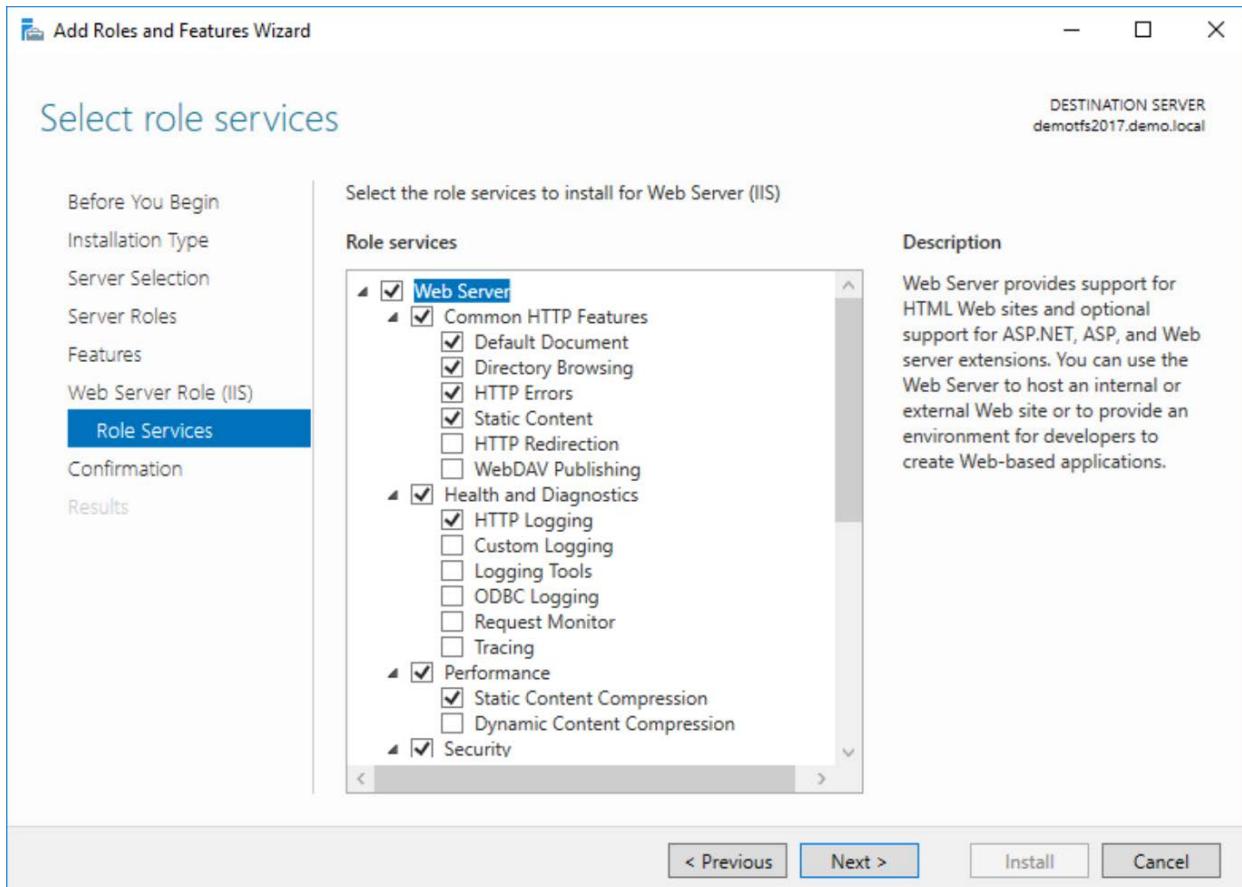
- Verify that **.NET Framework 4.6 Features** is checked
- Expand the **.NET Framework 4.6 Features** node
- Check **ASP.NET 4.6**
- Click **Next**

You'll probably see a message about the Web Server (IIS) role.



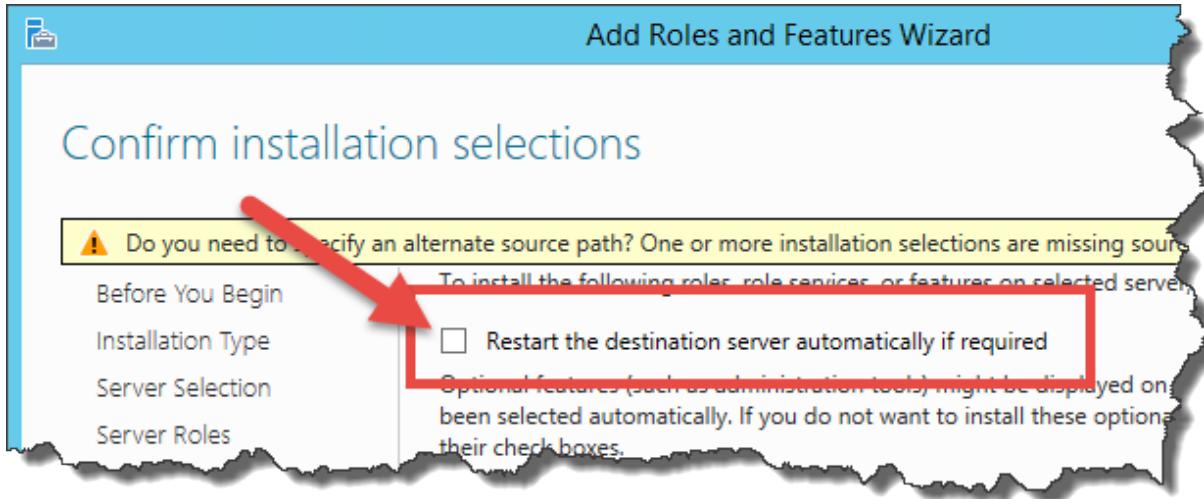
- Click **Next**

You should now see the **Select role services** page of the wizard.



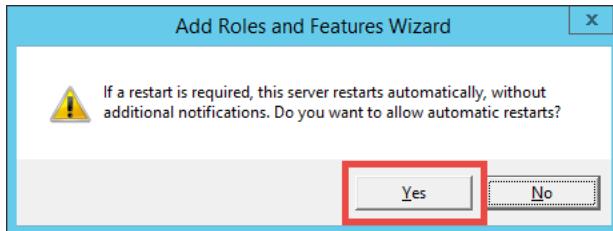
- Click the **Next** button

You should now be on the **Confirm installation selections** page.



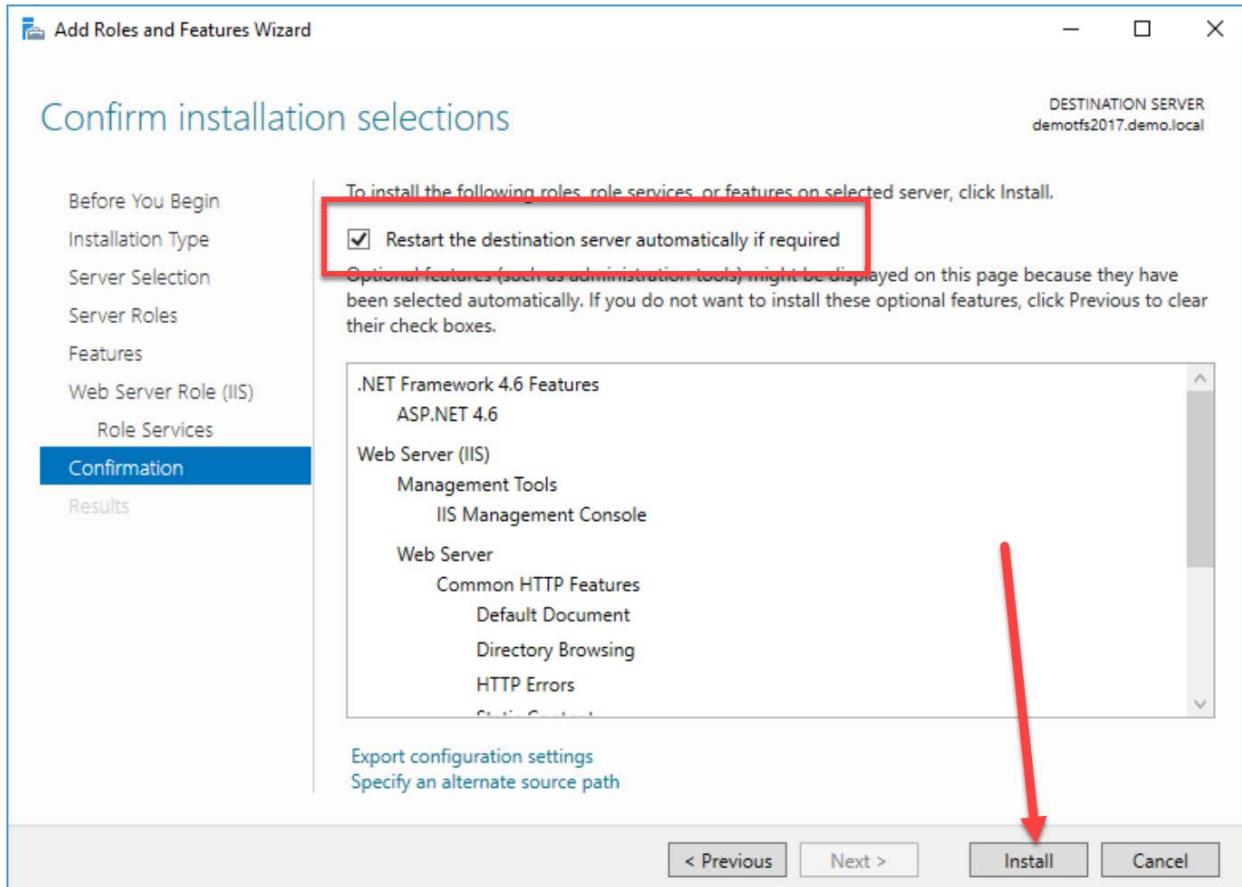
- Click the checkbox for **Restart the destination server automatically if required**

You'll be prompted to approve automatic restarts.



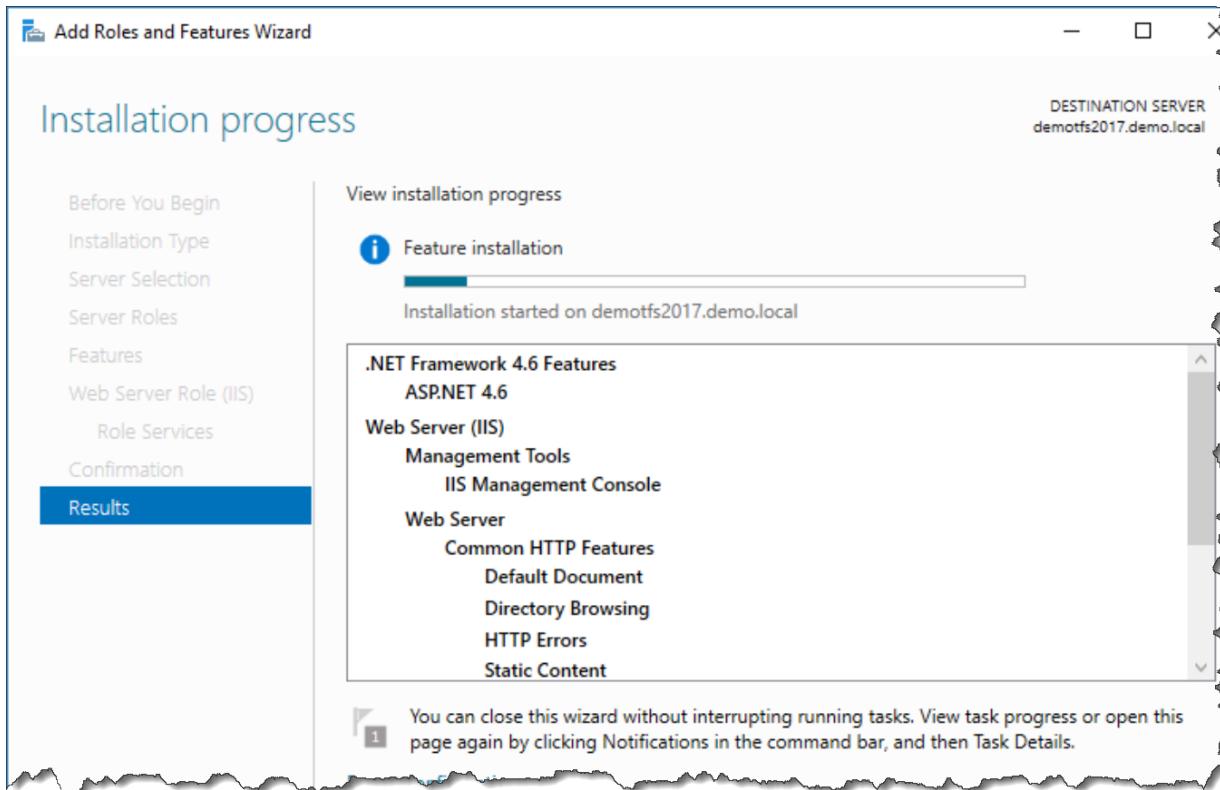
- Click **Yes**

You should now be on the **Confirm installation selections** page and **Restart the destination server automatically if required** should be checked.

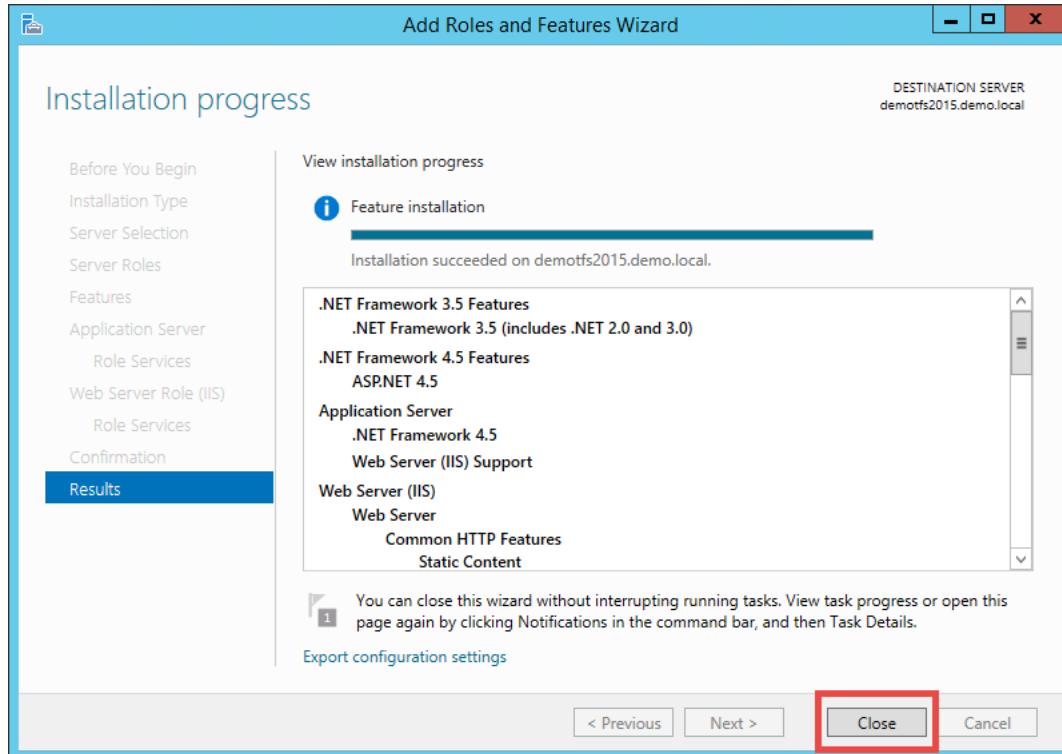


- Check **Restart the destination server automatically if required**
- Click **Install**

The features should now be installing.



Eventually, the feature installation should finish.

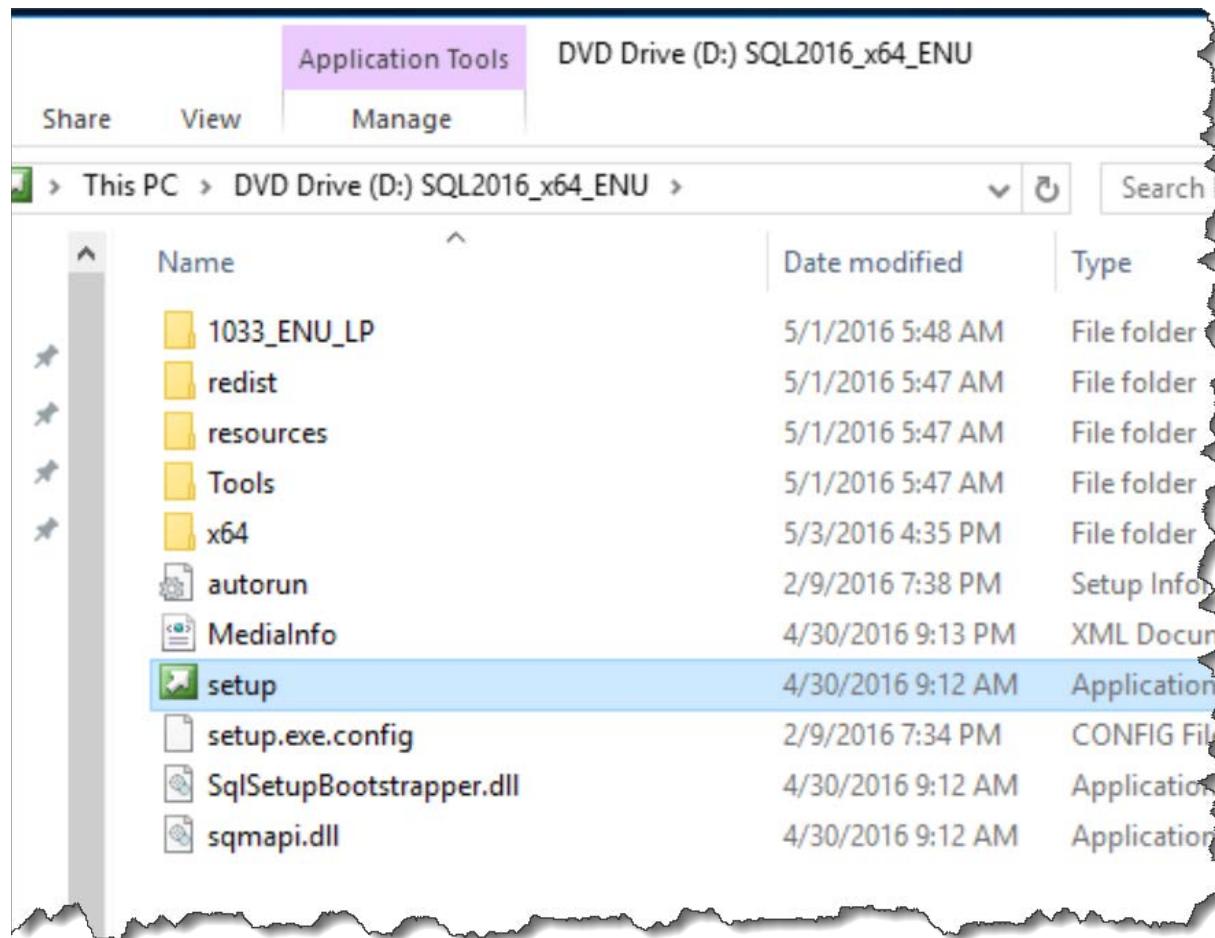


- Verify that the installation succeeded
- Click **Close**
- (Optional) **Reboot** the server

Chapter 3: Install SQL Server 2016

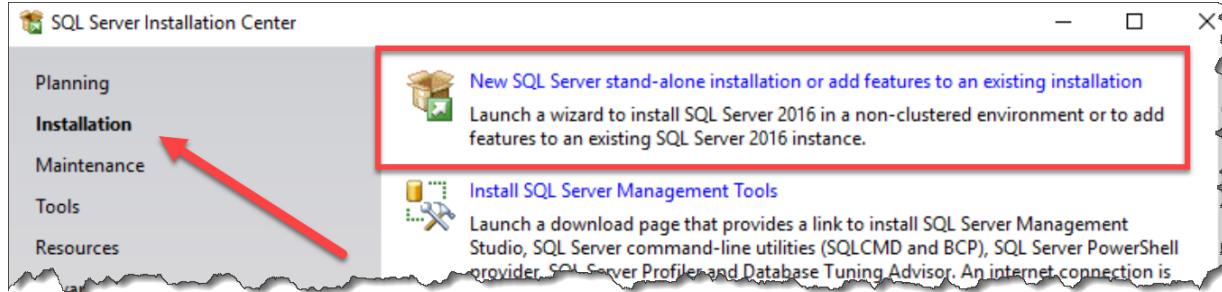
This chapter will walk you through the process of installing SQL Server 2016 for use with TFS.

- Log on to the server using an account that is a member of the **Administrators** group
- Insert the SQL Server 2016 DVD or mount the appropriate ISO image
- Open the DVD drive using **Windows Explorer (explorer.exe)**



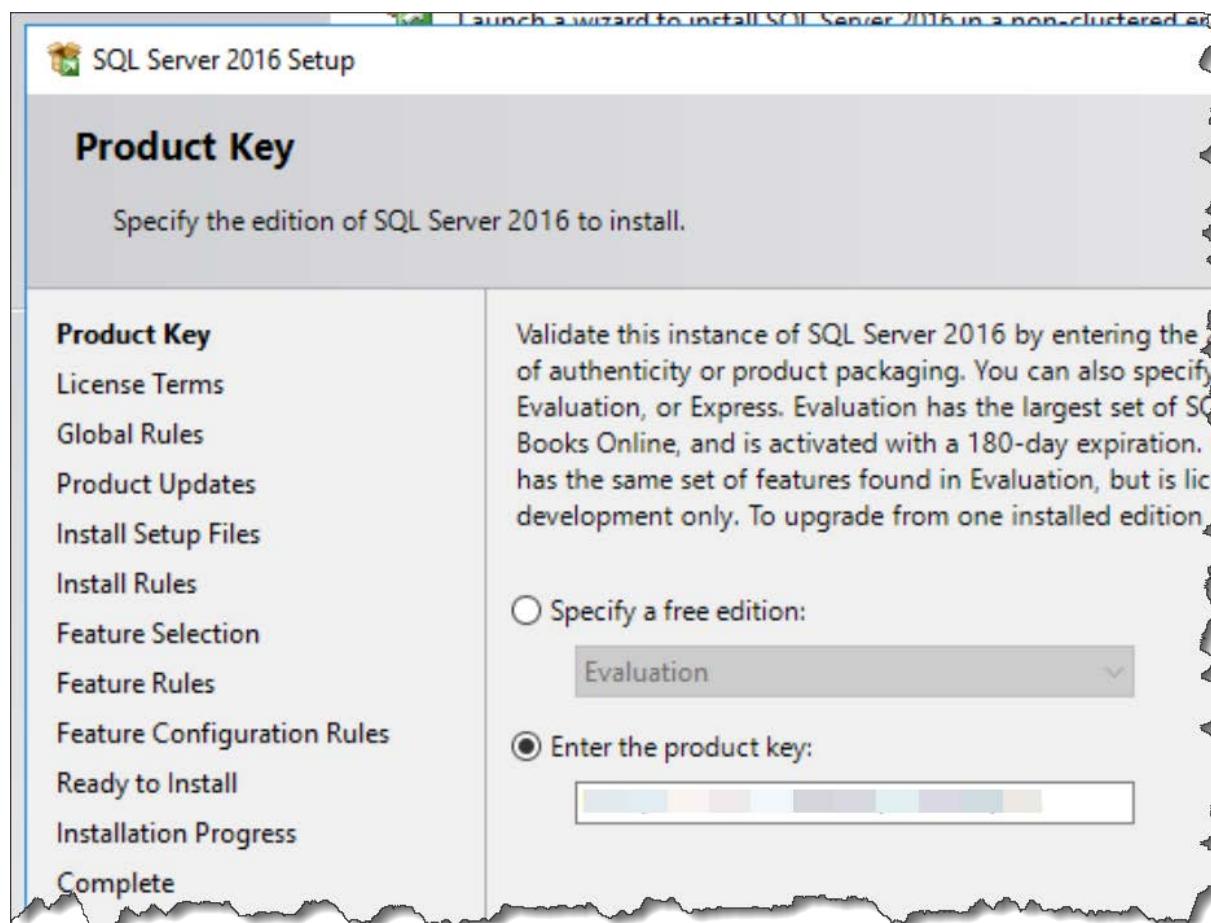
- Run the SQL Server setup program
- Click **Yes** on any User Account Control dialogs that appear

You should now see the SQL Server Installation Center window.

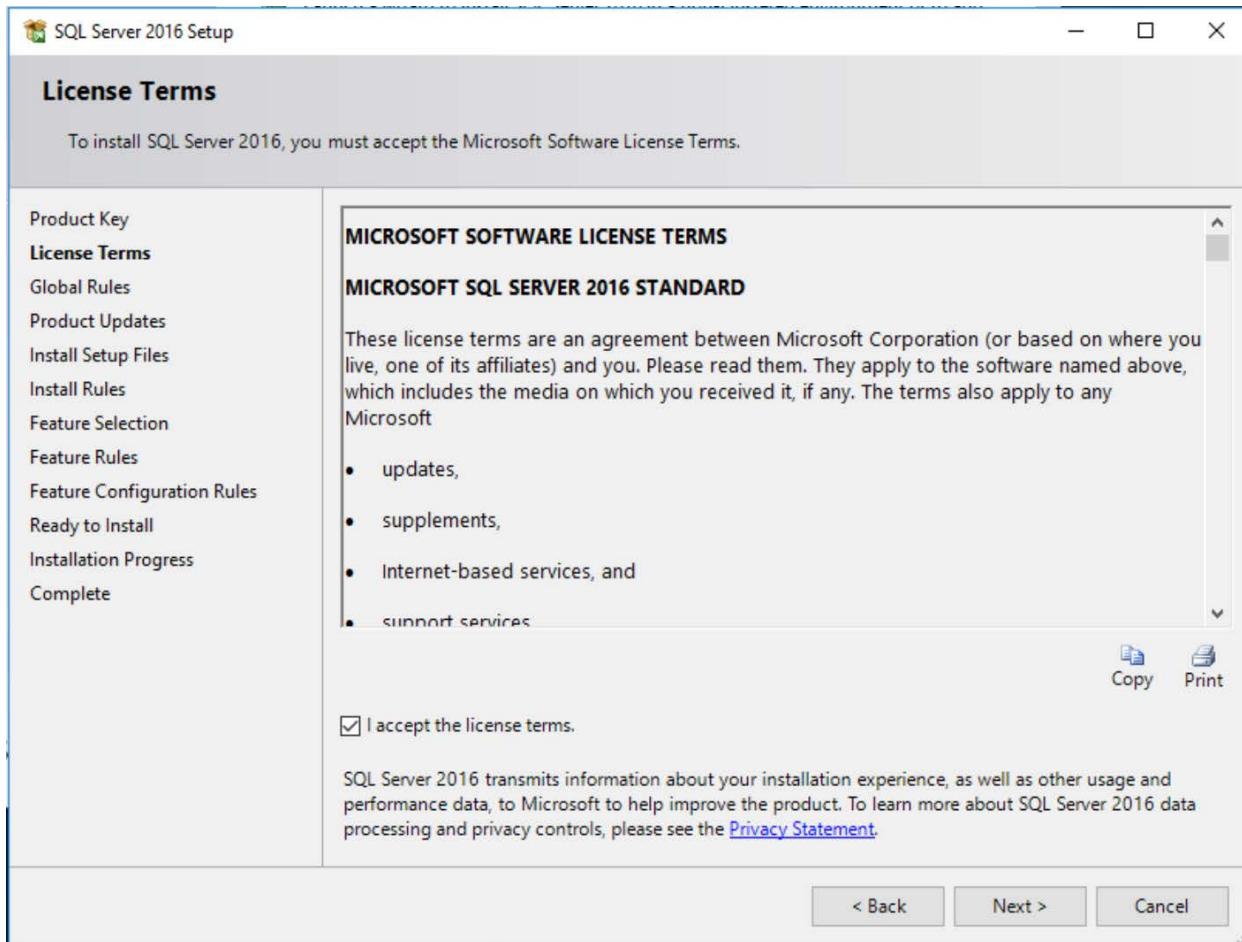


- In the left panel, click **Installation**
- In the right panel, click **New SQL Server stand-alone installation or add features to an existing installation**

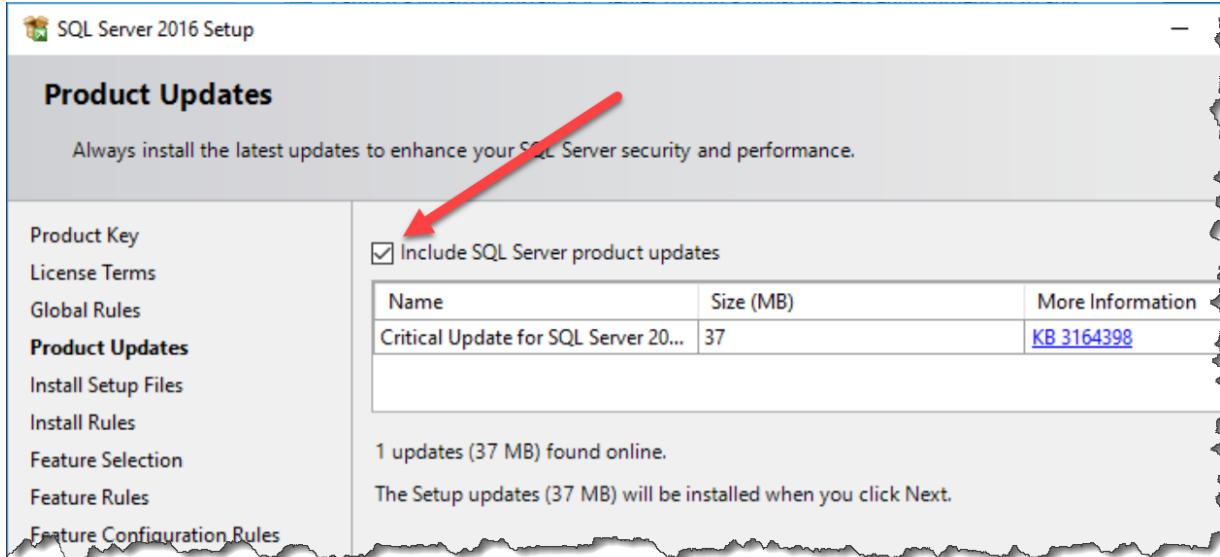
You might now be prompted for a license key.



- Enter a product key
- Click **Next**

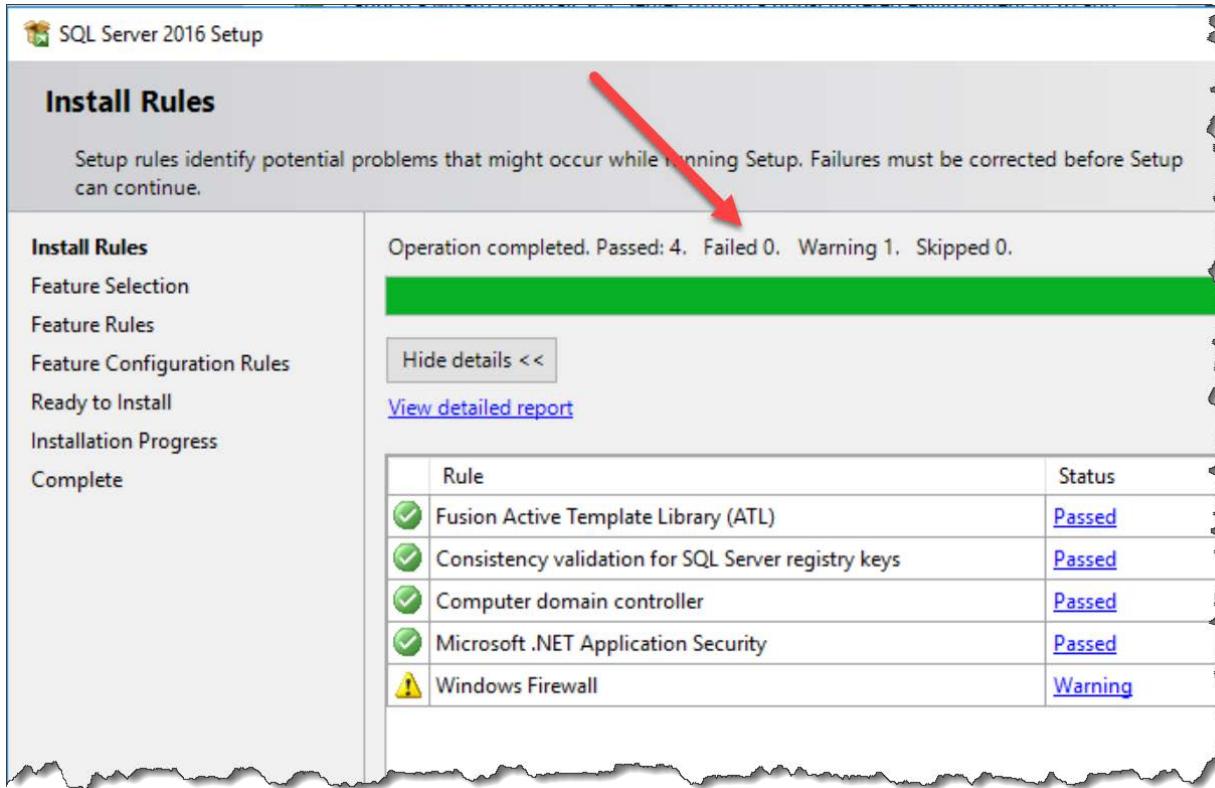


- Check **I accept the license terms**
- Click **Next**



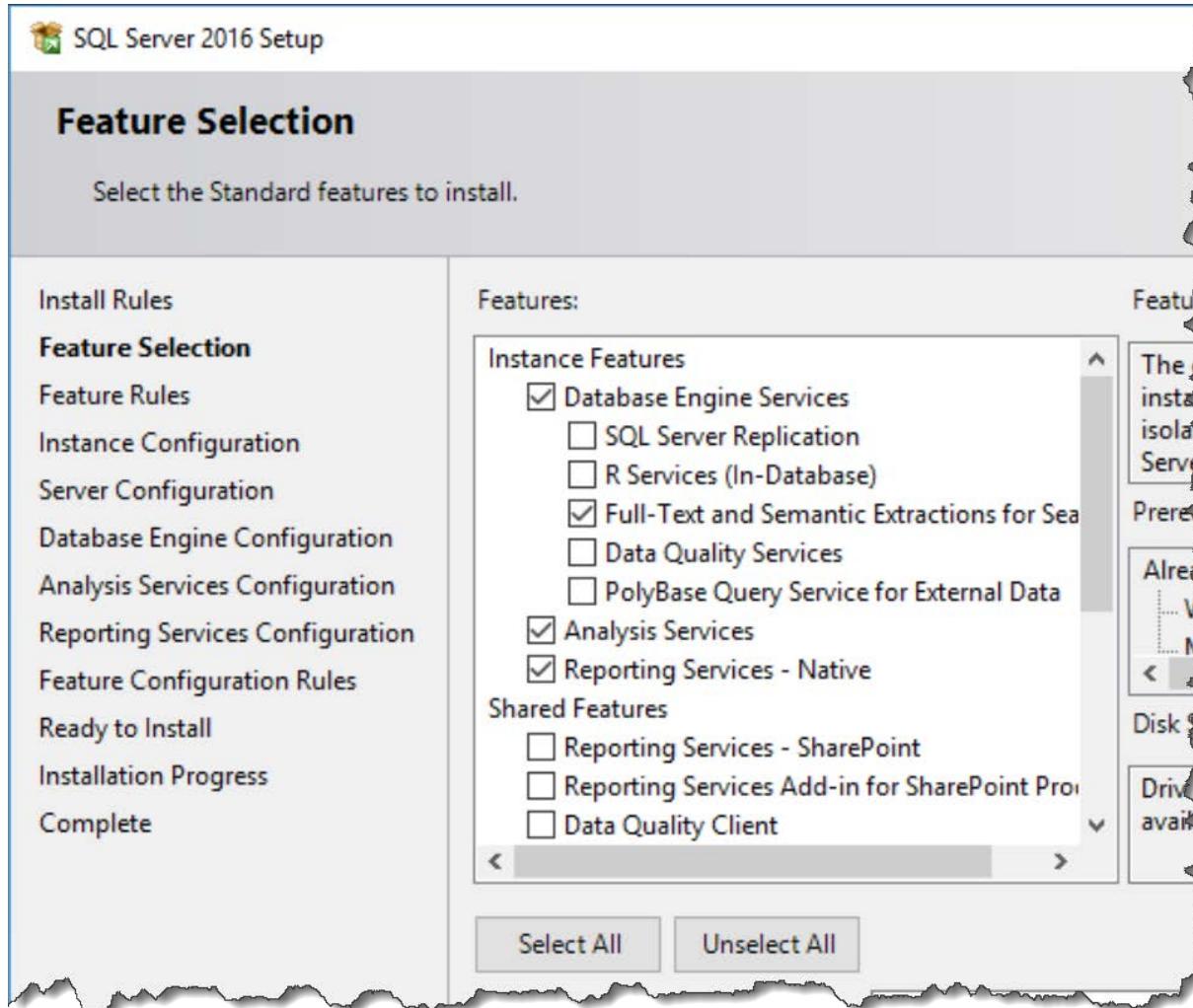
- Check **Include SQL Server product updates**
- Click **Next**

Verify that none of the install rule checks have failed.



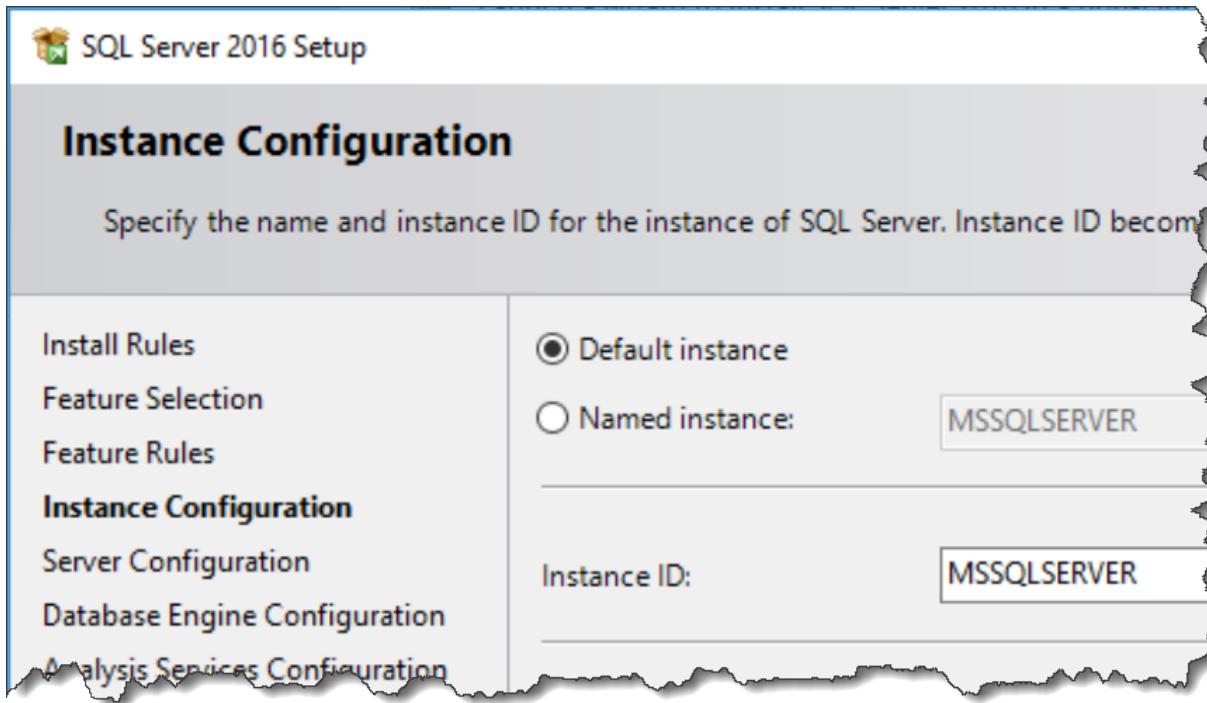
- Verify that there are 0 failures
- Click **Next**

You should now be on the **Feature Selection** page.



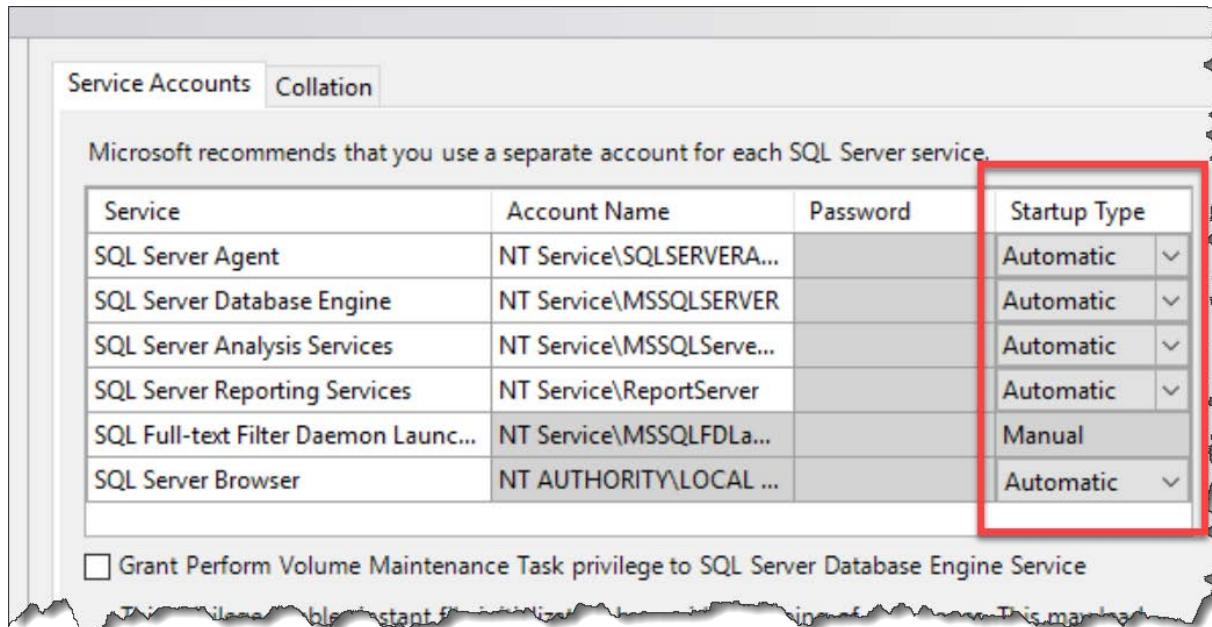
- Under **Instance Features** check
 - **Database Engine Services**
 - **Full-text and Semantic Extractions for Search**
 - **Analysis Services**
 - **Reporting Services – Native**
- Click **Next**

You should now be on the Instance Configuration page.

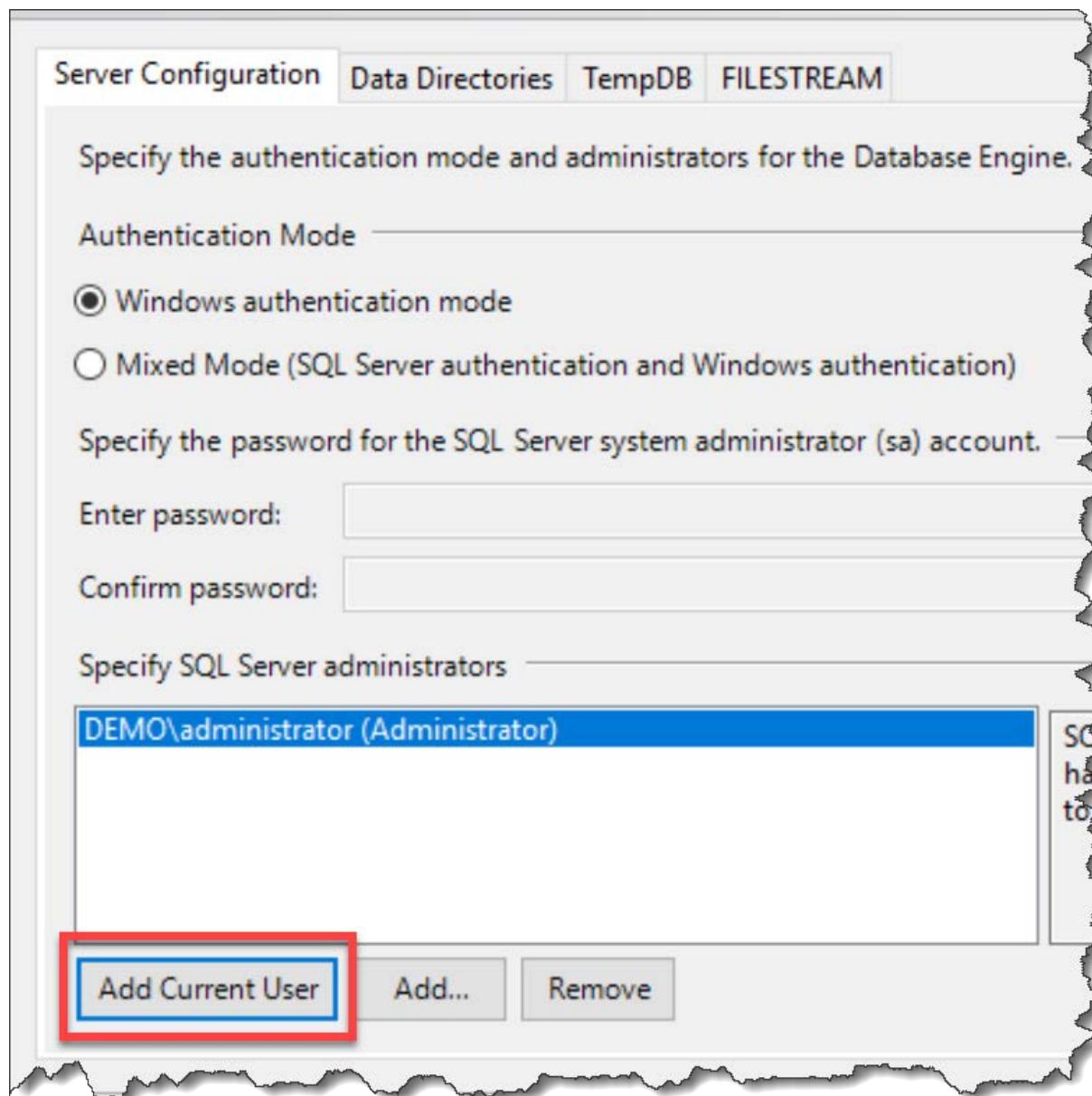


- Choose **Default instance**
- Click **Next**

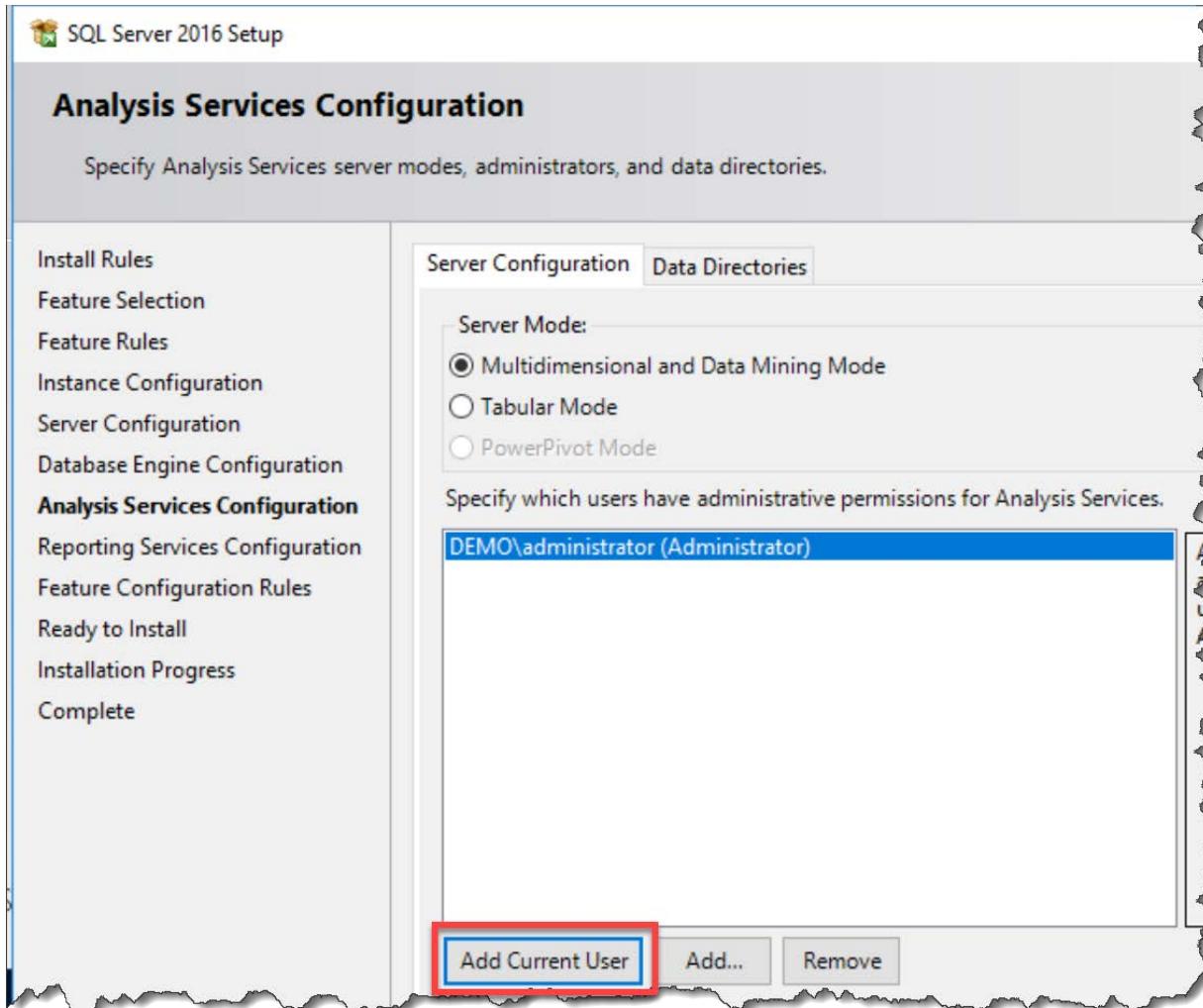
On the **Server Configuration** page you need to set all the services to automatically start.



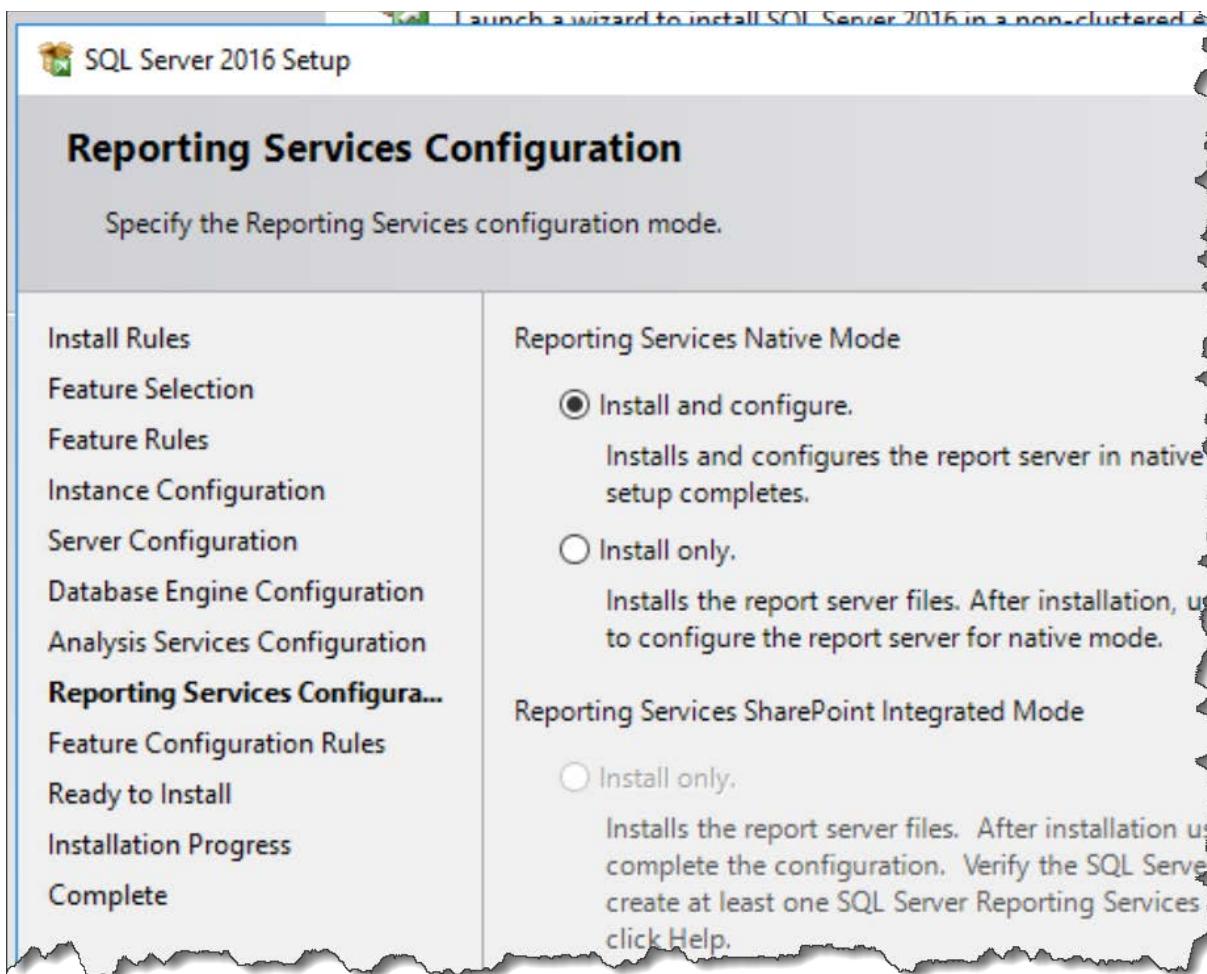
- For each service, set **Startup Type** to **Automatic**
- Click **Next**



- Choose **Windows authentication mode**
- Click the **Add Current User** button to add the current user as a SQL Server administrator
- (Optional) Click the **Add...** button and add the **Domain Admins** group to the SQL Server administrators
- Click **Next**

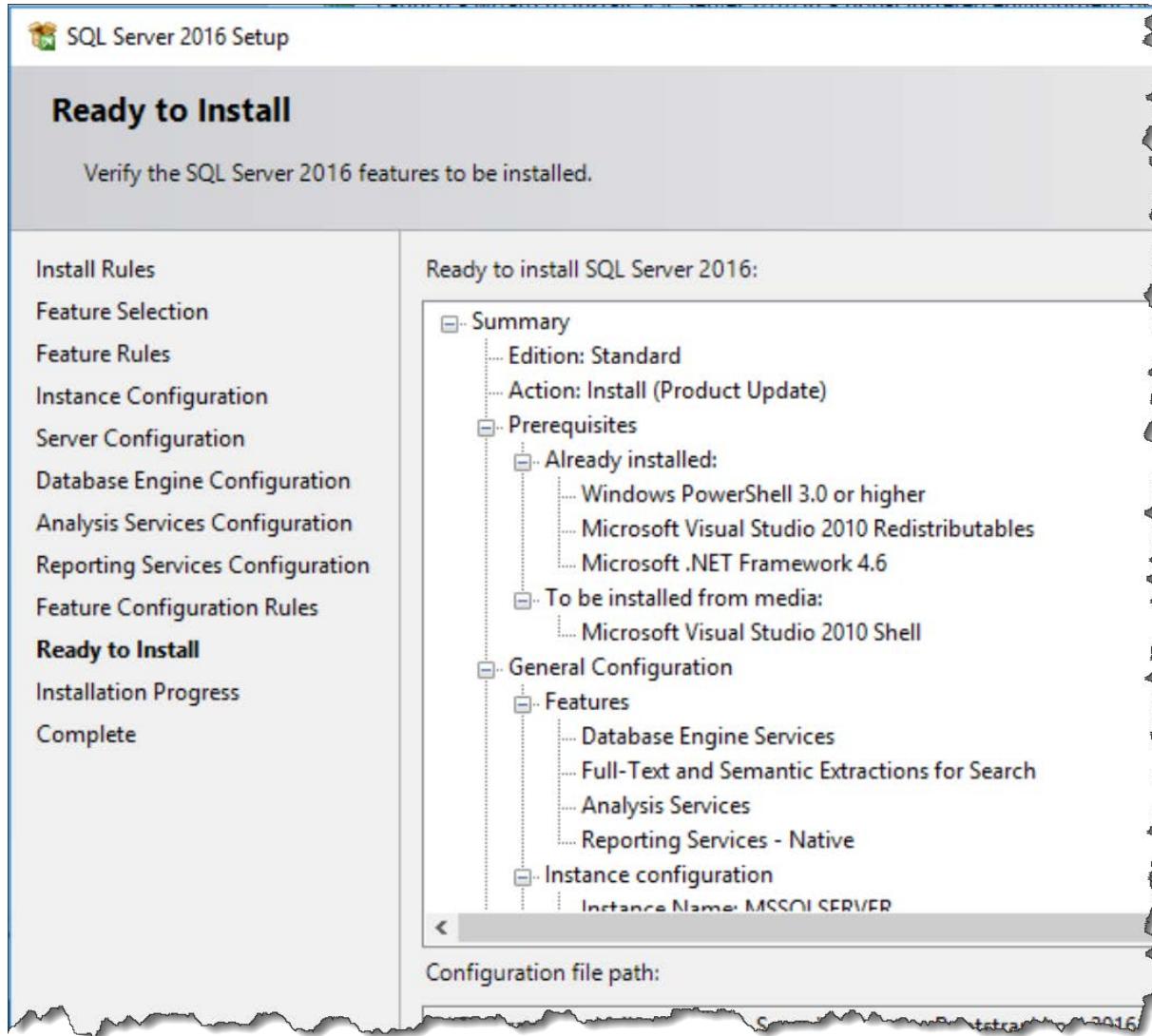


- Click the **Add Current User** button to add the current user as an Analysis Server administrator
- (Optional) Click the **Add...** button and add the **Domain Admins** group to the Analysis Services administrators
- Click **Next**



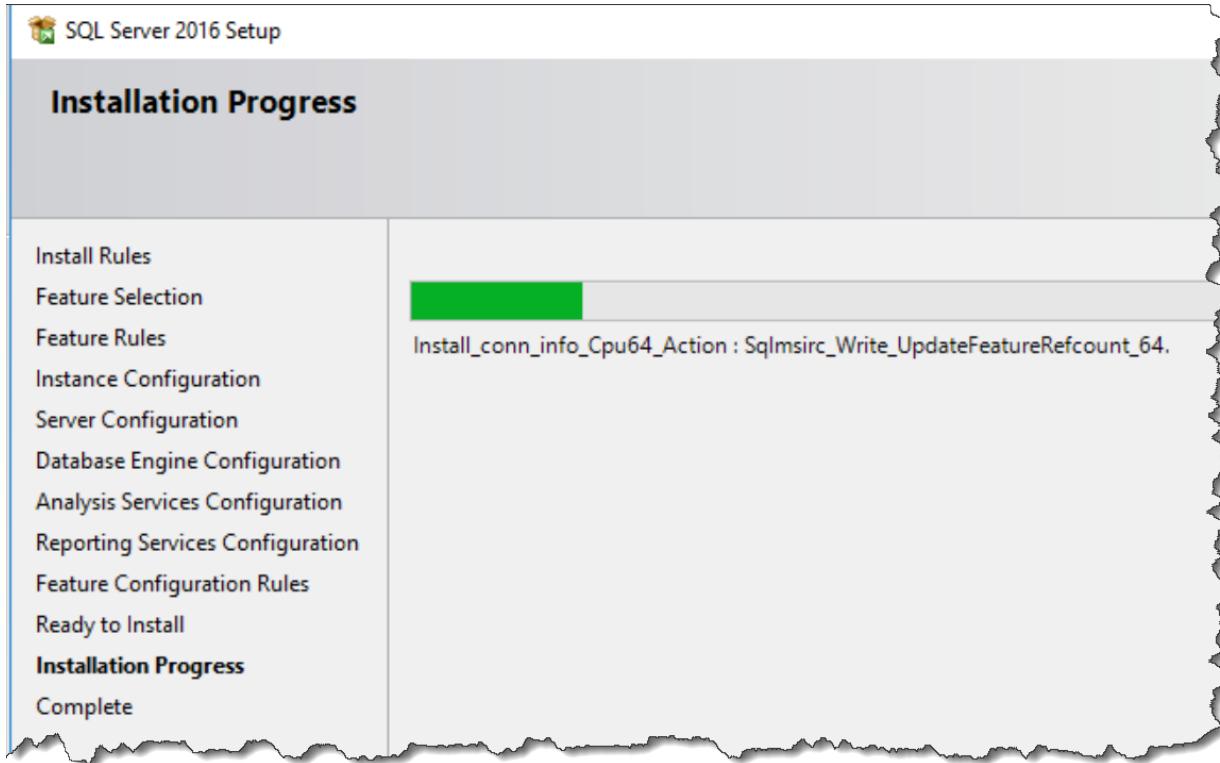
- Choose **Install and configure**
- Click **Next**

You should now see the **Ready to Install** page.

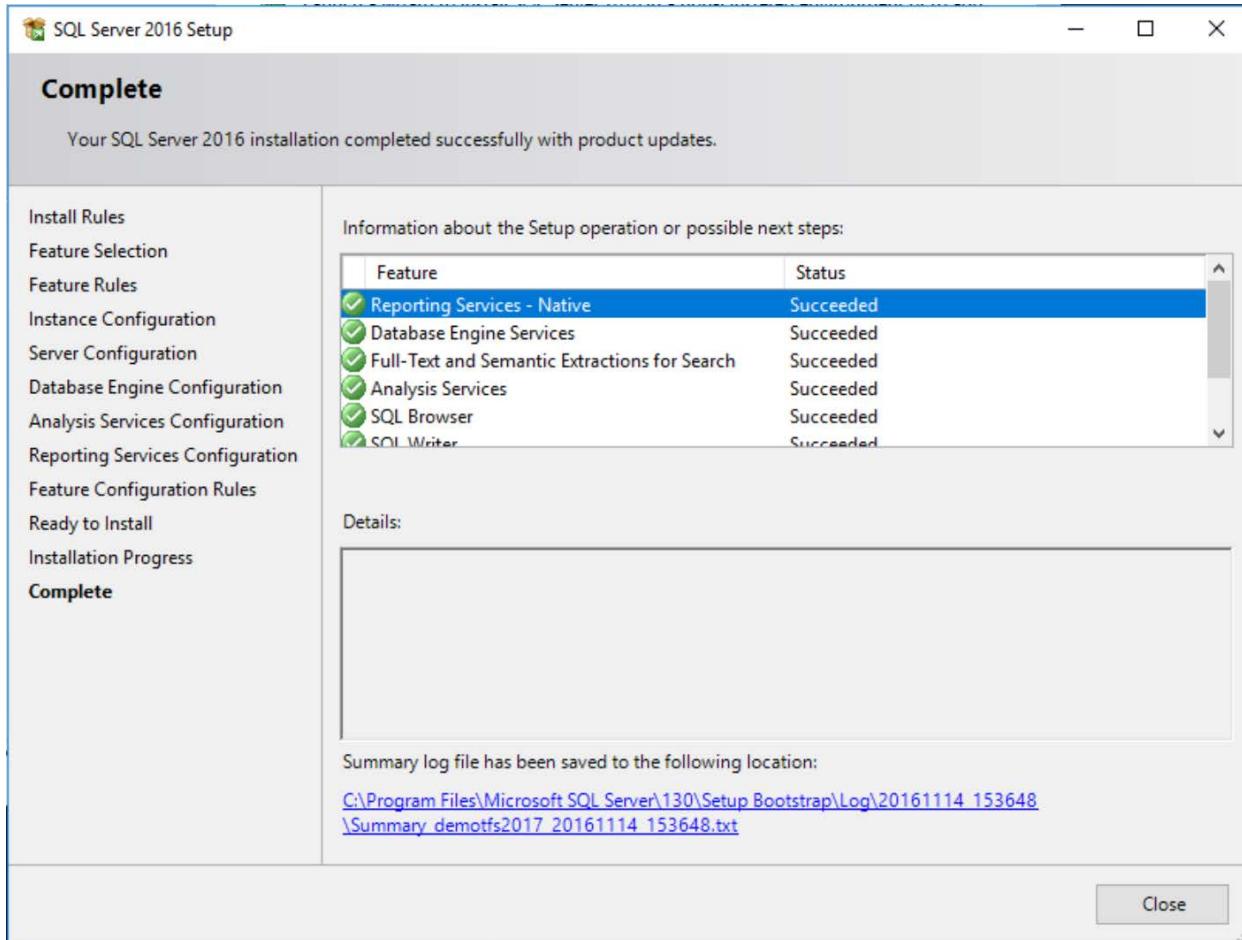


- Click **Install**

The installer should now be running.

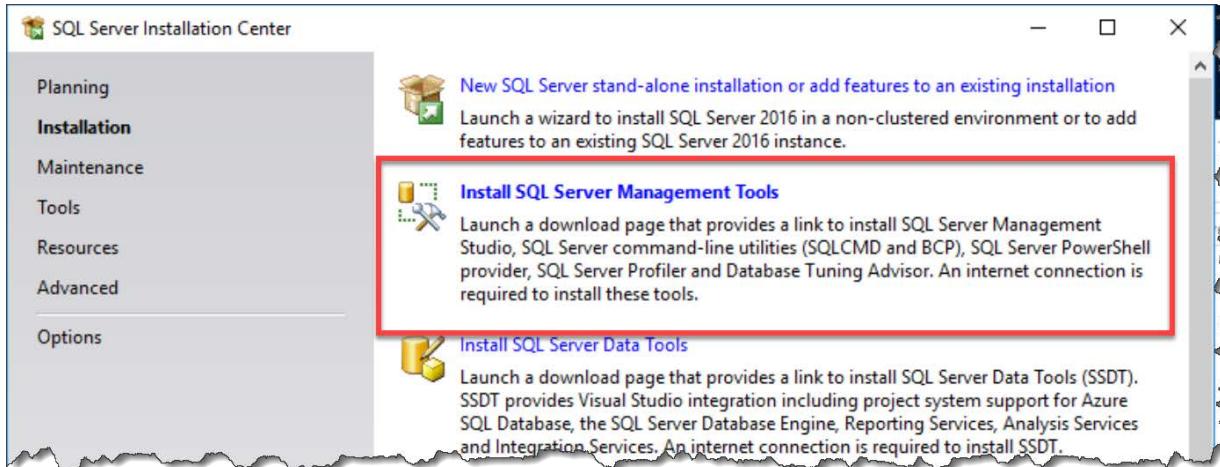


Eventually, the installer should finish.



- Verify that all items installed successfully
- Click **Close** to exit the installer

You should now be back on the **SQL Server Installation Center**.



- (Optional) Install **SQL Server Management Tools**
- Or click the close button to exit the installer

SQL Server 2016 is now installed.

- (Recommended) Re-run **Windows Update** and install any available updates

Chapter 4: Install Team Foundation Server 2017

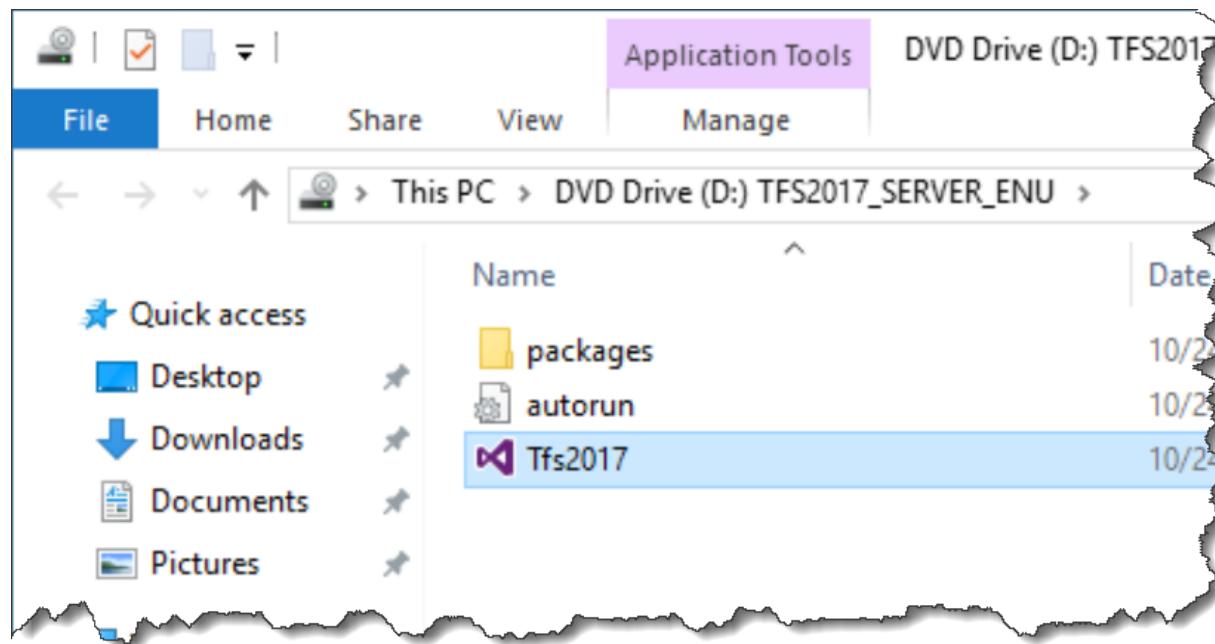
Introduction

Now that Windows and SQL Server are installed, you're ready to install Team Foundation Server 2017 (TFS2017). You'll probably want to create three domain accounts for use by the various pieces of TFS: TFS Service (*domain\tfsservice*), TFS Reports (*domain\tfsreports*), and TFS Build (*domain\tfsbuild*).

- If you're installing this on a Hyper-V virtual machine with dynamic memory enabled, change the **minimum amount of RAM to 2GB** (at least temporarily) to allow Team Foundation Server 2017 to install along with SQL Server.
- Gather the username and passwords for the 3 TFS service accounts (see above)
- Log on to the server using a user account with Administrator privileges

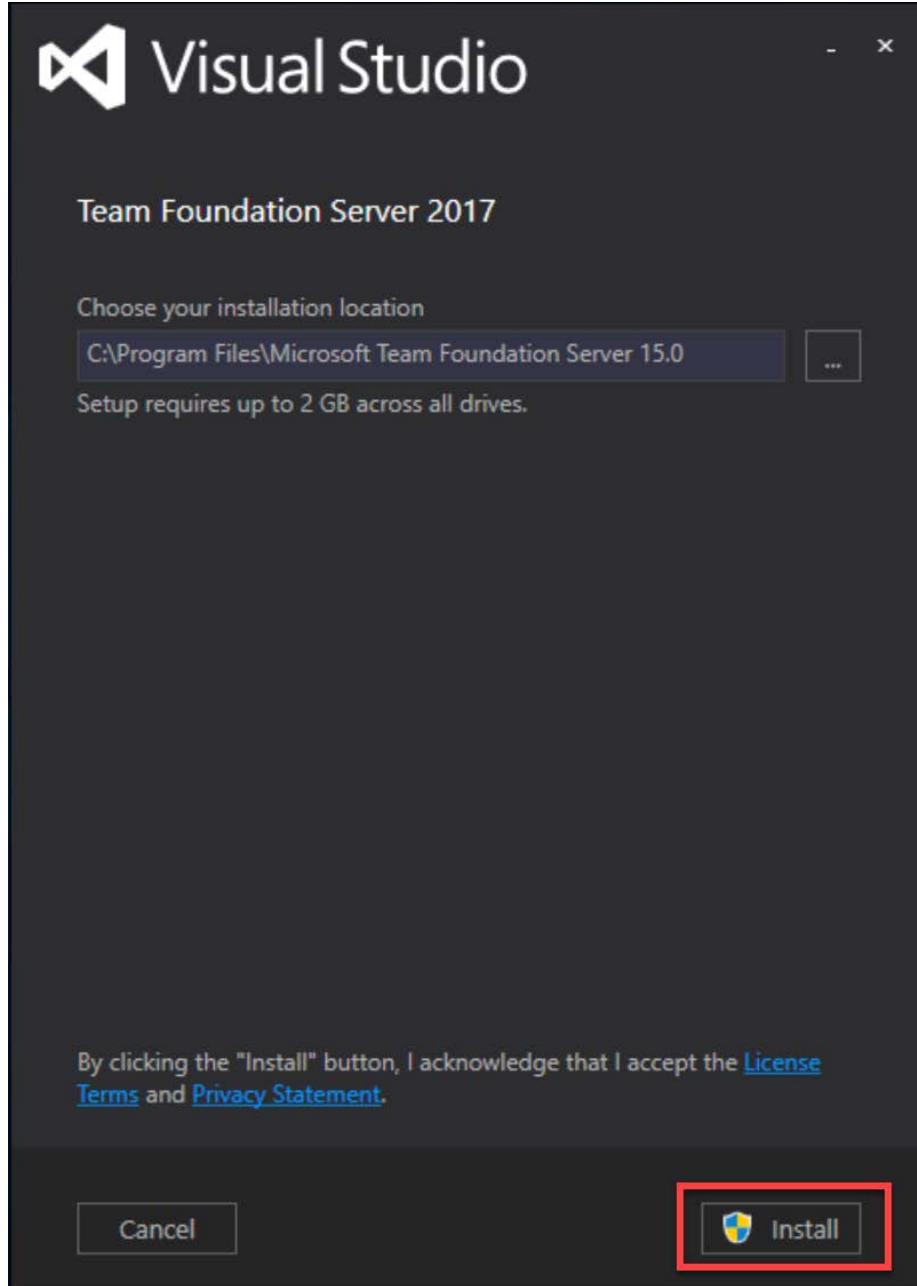
Run the Installer

- Mount the TFS2017 ISO image or insert a TFS2017 installer DVD
- Using Windows Explorer (explorer.exe), navigate to the installer directory



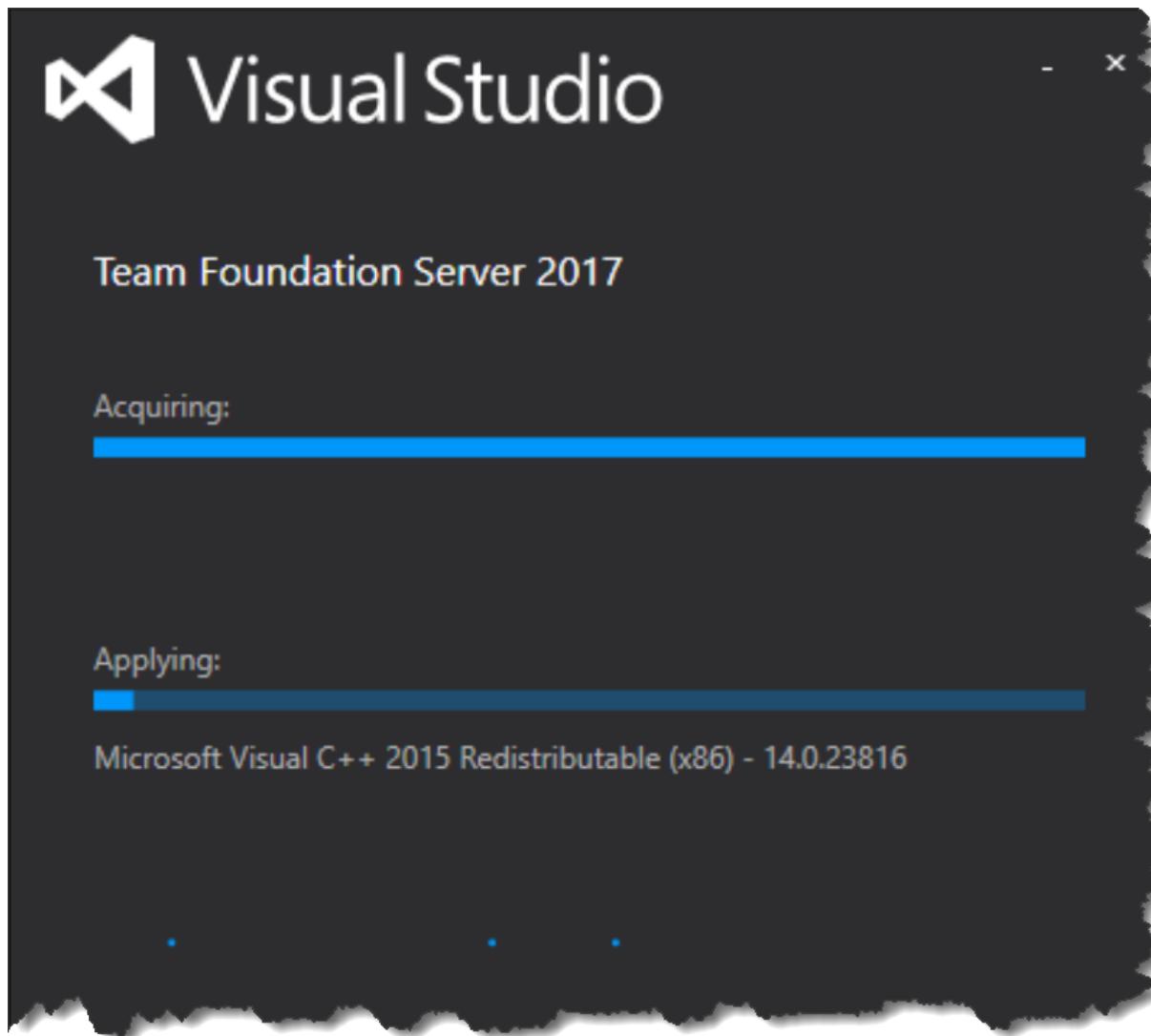
- Run **Tfs2017.exe**

You should see the **Team Foundation Server Setup** dialog.

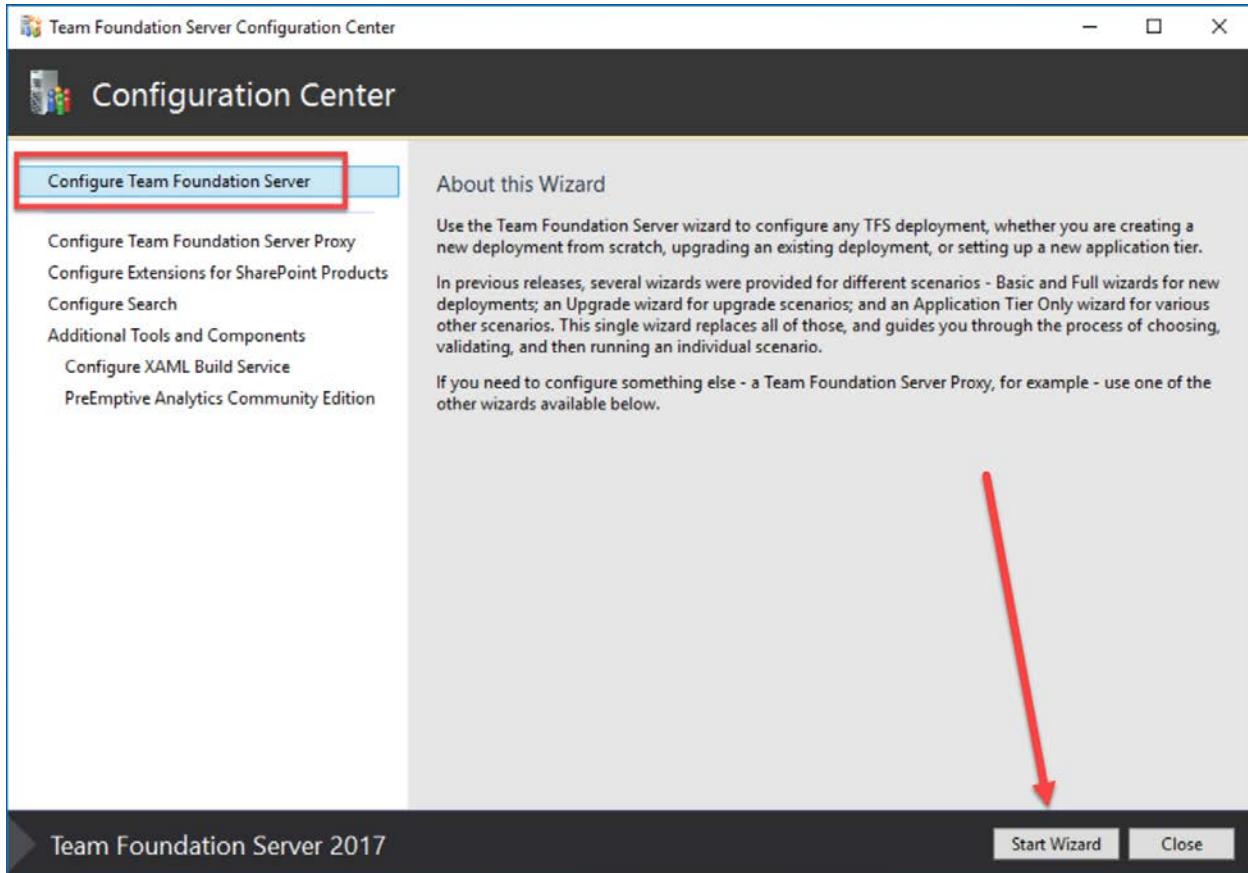


- Click **Install**

The installer will run and start to copy files to your disk.

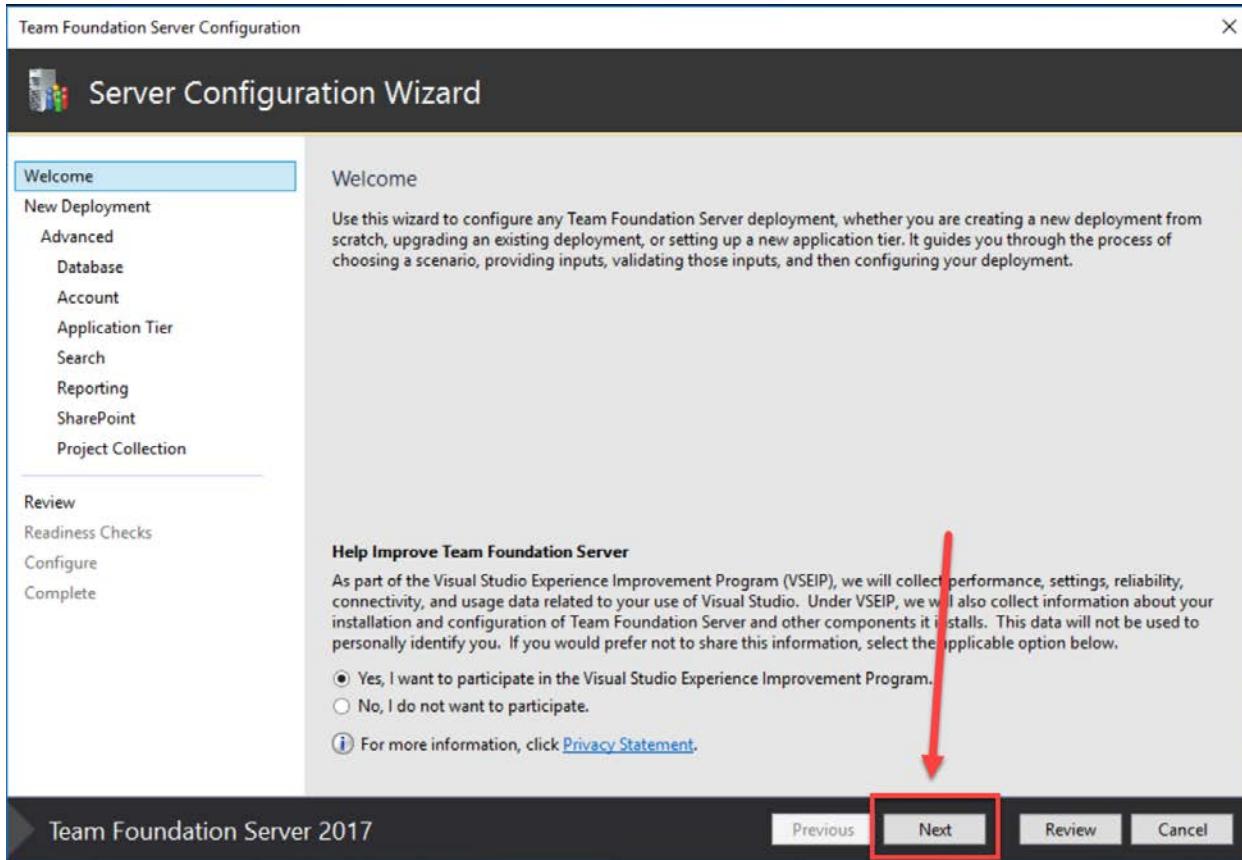


You should now see the **Team Foundation Server Configuration Center**.



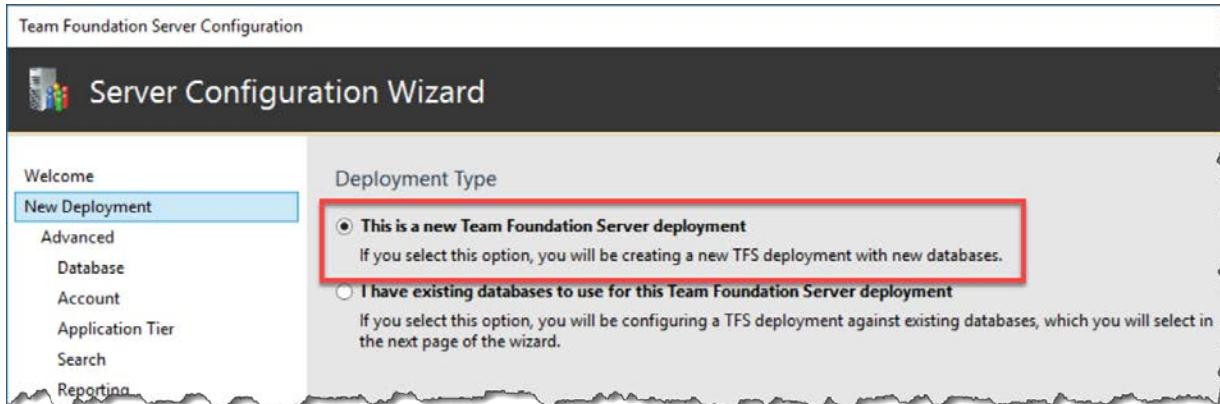
- Choose **Configure Team Foundation Server**
- Click **Start Wizard**

You should now be on the welcome page.



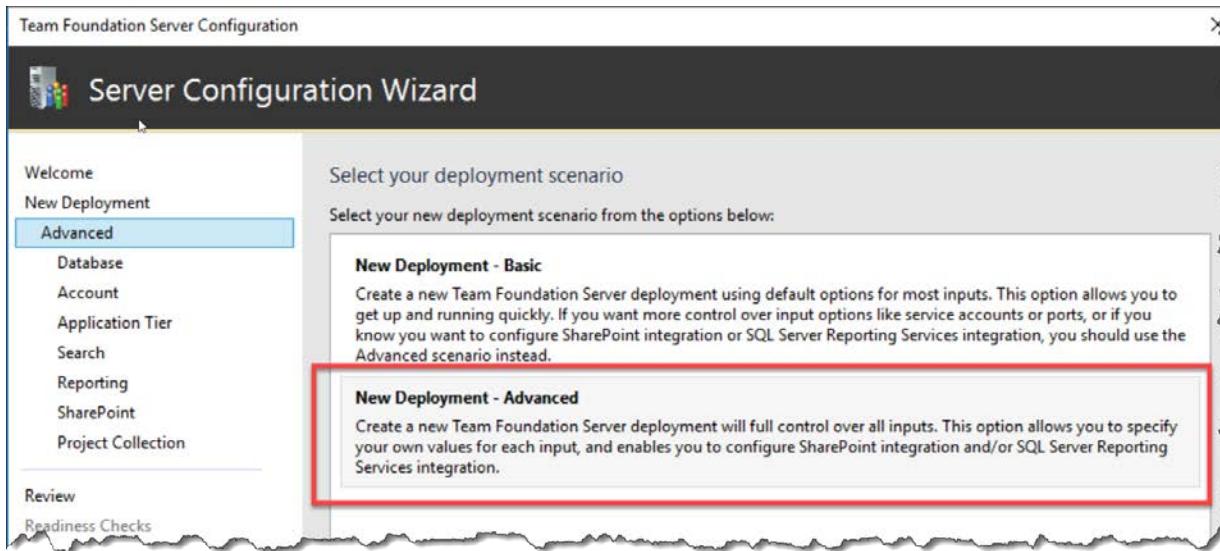
- Choose **Yes, I want to participate in the Visual Studio Experience Improvement Program**
- Click **Next**

You should now be on the Deployment Type page.



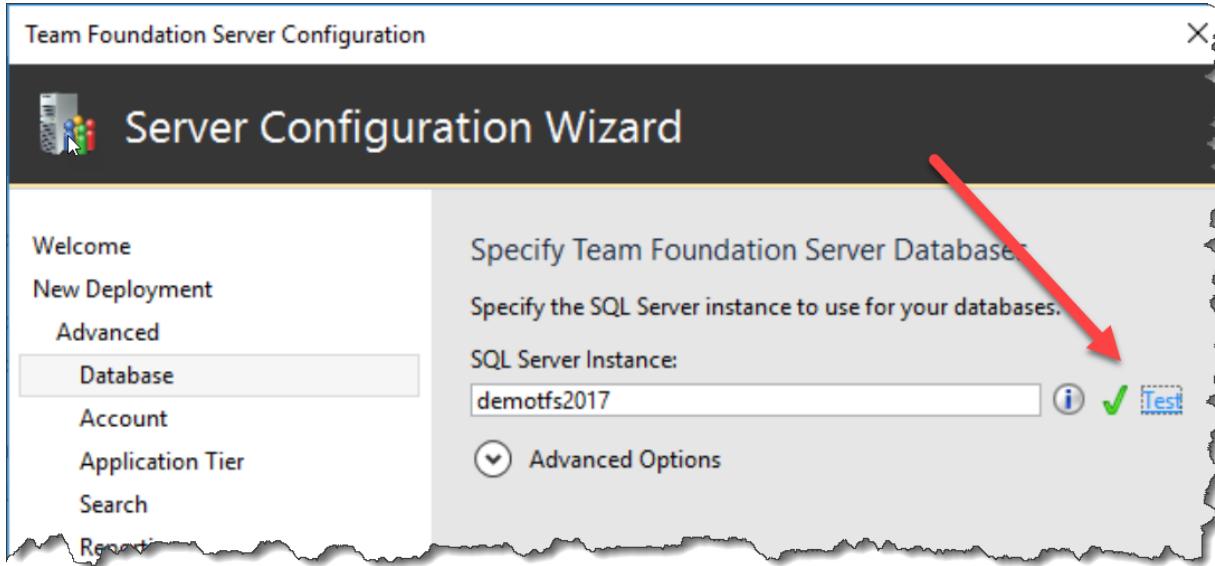
- Select **This is a new Team Foundation Server deployment**
- Click **Next**

On the **Select your deployment scenario** page, you'll be prompted to choose between a TFS Basic or TFS Advanced deployment. Since this guide assumes that you're using SQL Server Reporting Services with TFS, you'll need to choose the Advanced version.



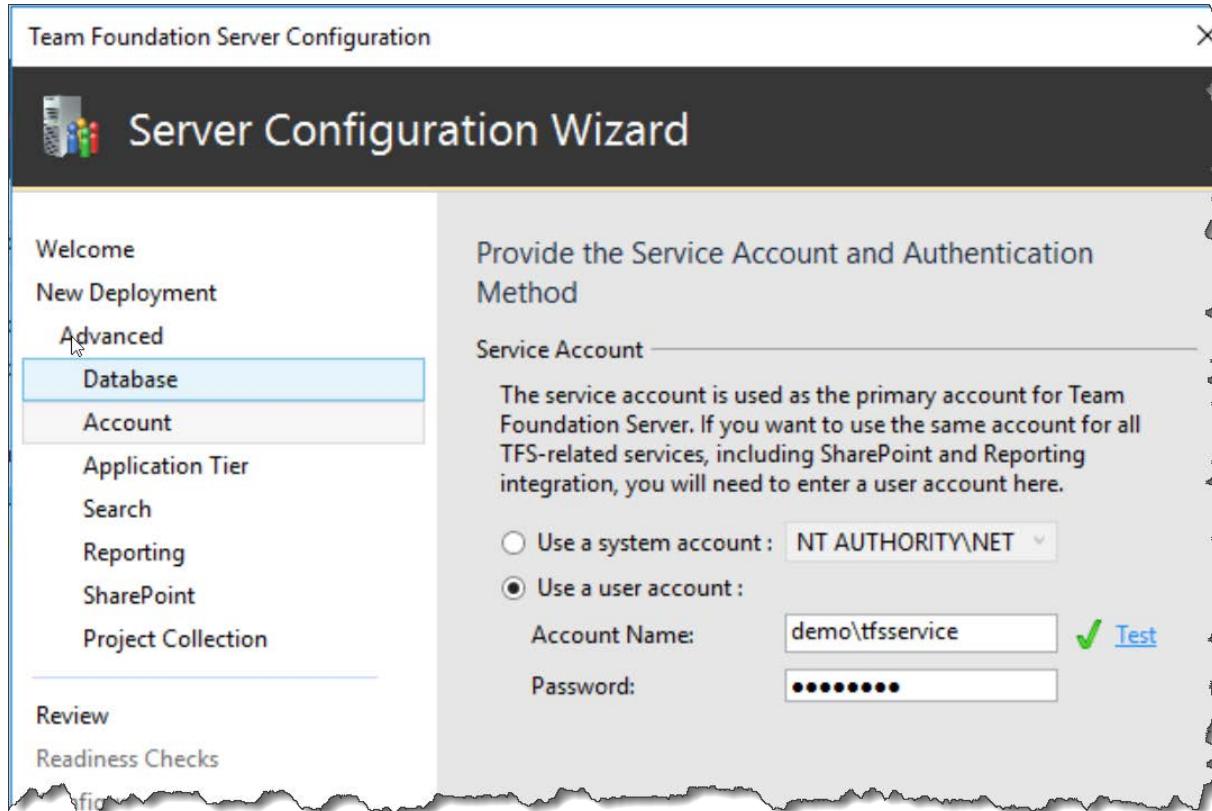
- Choose **New Deployment – Advanced**
- Click **Next**

The **Specify Team Foundation Server Databases** page prompts you to choose your SQL Server database. This guide assumes that you installed SQL Server 2016 Standard on the same machine as TFS.



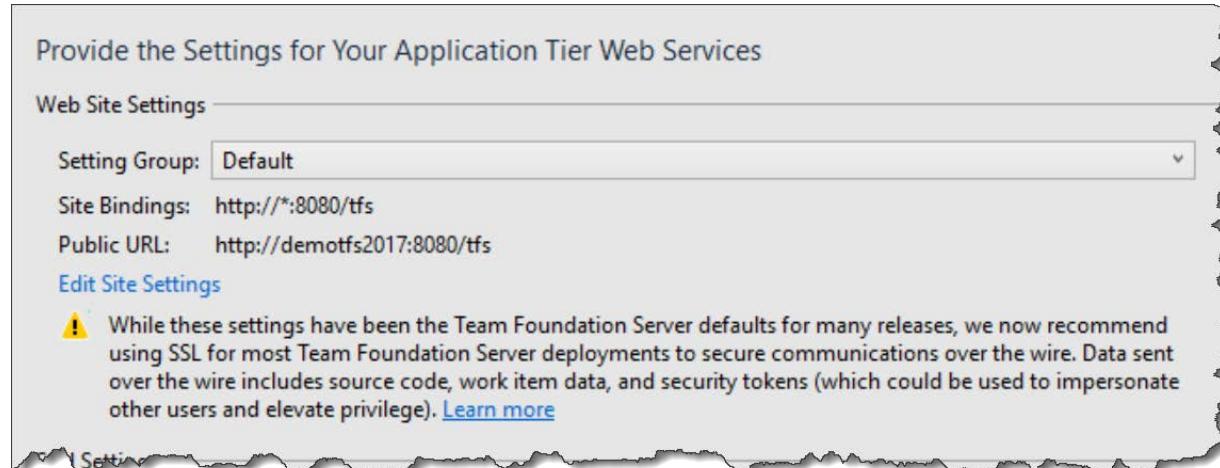
- To the right of the **SQL Server Instance** textbox, click the **Test** link to verify the connection to SQL Server
- Confirm that the test passes
- Click **Next**

You should now see the Service Account page. You can choose to run TFS as a system account but I find that this makes permissions management – more specifically, permissions *debugging* – much harder later on when you start doing automated builds, automated deployments, and automated testing. My recommendation is to run TFS as a separate service account.

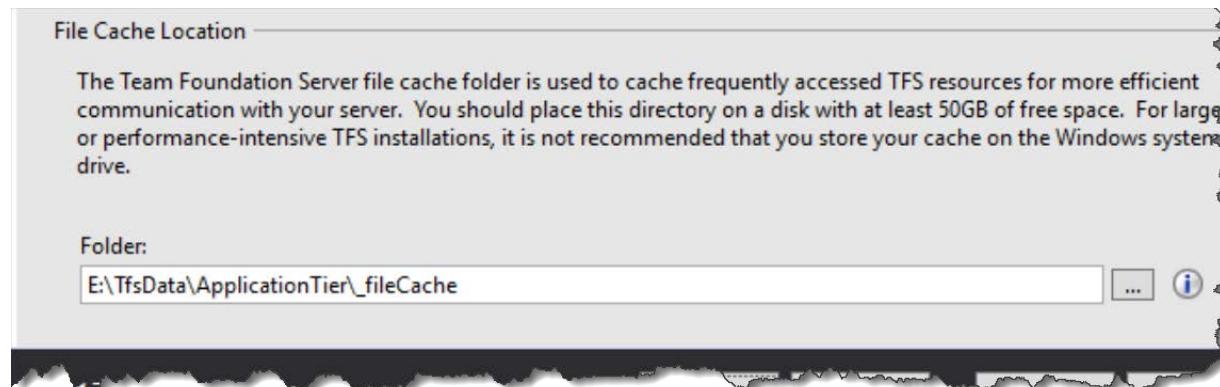


- Choose **Use a user account**
- In the **Account Name** textbox, type the fully-qualified name of the service account.
Example: demo\tfsservice
- In the **Password** textbox, enter the password for the service account
- Click the **Test** link to verify the credentials are correct
- Click **Next**

You should now see a page prompting you for the configuration of TFS in IIS. You may see a warning about using SSL encryption. It's a good idea but it's not required.



(Optional) At the bottom of this page, there's a section for **File Cache Location**. TFS caches files for efficiency. The contents of this directory can become impressively large. For performance reasons and for disk space management reasons, you probably should put this on a separate disk – ideally on a different “spindle” – than your system/operating system drive.



- (Optional) Change the **Folder** path to reference the desired location and disk.
- Click **Next**

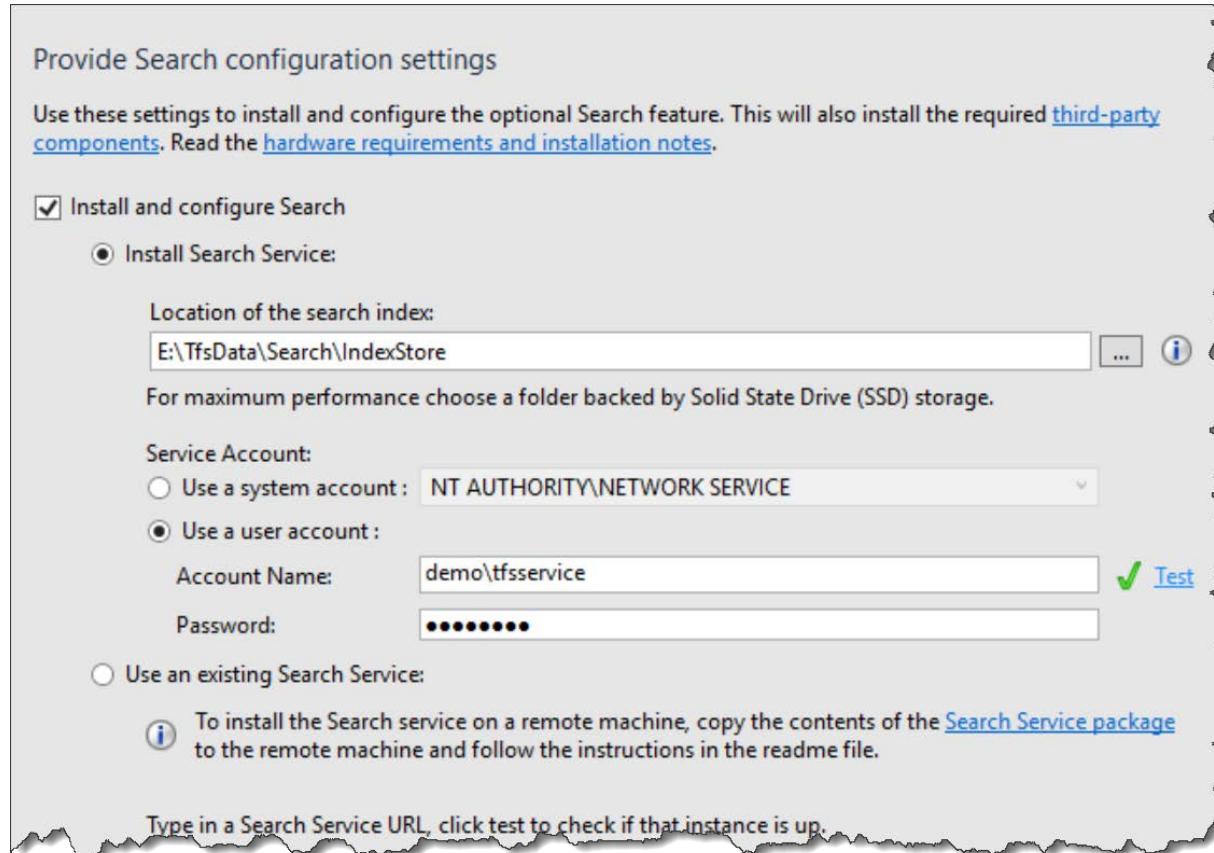
TFS2017 adds a bunch of new features to help you search the contents of your team projects. This is an optional feature.

Option 1: If you *do not* want to install Search:

- Uncheck **Install and configure Search**
- Click **Next**

Option #2: Install Search

- Check **Install and configure Search**



- Choose **Install Search Service**
- Set the **Location of the search index** to the drive and folder you want to use for search. For performance reasons, you'll probably want to keep this on a different drive than the system drive. If your TFS installation is large and busy, you may want to put this on its own drive by itself. In the screenshot, I'm putting this on the same drive as my TFS File Cache at E:\TfsData\Search\IndexStore.
- Under Service Account choose **Use a user account**
- Set **Account Name** to the service account want to use to run search. In this configuration, I'm using the same account at the TFS Service, demo\tfsservice
- Set the **Password** for the service account
- Click the **Test** link to verify the service credentials
- Click **Next**

You should now see the **Configure Reporting for Team Foundation Server** page. This is another optional feature but this guide assumes that you're installing support for SQL Server Reporting Services with TFS2017.

Configure Reporting for Team Foundation Server

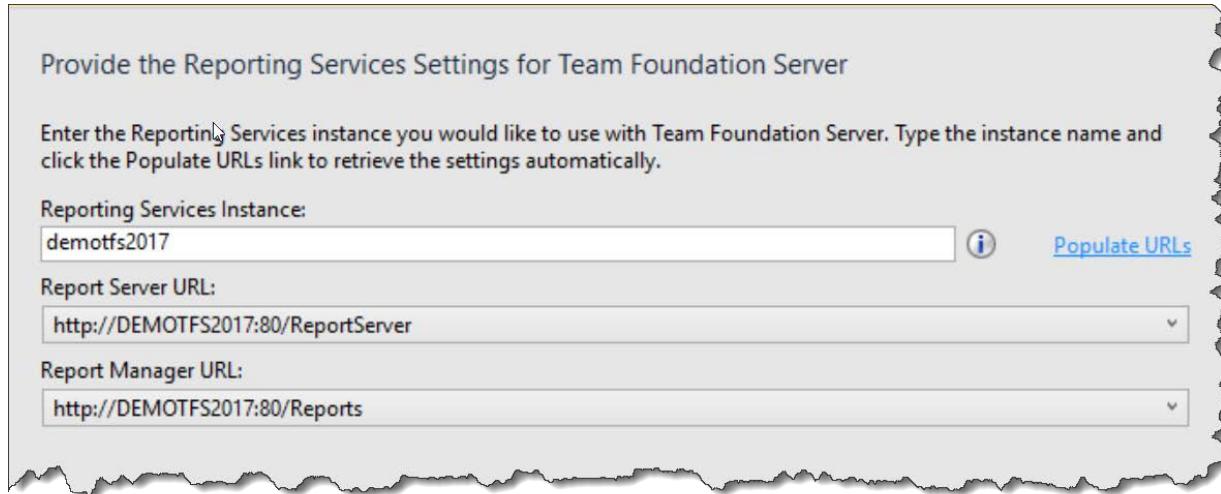
Configure Reporting for use with Team Foundation Server

Use SQL Server Reporting Services to create reports, and analyze and track key data points about your projects.

 This feature is optional. You can install Team Foundation Server now and configure reporting later. To enable this feature, you must have already installed SQL Server running Reporting Services and Analysis Services. These features may be installed on this server, or a remote server.

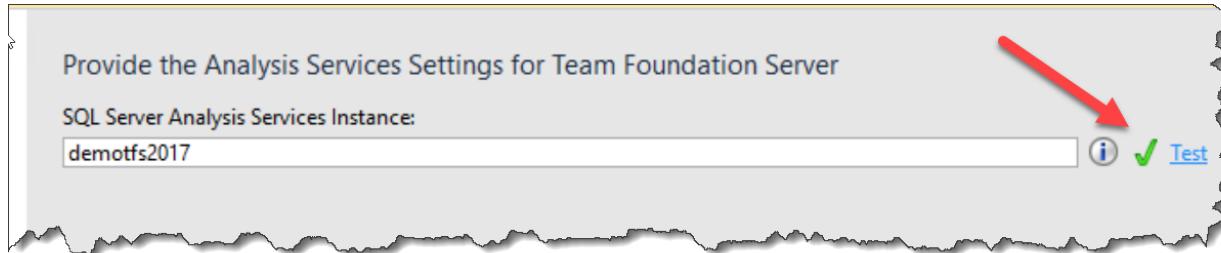
- Check **Configure Reporting for use with Team Foundation Server**
- Click **Next**

You should now see the Provide Reporting Services Settings for Team Foundation Server page. These values should be automatically populated.



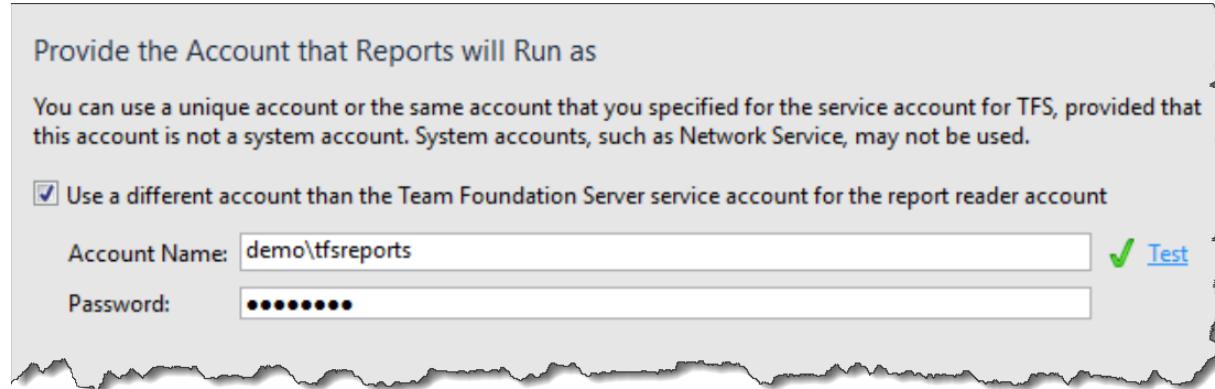
- Click **Next**

You should now see the Analysis Services settings page.



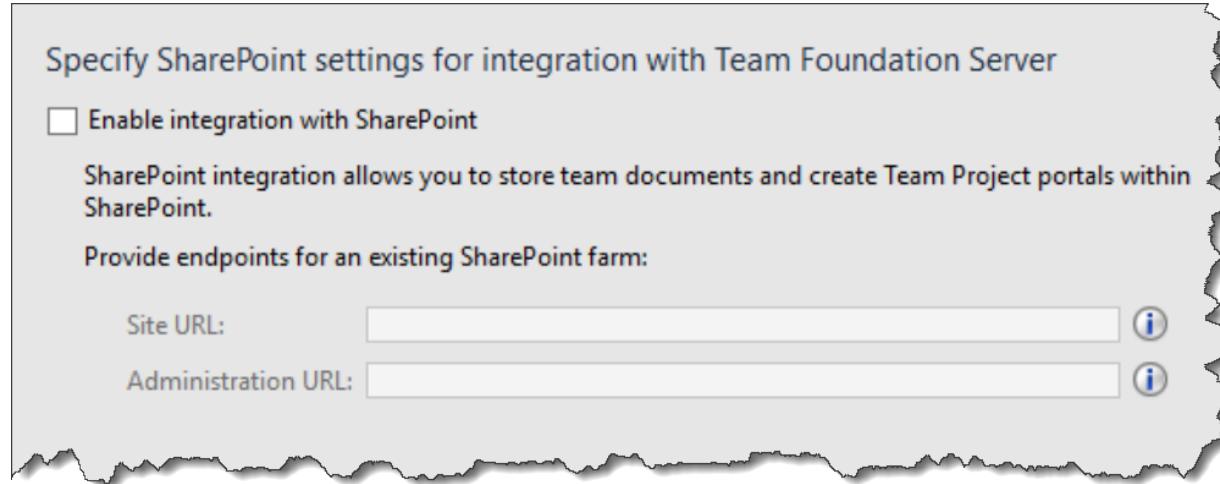
- Click the **Test** link to verify the connection to SQL Server Analysis Services
- Click **Next**

Next you'll provide the credentials for the SQL Server Reporting Services Reports. You have the option of skipping this and running with the same account as the TFS Service Account but this is probably not ideal for security reasons.



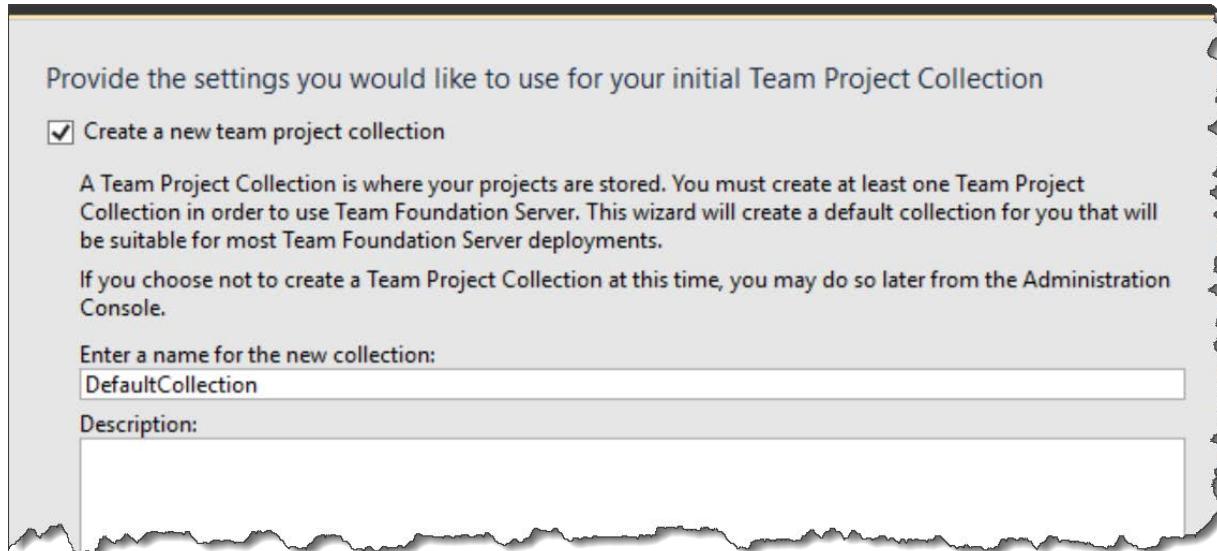
- Check **Use a different account than the Team Foundation Server service account...**
- Set **Account Name** to the fully qualified username of the service account
- Set the **Password** for the service account
- Click the **Test** link to verify the credentials
- Click **Next**

You should now be on the page asking if you'd like to install the integration with SharePoint. The answer is no. No, you have no interest in installing any kind of integration with TFS and SharePoint. THE END.



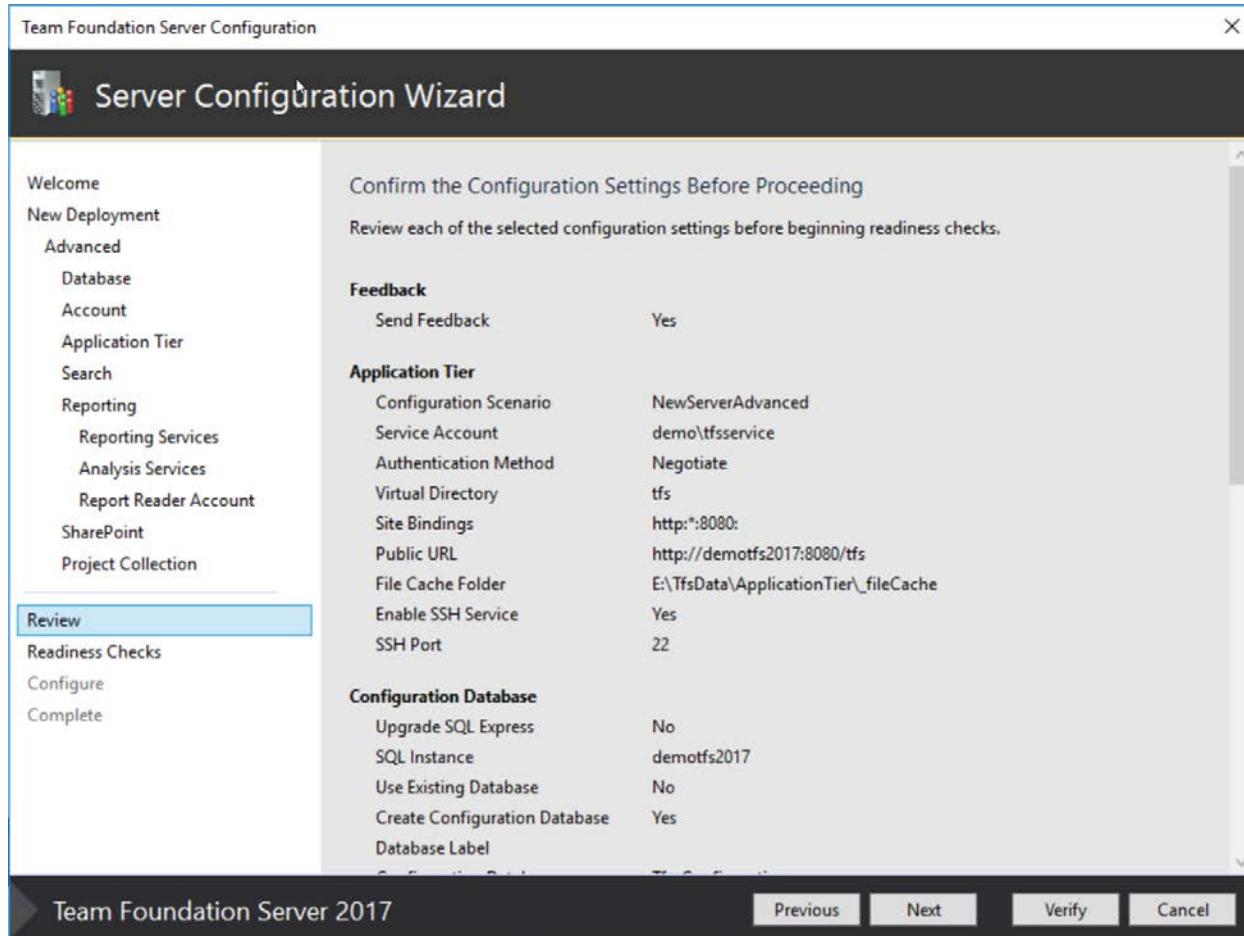
- Uncheck **Enable integration with SharePoint**
- Click **Next**

The installer will now prompt you to create a new Team Project Collection (TPC). The answer to this one (unless you're doing a migration) is yes.



- Check **Create a new team project collection**
- Click **Next**

You should now be on the **Confirm the Configuration Settings Before Proceeding** page.



- Click **Next**

The installer will run some readiness checks. They should all come back as passed except for the Search Configuration item. The Search feature requires the Oracle Server JRE to be installed and this warning is prompting you to accept the licensing agreement for the JRE.

Readiness Checks Validate that Your System is Ready to Configure

Readiness checks passed.

System Verifications	Passed
Data Tier	Passed
Application Tier	Passed
Reporting	Passed
Project Collection	Passed
Search Configuration	Confirmation Required

[Click here to rerun Readiness Checks.](#)

Detailed Results:

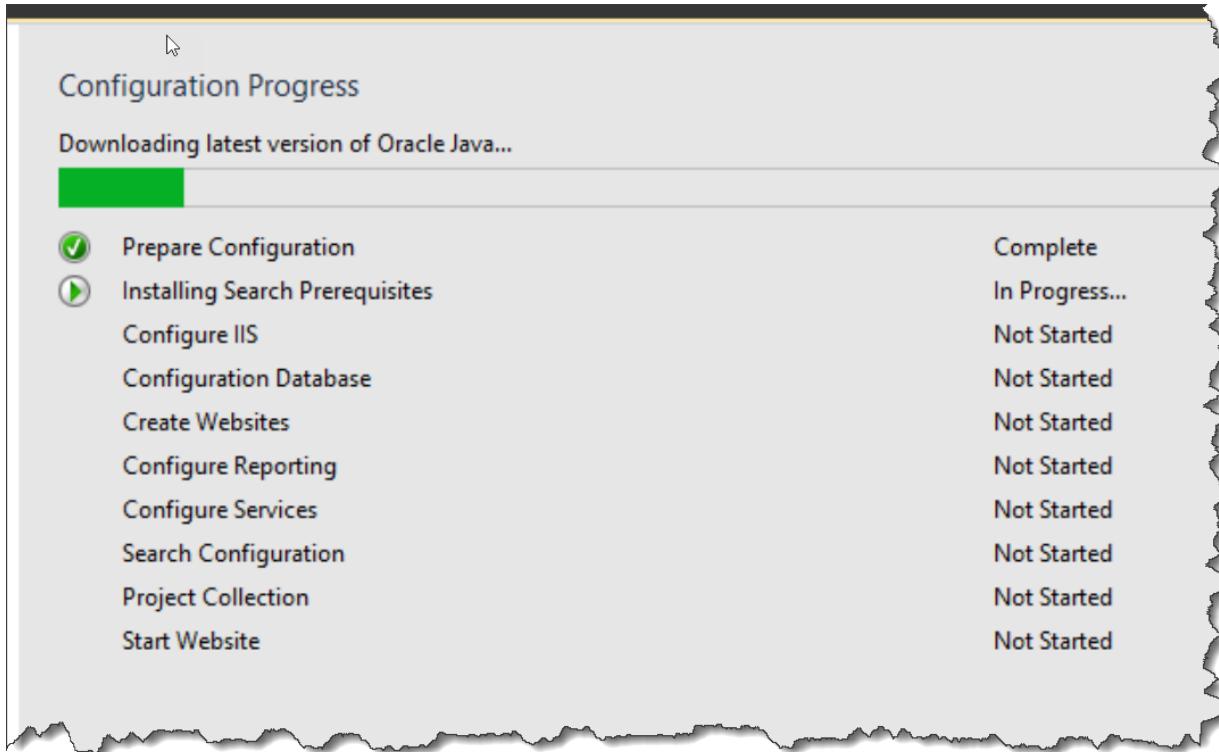
[Open Log](#)

- !** Search requires Oracle Server JRE 7 Update 55 or higher, or JRE 8 Update 20 or higher, and a suitable version was not detected or is not correctly configured on this computer. You can download and install the latest version by accepting the [Oracle Binary Code License Agreement](#) for Server JRE and selecting 'Configure'. Note that this will set the JAVA_HOME environment variable to point to the Java installation directory, and that Server JRE does not provide automatic updates. See [Java installation notes](#) for more information.
- I accept the Oracle Binary Code License Agreement for Java SE and want to download and install latest version of Server JRE
- i** One or more features that Team Foundation Services requires are not configured in Internet Information Services (IIS). If you continue, they will be configured for you. The log contains a list of the features to be configured.
- i** TF255465: Your system does not have the recommended amount of system memory available: 4 GB. While Team Foundation Server can operate with less than this amount of memory, the performance will be degraded. Upgrade your system memory to at least the recommended minimum for optimal performance.

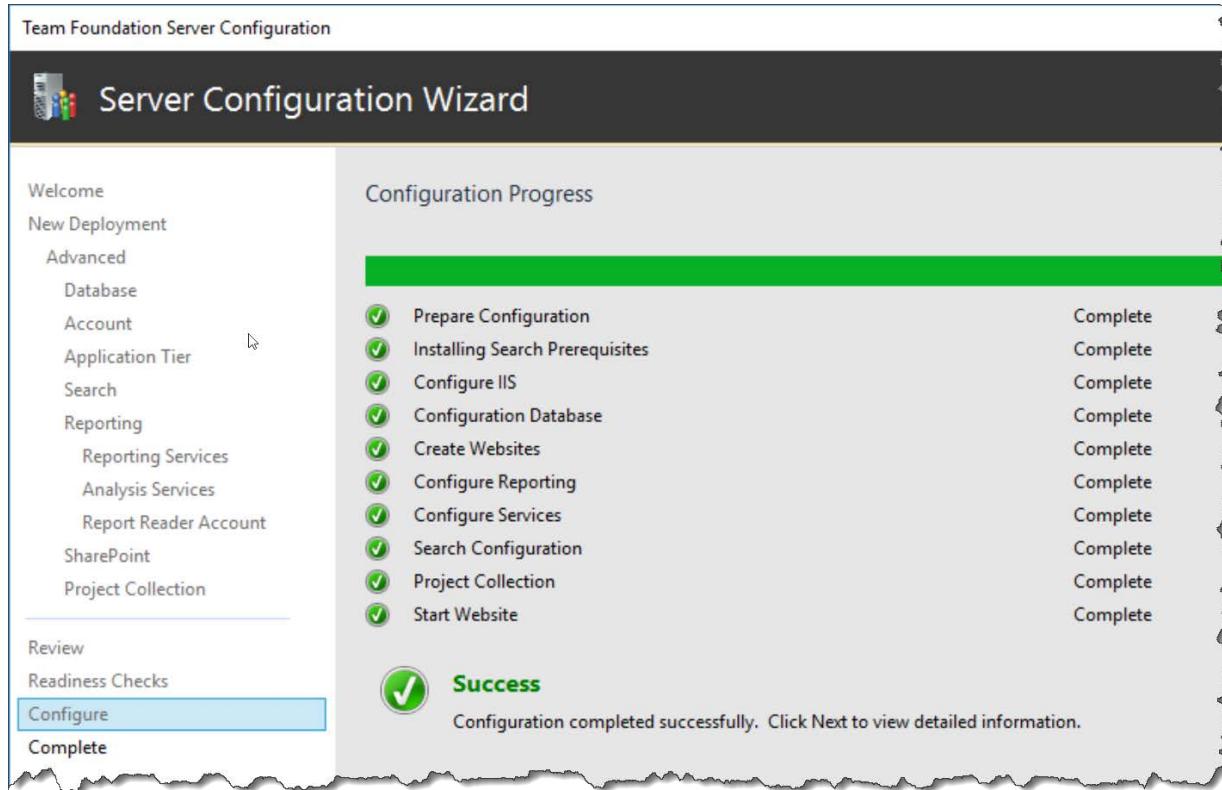
2017 Previous Next **Configure** Cancel

- Check **I accept the Oracle Binary Code License Agreement for Java SE...**
- Click the **Configure** button

The configuration process should now be running.



The configuration process should end with a message saying Success.



- Click **Next**

You should now be on the **Review the Results** page.

The screenshot shows a 'Review the Results' page with a green checkmark icon and the word 'Success'. It states that the Team Foundation Server configuration completed successfully. It provides a 'Connection Details' section with a URL (<http://demotfs2017:8080/tfs>) and a 'Detailed Results' section listing four informational items:

- JAVA_HOME environment variable is set to 'C:\Program Files\Microsoft Team Foundation Server 15.0\Search\Java\jre1.8.0_111'.
- As part of TFS configuration IIS dynamic compression was enabled to improve performance. This is a system-wide setting for IIS. See this link for additional details <https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=534011>
- Firewall exception added for port 8080
- Firewall exception added for 'TeamFoundationSshService.exe'

- Click **Close**

Team Foundation Server 2017 is now configured and running.

Chapter 5: Configure an SMTP Server for Team Foundation Server 2017

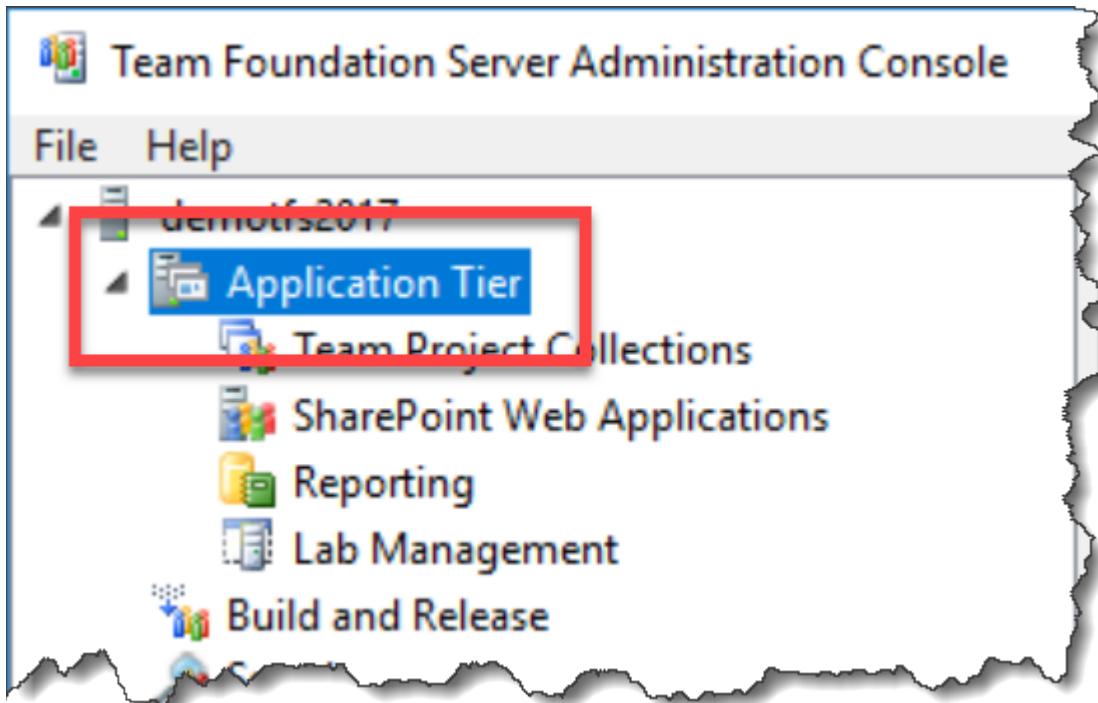
TFS2017 has this great new feature in work item tracking called "Follow". You open a work item and there's a button in the upper right corner of the work item that says "Follow" and when you click it, TFS will send you emails regarding activity on this work item. BUT! If you don't configure an SMTP server for TFS, this Follow button won't be there. You also won't be able to get alerts either.

You'll definitely want to configure an SMTP server connection for TFS.

You probably already have an SMTP server available to you but, if you don't, you can enable the SMTP Server feature in Windows Server 2016.

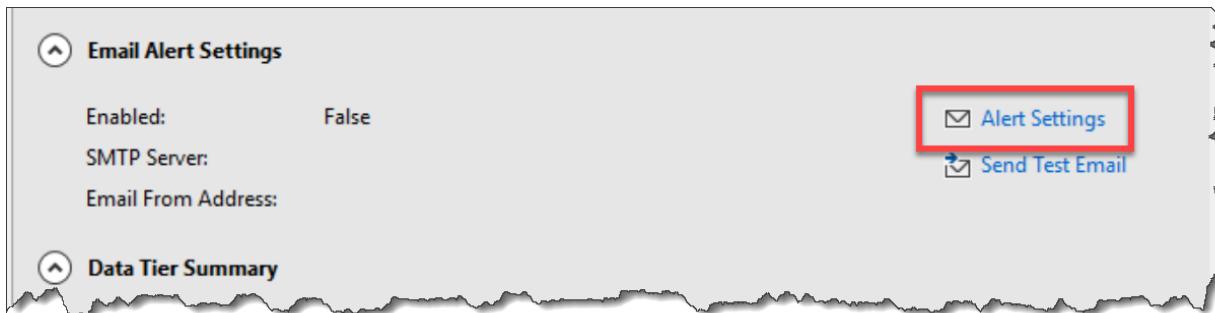
- Log in to your TFS2017 machine as an administrator
- Go to the Start menu
- Search for **Team Foundation Administrator Console**

You should see the Team Foundation Administrator Console.



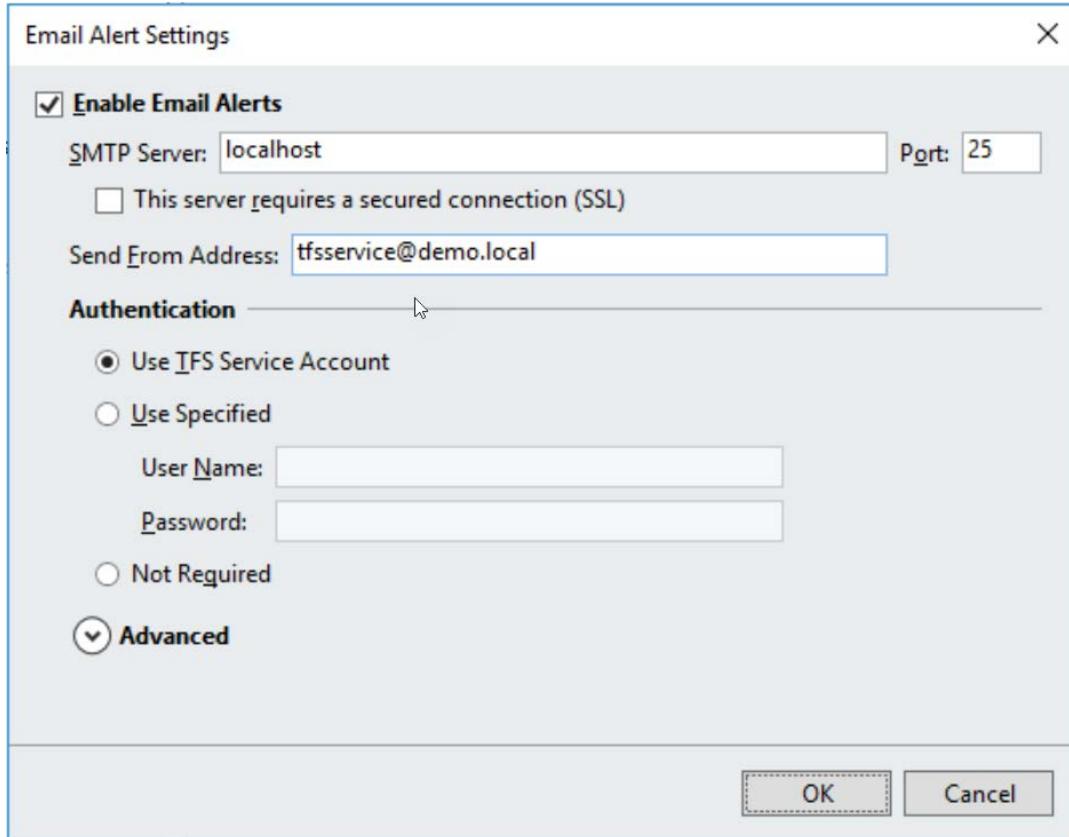
- In the left column, click on **Application Tier**

In the right panel, scroll down until you location the **Email Alert Settings**.



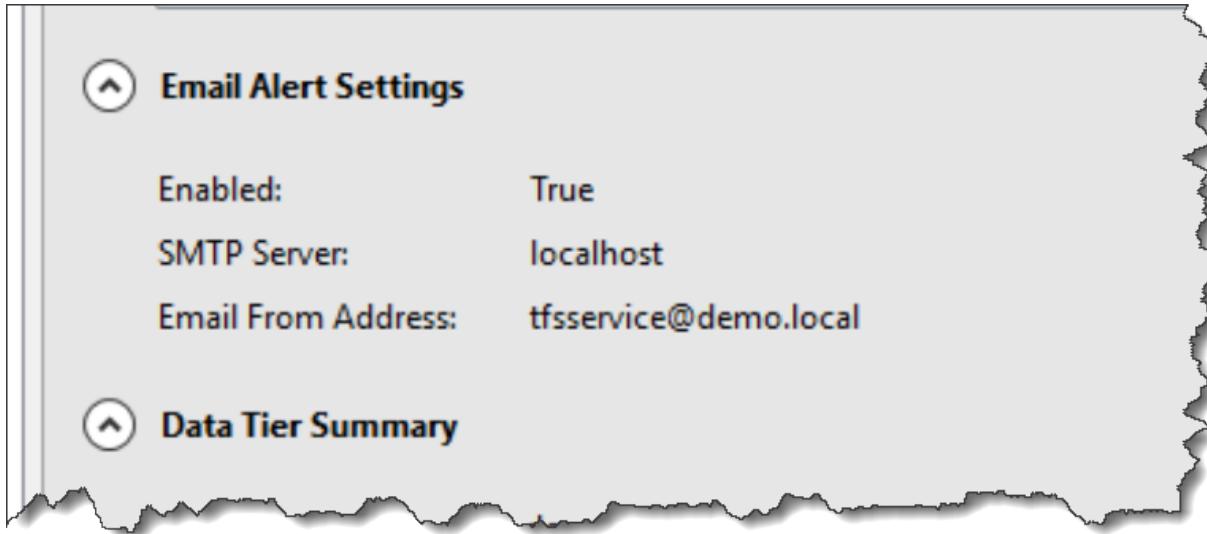
- Click **Alert Settings**

You should now see the **Email Alert Settings** dialog.

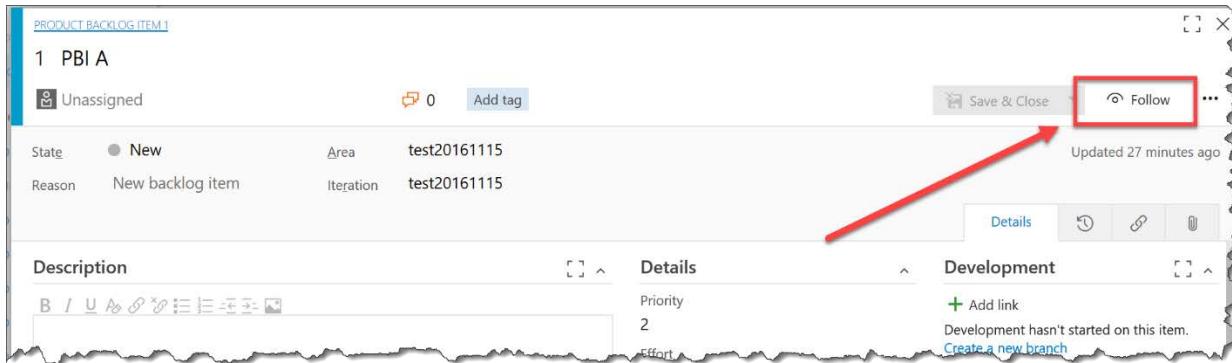


- Check **Enable Email Alerts**
- Set **SMTP Server** to the hostname or IP address for your SMTP server.
- Click **OK**

You should now be back on the main window of the admin console. The email alert settings should now be populated with your SMTP server.



(Optional) If you open a work item, you'll now see the Follow button is available to you.



Your TFS is ready to send emails.

Chapter 6: Create a TFS Build / Release Server on Windows

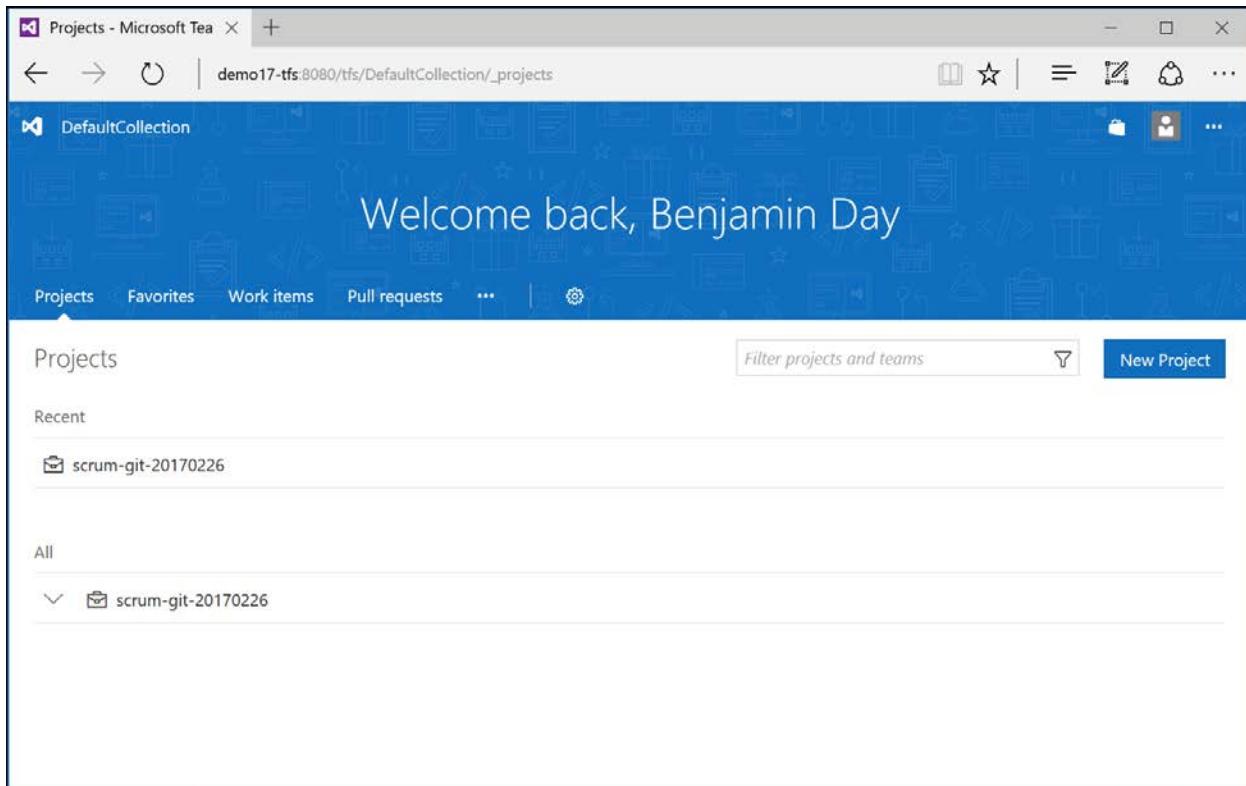
This chapter will walk you through the process of creating a build server on Windows. That's a slightly inaccurate sentence – this chapter will walk you through the process of installing a build & release agent on Windows. The build agent and the release agent are the same installer and process in TFS2017 and a single installation of this agent will allow you to do "build" activities and also "release" activities.

The following steps all happen on the machine that is going to be the build server.

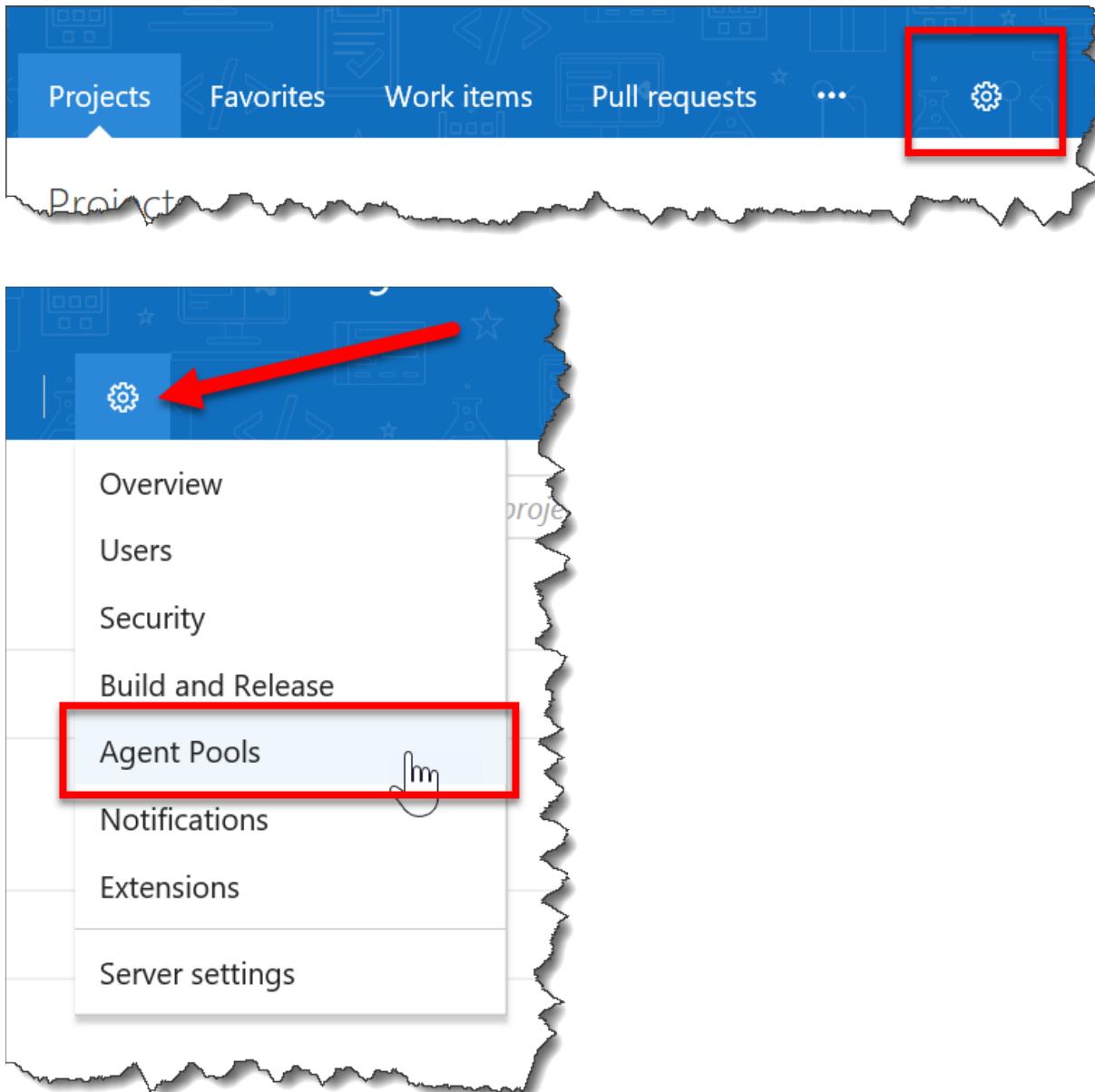
Download the Agent Installer

- Log in to the build server machine
- Open a web browser
- Navigate to your TFS web interface. By default this is <http://servername:8080/tfs>.

You should see a screen that looks like this.

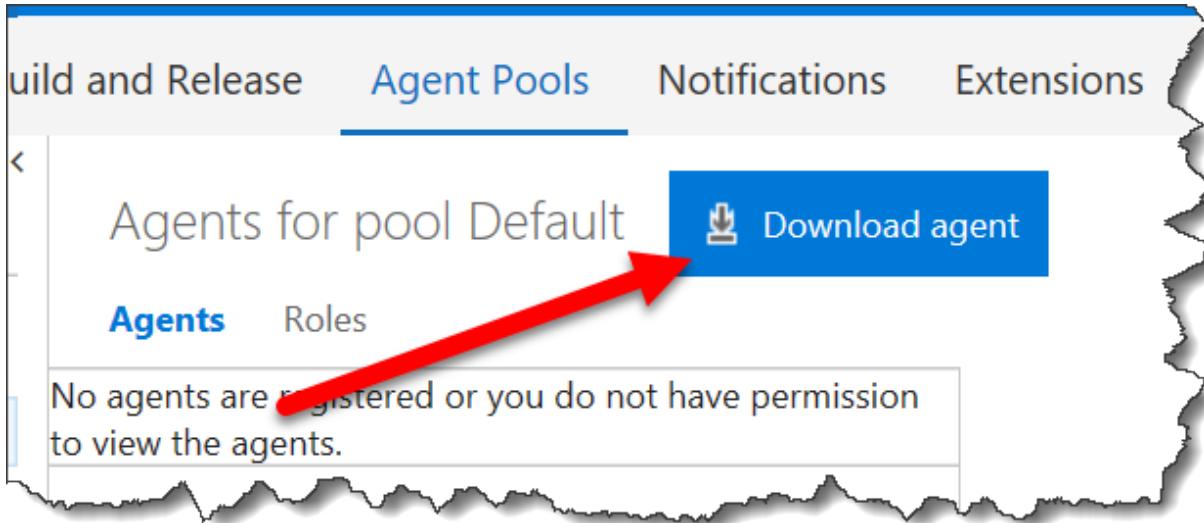


On the right side of the menu bar, there is a gear icon.



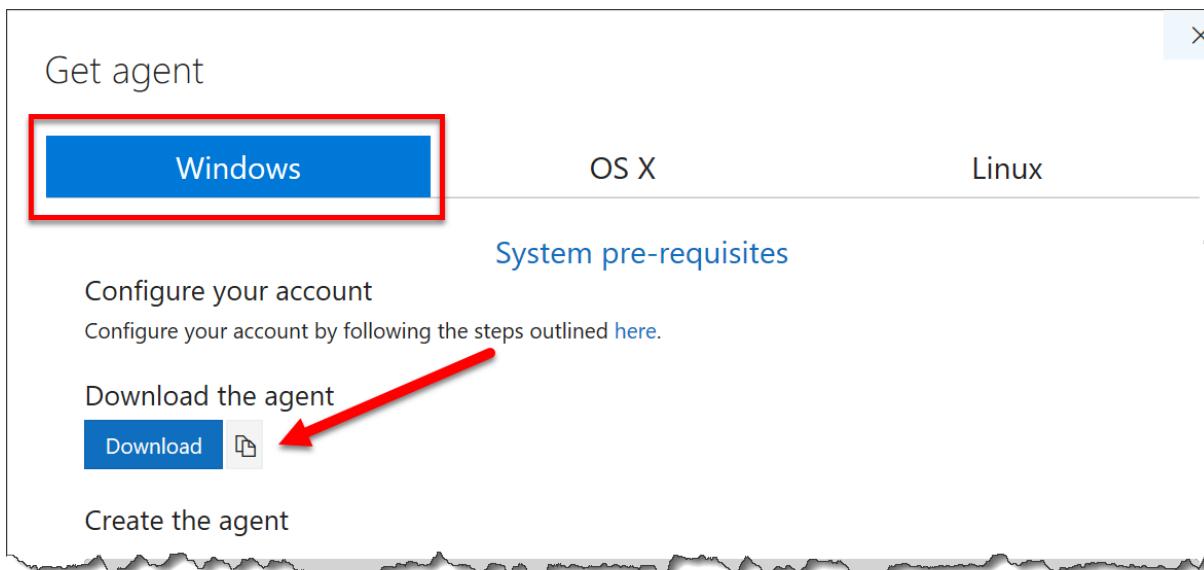
- Click the **gear icon** to bring up the **Settings menu**
- Choose **Agent Pools**

You should now see the admin screen for your team project collection and you should be looking at the Agent Pools tab. There should be a button that says "Download agent".



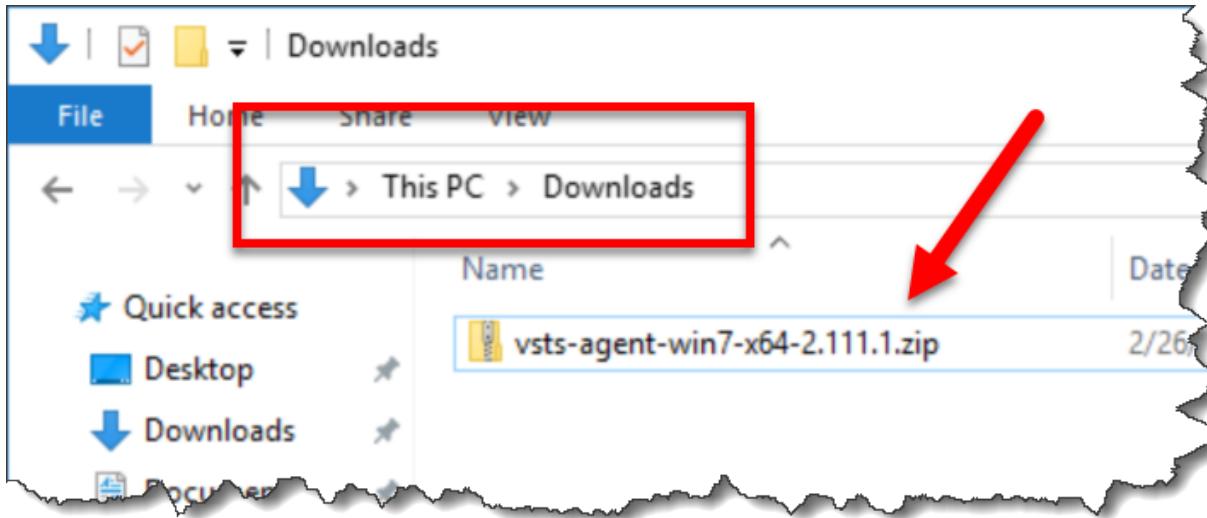
- Click the **Download agent** button

A dialog should pop up that shows you the download and installation info for Windows, Mac OS / OS X, and Linux.



- Make sure the **Windows tab** is selected
- Click the **Download** button (NOTE: this guide assumes you're doing the default browser behavior and downloading the agent zip to the download directory for your user profile.)

To verify that you saved this file to the expected location for this guide, open Windows Explorer (explorer.exe) and navigate to the Downloads directory. You should see a zip file that has a name that starts with "vsts-agent-". The actual filename might not be the same as the image below because the agent version may have been updated.



Extract the Agent

Now that you've downloaded the bits for the agent, you'll do the actual installation using PowerShell. This is actually done in two parts. Part 1: Extract the agent bits from the ZIP. Part 2: Configure the Agent. Let's do the first part.

That dialog that you used to download the agent has two different commands: "Create the agent" and "Configure the agent". In an ideal world, you'd be able to just copy and paste the commands and not have to think about anything – but this isn't an ideal world so buckle up. (Actually, it's not that bad...it's just enough friction to be a little bit annoying.)

Download the agent

[Download](#) 

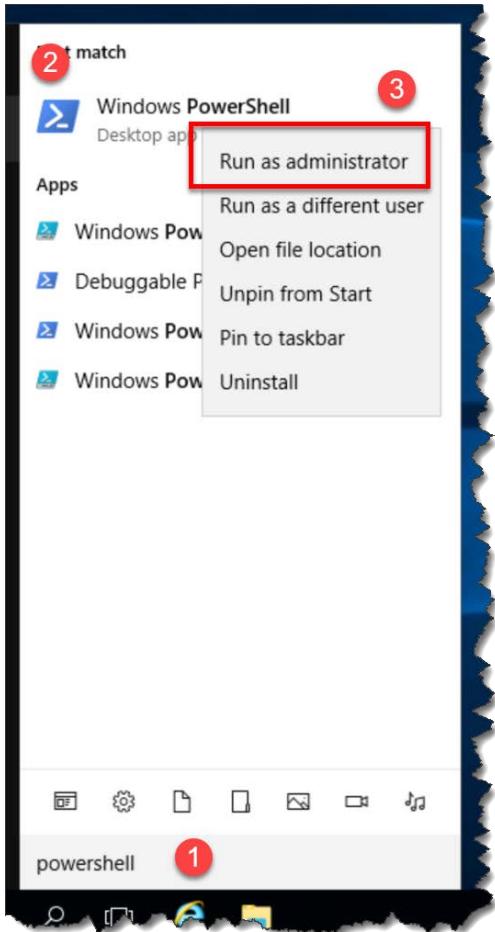
Create the agent

```
PS C:\> mkdir agent ; cd agent
PS C:\agent> Add-Type -AssemblyName System.IO.Compression.FileSystem ;
[System.IO.Compression.ZipFile]::ExtractToDirectory("$HOME\Downloads\vsts-agent-
win7-x64-2.111.1.zip", "$PWD")
```

Configure the agent [detailed instructions](#) ↗

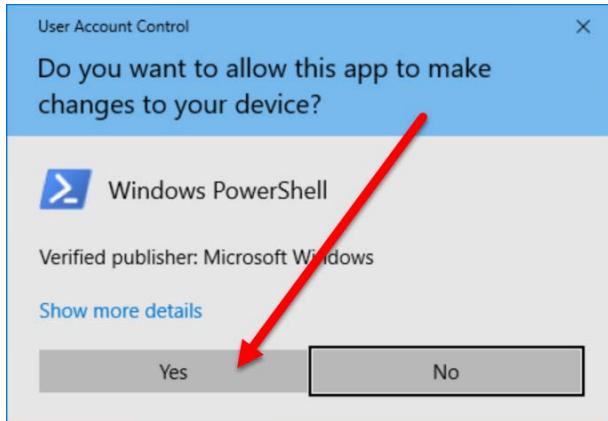
```
PS C:\agent> .\config.cmd
```

First up, it's time to run PowerShell.



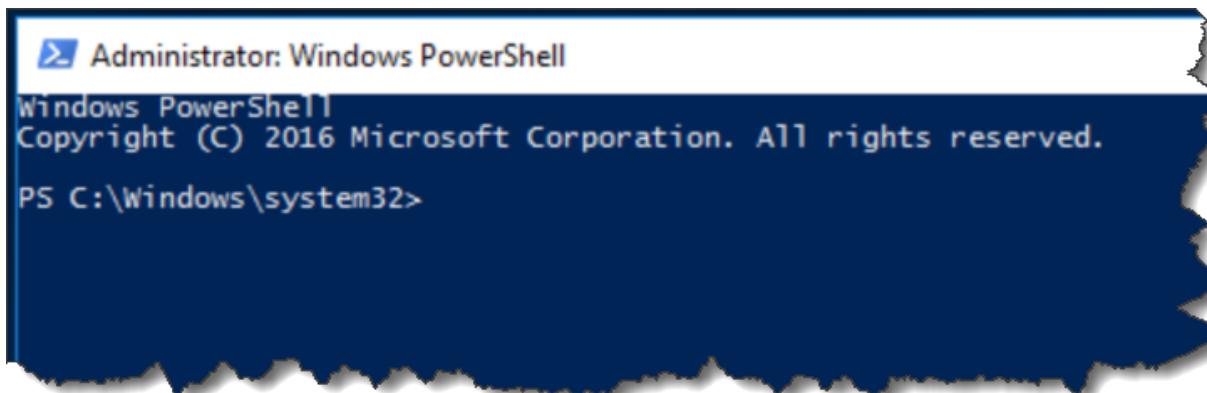
- Press the **Windows key** on your keyboard to bring up the search menu and type **PowerShell**
- From the search results, right-click **Windows PowerShell**
- From the context menu for PowerShell, choose **Run as administrator**

You'll see a User Account Control dialog.



- Click **Yes**

You should now see a Windows PowerShell window with the title "Administrator: Windows PowerShell".



You're now going to run a handful of commands to create the folder structure that you'll be installing the build agent in to.

The screenshot shows an Administrator Windows PowerShell window. The command history includes:

```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2016 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\Windows\system32> cd \
PS C:\> mkdir agent

Directory: C:\

Mode          LastWriteTime    Length Name
----          <-----           ----- 
d-----      2/26/2017 9:59 AM            agent

PS C:\> cd agent
PS C:\agent>
```

The final line "PS C:\agent>" indicates the current working directory.

- Type "cd \\" and press Enter
- Type "mkdir agent" and press Enter
- Type "cd agent" and press Enter

When you're done with these commands, your screen should look almost exactly the same as the image above. It's extremely important that the PowerShell screen is showing you

PS C:\agent>

on the last line because this indicates that you've correctly created a directory called Agent and entered that directory.

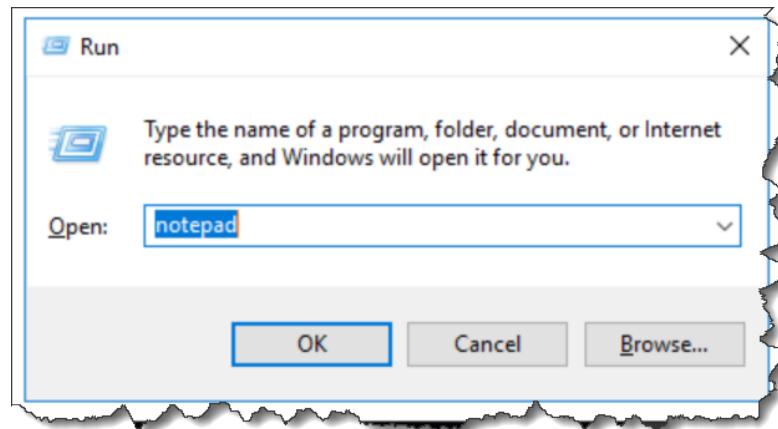
If your PowerShell window doesn't show you "PS C:\agent>", abandon all hope and reconsider all of the life choices that you've made to date. ☺

Next, you'll run the PowerShell command that will extract the zip into the agent directory. This is some fiddly typing and the exact text will change as Microsoft updates the build agent install zip filename. It's probably easiest to just copy and paste the value from the **Create the agent** section of the download dialog. You WILL NOT be copying the whole command. You'll only be copying part of the line. In the image below, it's important to notice that I am NOT selecting the portion of the line that starts with "PS C:\agent>".



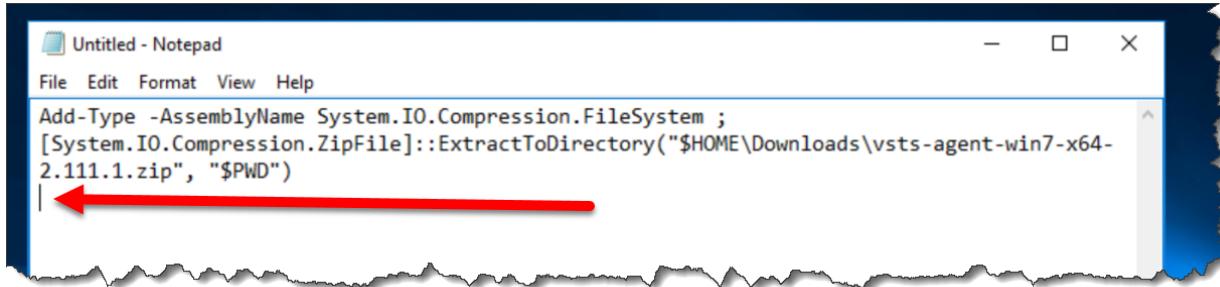
- In the web browser, copy the text of the command that starts with "Add-Type"

Because nothing is ever easy, the command that you just copied probably has some extra characters in it. Let's use Notepad to fix it.



- Type Windows-R to bring up the Run dialog
- Type notepad
- Click OK
- Paste the copied command into Notepad

You should now see the command in Notepad. If everything is on one long line, go to the Format menu and choose Word Wrap. You might notice in the image below that my cursor is sitting on an empty line by itself. It's this extra line that's causing us to do this Notepad step.

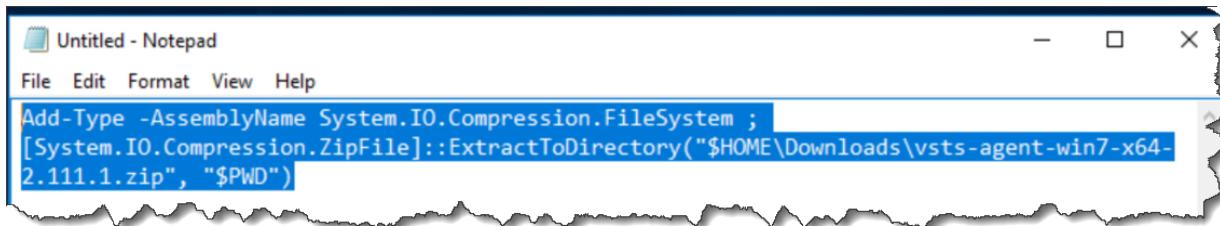


```
Add-Type -AssemblyName System.IO.Compression.FileSystem ;  
[System.IO.Compression.ZipFile]::ExtractToDirectory("$HOME\Downloads\vsts-agent-win7-x64-  
2.111.1.zip", "$PWD")
```

A screenshot of a Windows Notepad window titled "Untitled - Notepad". The window contains a single line of PowerShell code. A red arrow points to the end of the line, specifically to the blank line that follows the command. The Notepad interface includes a menu bar with File, Edit, Format, View, and Help, and standard window controls (minimize, maximize, close).

- Delete the extra empty blank line at the end
- If there are any whitespace characters before "Add-Type", delete those, too.

Now that that extra characters are gone, you should have a clean command that you can just paste into PowerShell and run.

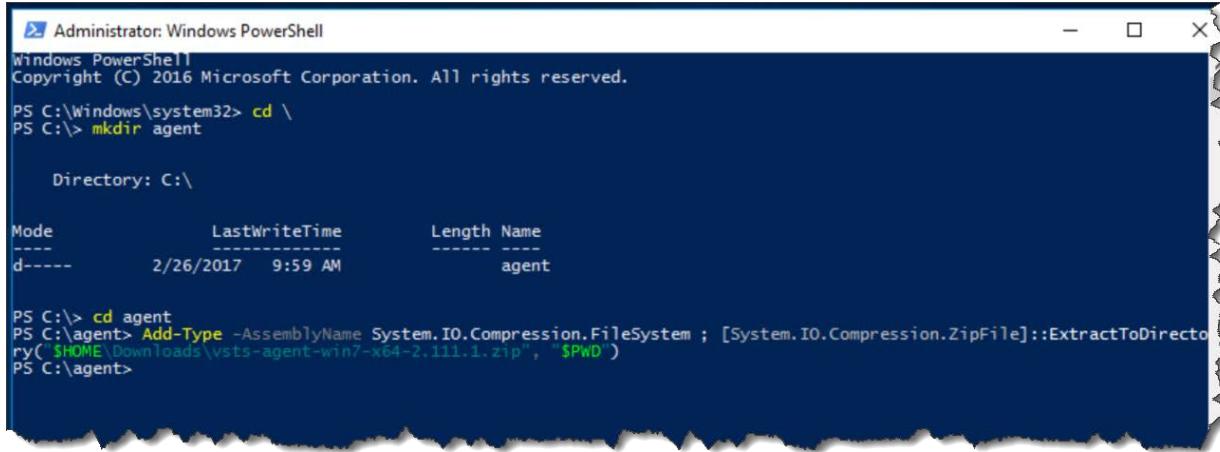


```
Add-Type -AssemblyName System.IO.Compression.FileSystem ;  
[System.IO.Compression.ZipFile]::ExtractToDirectory("$HOME\Downloads\vsts-agent-win7-x64-  
2.111.1.zip", "$PWD")
```

A screenshot of a Windows Notepad window titled "Untitled - Notepad". The window contains the same PowerShell command as the previous screenshot, but the extra blank line at the end has been removed. The Notepad interface is identical to the first screenshot.

- Select the command
- Press CTRL-C to copy the selected command to the clipboard

Now you'll run the command in PowerShell.



The screenshot shows an Administrator Windows PowerShell window. The command entered is:

```
PS C:\Windows\system32> cd \
PS C:\> mkdir agent

Directory: C:\

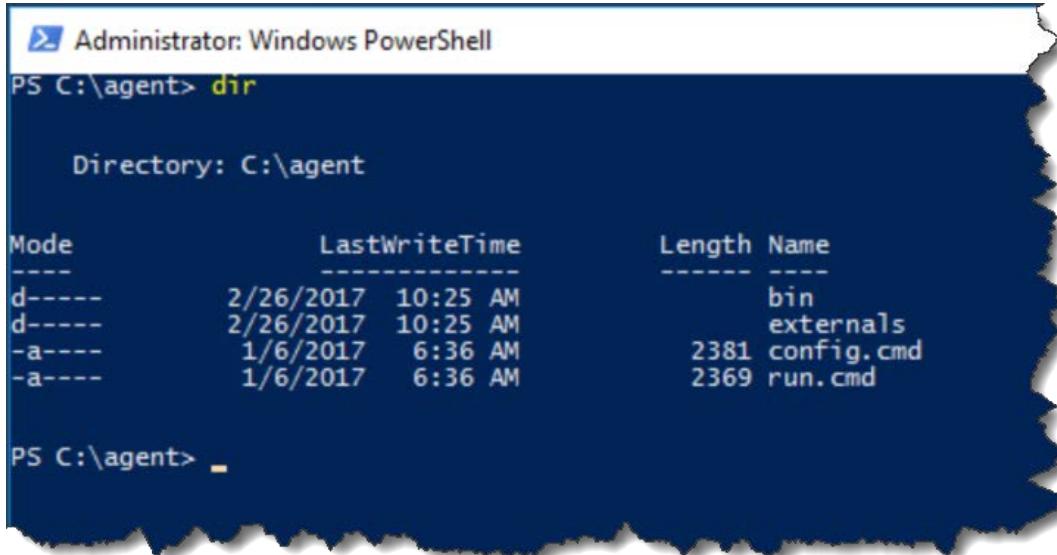
Mode           LastWriteTime      Length Name
----           -----          ----
d----        2/26/2017   9:59 AM            agent

PS C:\> cd agent
PS C:\agent> Add-Type -AssemblyName System.IO.Compression.FileSystem ; [System.IO.Compression.ZipFile]::ExtractToDirectory("$HOME\Downloads\vsts-agent-win7-x64-2.111.1.zip", "$PWD")
PS C:\agent>
```

- In the PowerShell window, type **CTRL-V** to paste the command
- Press **Enter** to run the command

When the command is done, you should not see any errors and the prompt should say "PS C:\agent>".

Let's verify that this extracted as expected.



The screenshot shows an Administrator Windows PowerShell window in the C:\agent directory. The command entered is:

```
PS C:\agent> dir
```

The output shows the following files and directories:

Mode	LastWriteTime	Length	Name
d----	2/26/2017 10:25 AM		bin
d----	2/26/2017 10:25 AM		externals
-a---	1/6/2017 6:36 AM	2381	config.cmd
-a---	1/6/2017 6:36 AM	2369	run.cmd

```
PS C:\agent>
```

- (Optional) To clear the screen, type "cls" and press Enter
- Type "dir" and press Enter

The screen should look something like the image above.

Configure the Agent

Now that the agent bits are deployed to disk, you're ready to start configuring it. This guide assumes that you're planning to run this agent in a Windows domain and that the TFS machine is in the same domain as the agent. I'm also assuming that you intend to run this agent as a service rather than as an interactive process.

Recommendation: The agent can be configured to run as NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE but I think that this makes permissions management confusing when you're creating and running builds. I strongly recommend that you run the agent as a service using a known service account that is based on an Active Directory user rather than one of the build-in service accounts like NETWORK SERVICE. This guide will assume that you're following this recommendation.

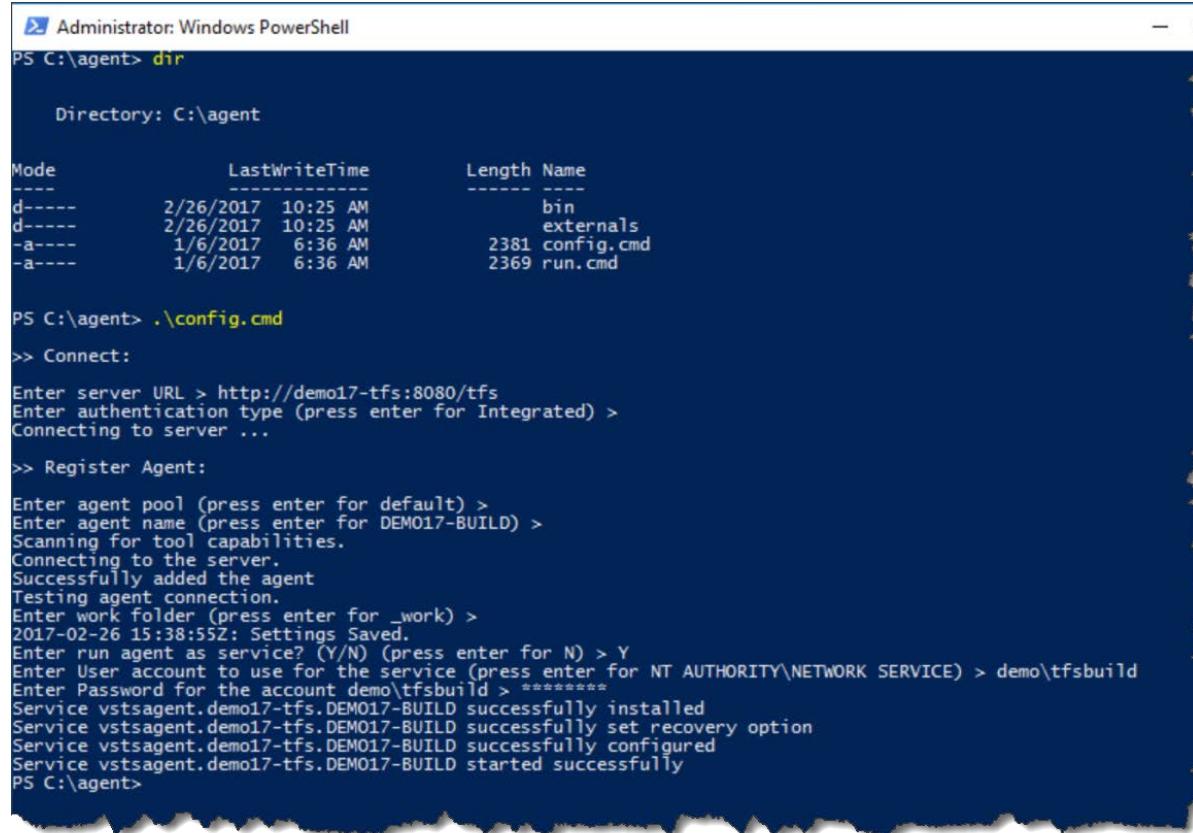
You're going to be prompted for a handful of values during the configuration process:

- **TFS server URL:** This is the same URL that you used to access the TFS web interface. By default this will be something like <http://servername:8080/tfs>
- **Authentication Type:** By default, authentication is based on the service account's Windows logon. This mode is called Interactive. In order support more complex scenarios and multiple platforms, there are also several other options. This guide will show you how to do Interactive mode.
- **User name & password for the agent service:** These are the credentials for the service. In my case, I've created an Active Directory user named "tfsbuild". The fully qualified username for this user is "DEMO\tfsbuild".

When you've got these values, you're ready to run the config process.

- In the PowerShell window, type ".\config.cmd" and press Enter

When prompted, enter the following values.



The screenshot shows a Windows PowerShell window titled "Administrator: Windows PowerShell" with the following content:

```
PS C:\agent> dir
Directory: C:\agent

Mode                LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                -----          ----  --
d----
```

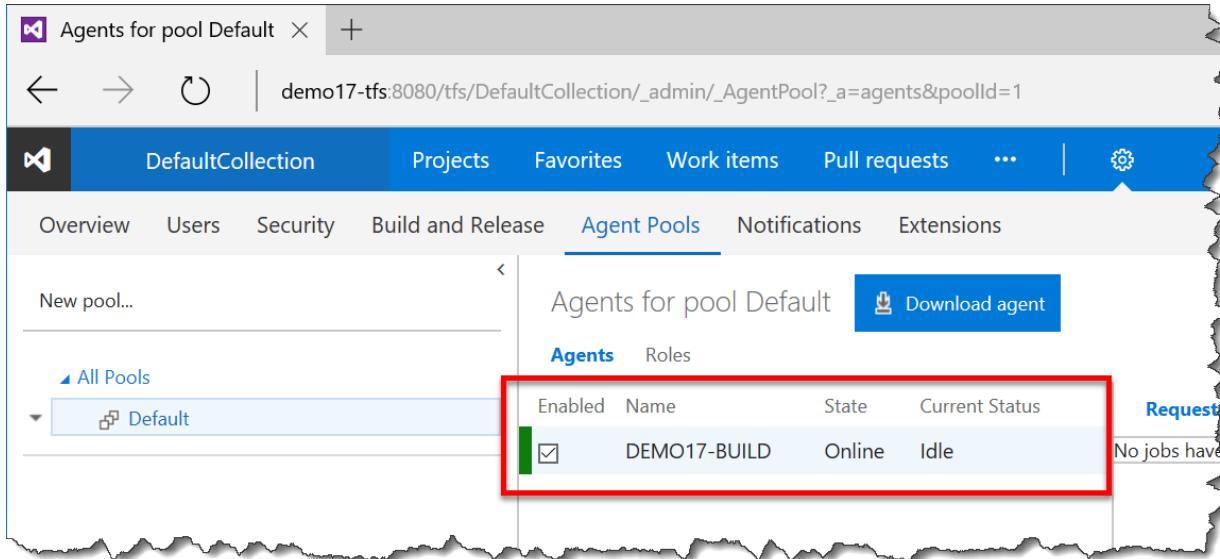
Mode	LastWriteTime	Length	Name
d----	2/26/2017 10:25 AM		bin
d----	2/26/2017 10:25 AM		externals
-a---	1/6/2017 6:36 AM	2381	config.cmd
-a---	1/6/2017 6:36 AM	2369	run.cmd

```
PS C:\agent> .\config.cmd
>> Connect:
Enter server URL > http://demo17-tfs:8080/tfs
Enter authentication type (press enter for Integrated) >
Connecting to server ...
>> Register Agent:
Enter agent pool (press enter for default) >
Enter agent name (press enter for DEMO17-BUILD) >
Scanning for tool capabilities.
Connecting to the server.
Successfully added the agent
Testing agent connection.
Enter work folder (press enter for _work) >
2017-02-26 15:38:55Z: Settings Saved.
Enter run agent as service? (Y/N) (press enter for N) > Y
Enter User account to use for the service (press enter for NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE) > demo\tfsbuild
Enter Password for the account demo\tfsbuild > *****
Service vstsagent.demo17-tfs.DEMO17-BUILD successfully installed
Service vstsagent.demo17-tfs.DEMO17-BUILD successfully set recovery option
Service vstsagent.demo17-tfs.DEMO17-BUILD successfully configured
Service vstsagent.demo17-tfs.DEMO17-BUILD started successfully
PS C:\agent>
```

- “Enter server URL”:
Type the **URL for your TFS instance** and click **Enter**
- “Enter authentication type (press enter for Integrated)”:
Press **Enter**
- “Enter agent pool (press enter for default)”:
Press **Enter**
- “Enter agent name (press enter for *[local server name]*)”:
Press **Enter**
- “Enter run agent as service? (Y/N)”:
Type ‘**Y**’ and press **Enter**
- “Enter User account to use for the service”:
Type the **fully qualified name of the service account** (example: demo\tfsbuild) and press **Enter**
- Enter Password for the account *[service account]*:
Enter the **password for the service account** and press **Enter**

When the config process has completed, you should see a message that says something like "Service vstsagent.demo17-tfs.DEMO17-BUILD started successfully".

If you open the browser and go back to the Agent Pools tab for TFS, you should now see your new build agent in the list of Agents.



The screenshot shows the 'Agents for pool Default' page in the TFS web interface. The URL in the address bar is `demo17-tfs:8080/tfs/DefaultCollection/_admin/_AgentPool?a=agents&poolId=1`. The top navigation bar includes links for DefaultCollection, Projects, Favorites, Work items, Pull requests, and a gear icon. Below the navigation is a secondary menu with Overview, Users, Security, Build and Release, Agent Pools (which is underlined), Notifications, and Extensions. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'New pool...' and a dropdown for 'All Pools' currently set to 'Default'. The main content area is titled 'Agents for pool Default' with a 'Download agent' button. It shows a table with columns: Enabled, Name, State, and Current Status. A single row is listed: DEMO17-BUILD, Online, Idle. This row is highlighted with a red box. To the right of the table, there's a note: 'No jobs have been assigned to this agent yet.'

Enabled	Name	State	Current Status
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEMO17-BUILD	Online	Idle

You've successfully configured a build agent.

Chapter 7: Create a TFS Build / Release Server on Ubuntu 16.04

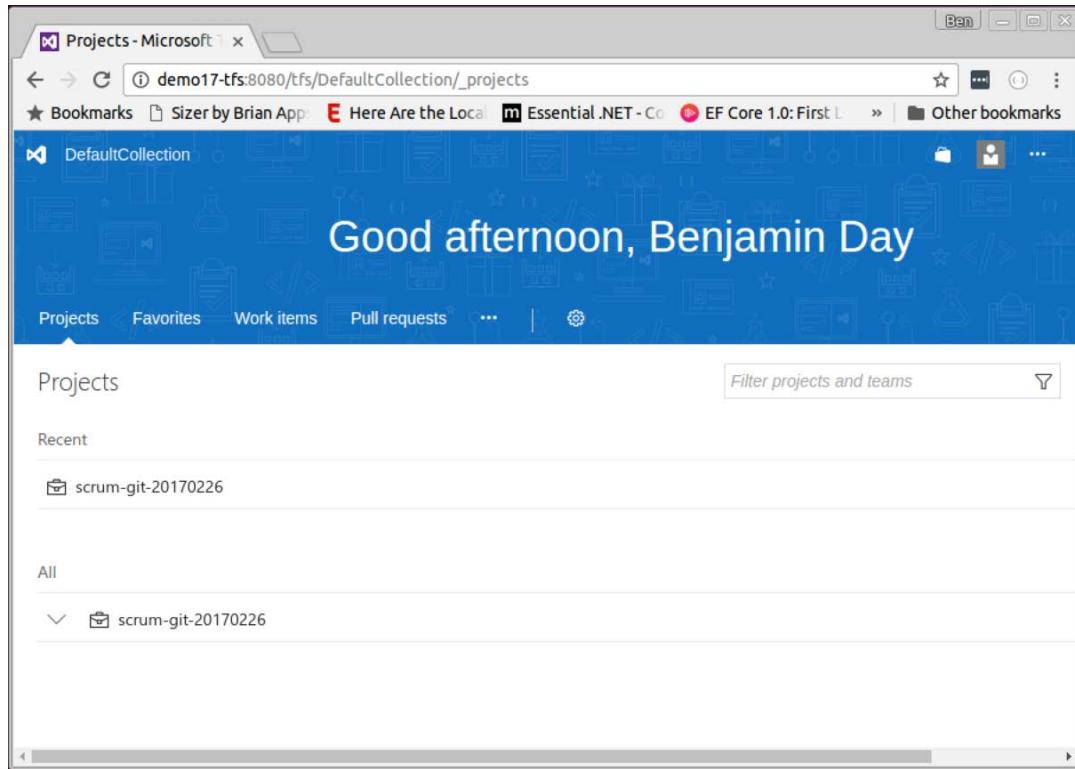
This chapter will walk you through the process of creating a build server agent on Ubuntu 16.04 Linux. The build agent will not only allow you do compilation and test execution on Linux but it'll also allow you to do Release Management activities from Linux as well. (Yay...TFS is cross-platform.)

The following steps all happen on the machine that is going to be the build server.

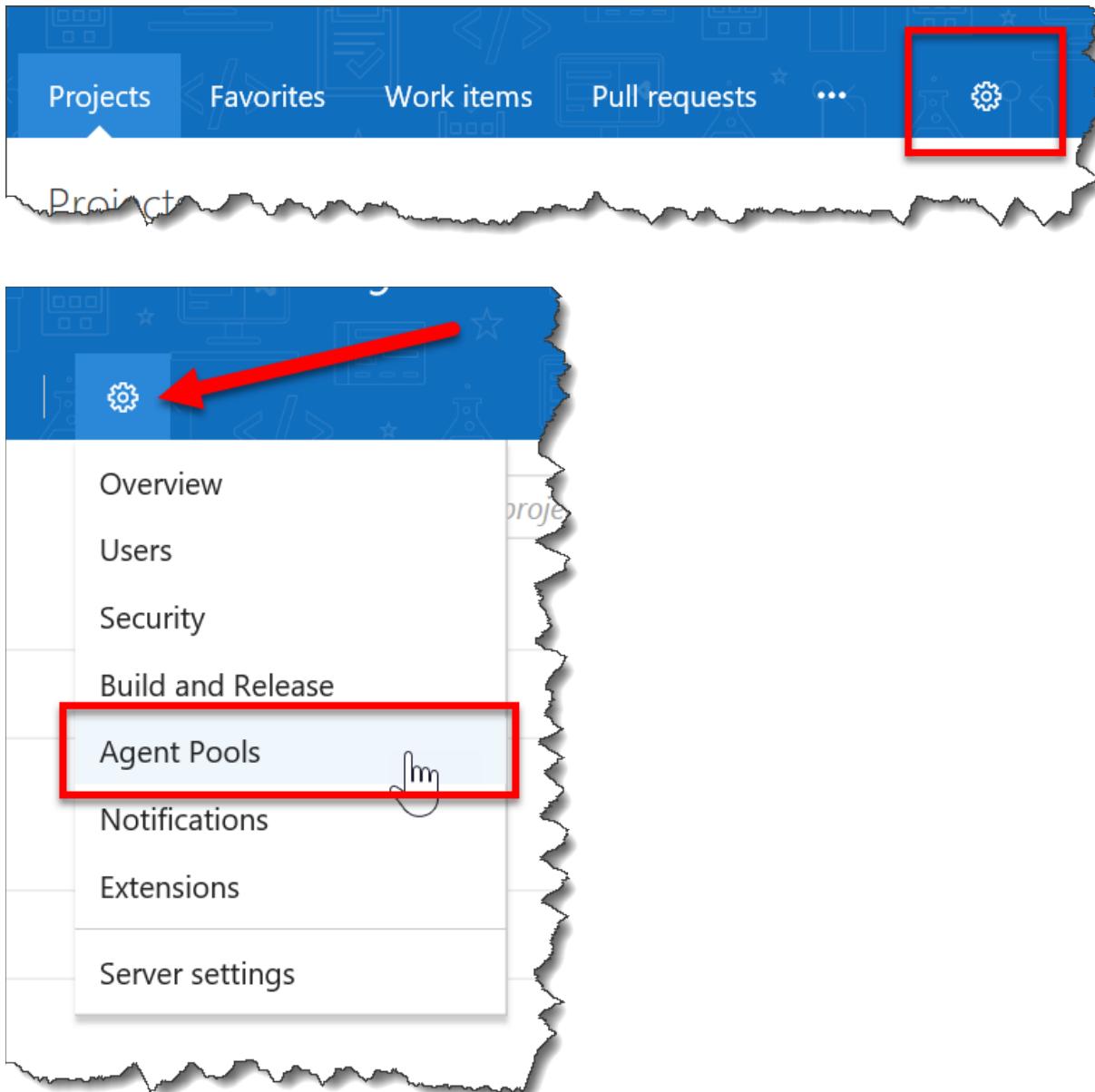
Download the Agent Installer

- Log in to the build server machine
- Open a web browser
- Navigate to your TFS web interface. By default this is <http://servername:8080/tfs>.

You should see a screen that looks like this.

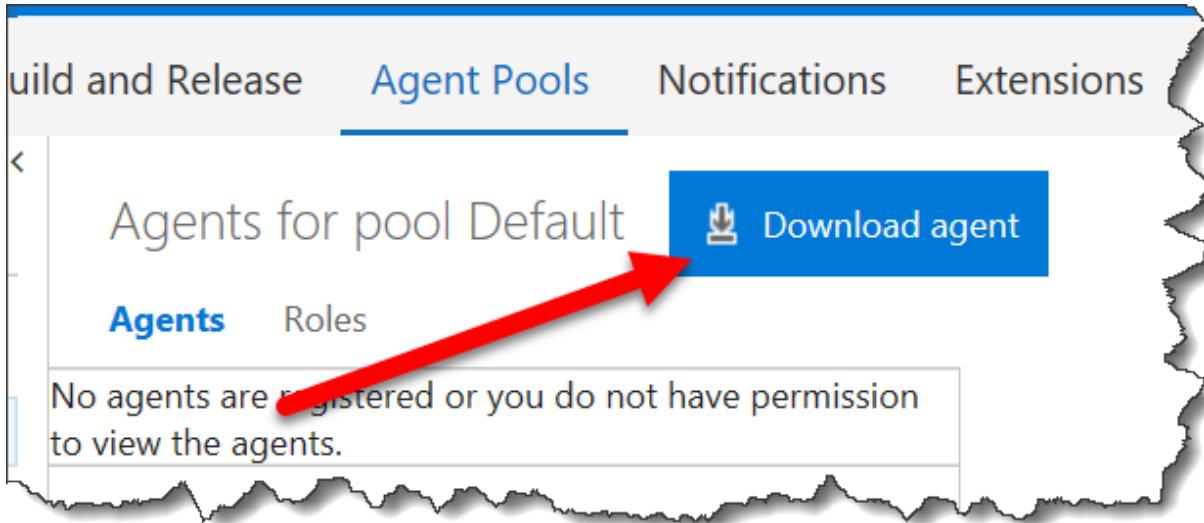


On the right side of the menu bar, there is a gear icon.



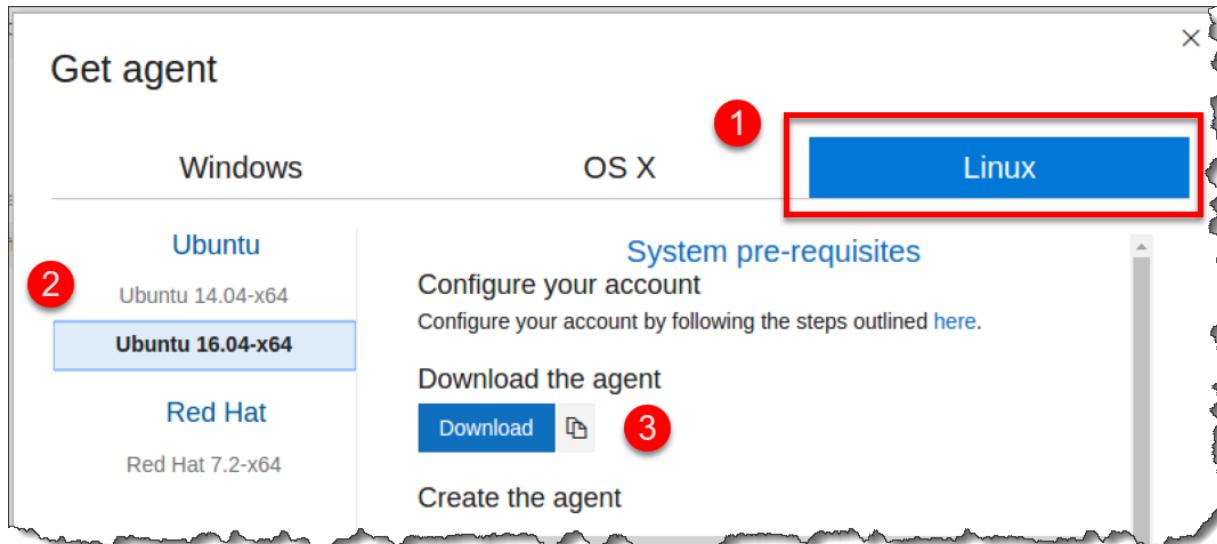
- Click the **gear icon** to bring up the **Settings menu**
- Choose **Agent Pools**

You should now see the admin screen for your team project collection and you should be looking at the Agent Pools tab. There should be a button that says "Download agent".



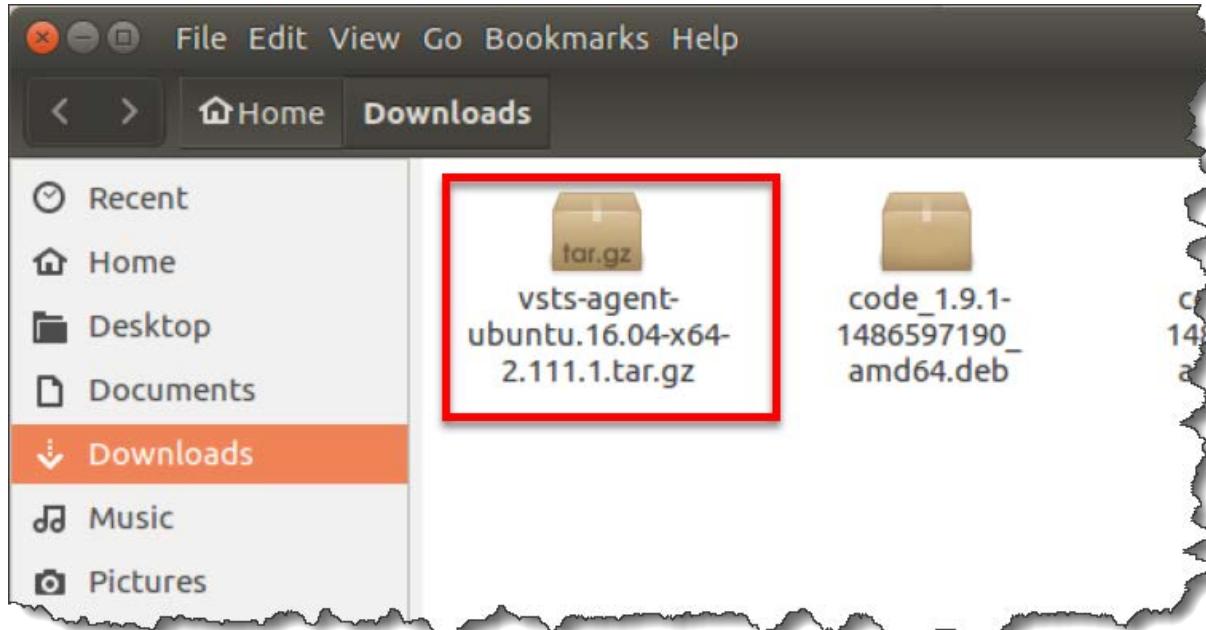
- Click the **Download agent** button

A dialog should pop up that shows you the download and installation info for Windows, Mac OS / OS X, and Linux.



- Make sure the **Linux tab** is selected
- In the left column, choose **Ubuntu 16.04-x64**
- Click the **Download** button (NOTE: this guide assumes you're doing the default browser behavior and downloading the agent tar.gz to the downloads directory for your user profile.)

To verify that you saved this file to the expected location for this guide, open the Files explorer and navigate to your Downloads directory. You should see a tar.gz file that has a name that starts with "vsts-agent-ubuntu-16.04-x64-". The actual filename might not be the same as the image below because the agent version may have been updated.



Extract the Agent

Now that you've downloaded the bits for the agent, you'll do the actual installation using PowerShell. This is actually done in two parts. Part 1: Extract the agent bits from the tar.gz file. Part 2: Configure the Agent. Let's do the first part.

That dialog that you used to download the agent has two different commands: "Create the agent" and "Configure the agent". I found that these commands were kind of confusing and took some adjusting and "sudo"-ing to make them work. They're basically sketches of what you'd actually like to do.

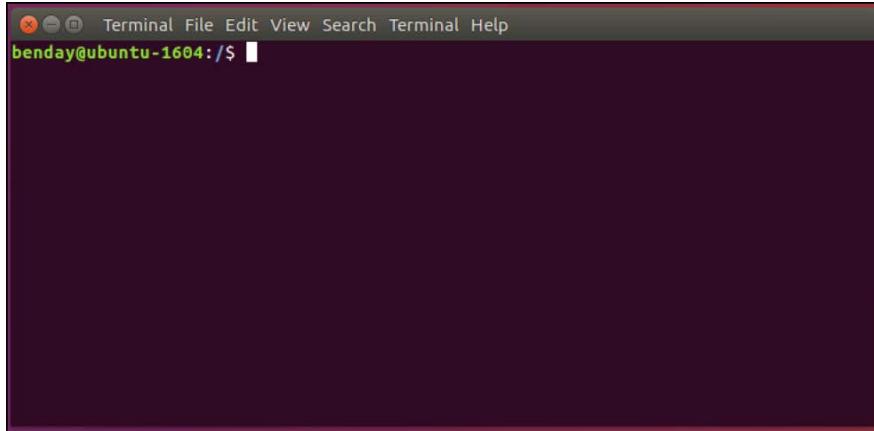
Create the agent

```
~/ $ mkdir myagent && cd myagent  
~/myagent$ tar zxvf ~/Downloads/vsts-agent-  
ubuntu.16.04-x64-2.111.1.tar.gz
```

Configure the agent [detailed instructions ↗](#)

```
~/myagent$ ./config.sh
```

We're going to do the majority of the configuration of this build agent using a Terminal window.



- Open a **Terminal** window

The first thing that I want you to do is to get the full path to the agent tar.gz file. The way that I'm doing this is probably a little convoluted if you're a Linux ninja but I want this guide to be usable for those of us who are not so wise in the way of the Linux.

The screenshot shows a terminal window with the following command history:

```
benday@ubuntu-1604:~$ cd $home  
benday@ubuntu-1604:~$ cd ./Downloads/  
benday@ubuntu-1604:~/Downloads$ pwd  
/home/benday/Downloads  
benday@ubuntu-1604:~/Downloads$ ls vsts-agent*  
vsts-agent-ubuntu.16.04-x64-2.111.1.tar.gz  
benday@ubuntu-1604:~/Downloads$
```

Red arrows point to specific parts of the terminal output:

- A red arrow points to the output of the `pwd` command, which is highlighted with a red circle labeled "1".
- A red arrow points to the filename `vsts-agent-ubuntu.16.04-x64-2.111.1.tar.gz`, which is highlighted with a red circle labeled "2".

Below the terminal, a text editor window is open, showing the copied path:

```
/home/benday/Downloads/vsts-agent-ubuntu.16.04-x64-2.111.1.tar.gz
```

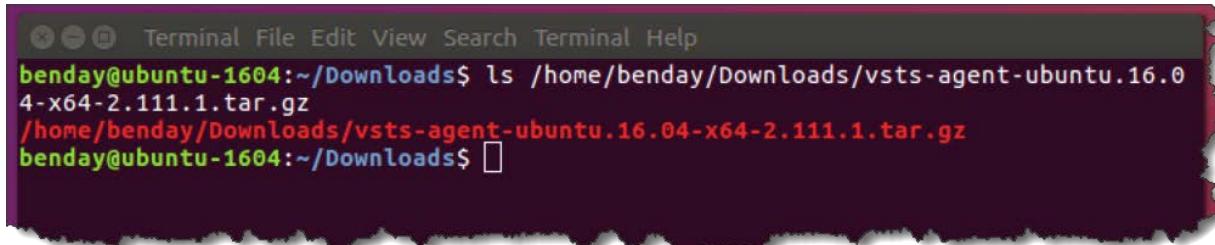
The text editor has a red circle labeled "3" next to its title bar.

- Type "cd \$home" and press Enter
- Type "cd ./Downloads/" and press Enter
- Type "pwd" and press Enter
- Copy the path value that was output by the pwd command and paste it into a text editor
- Type "ls vsts-agent*" and press Enter
- Locate the name of the agent file that you downloaded. Copy the full filename to the clipboard
- In the text editor, add a "/" to the end of the copied path. Paste in the copied file name.

At this point, you should have a path in the text editor that looks similar to the path shown above that's marked as #3.

- Copy the file path from the text editor to the clipboard

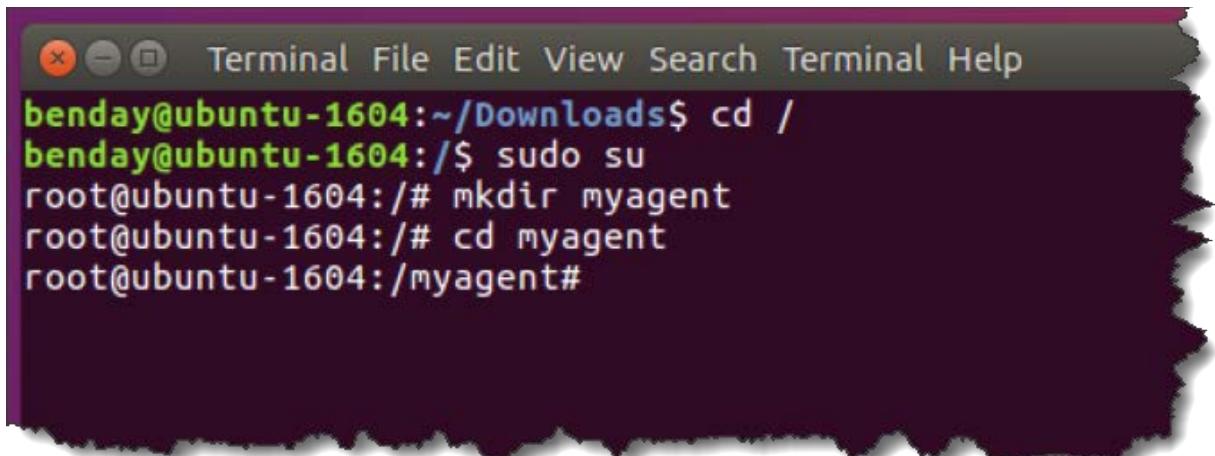
Now you'll verify that you've combined the path correctly and that it's valid. You'll do this by running an "ls" on that path in the Terminal window.



```
Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
benday@ubuntu-1604:~/Downloads$ ls /home/benday/Downloads/vsts-agent-ubuntu.16.0
4-x64-2.111.1.tar.gz
/home/benday/Downloads/vsts-agent-ubuntu.16.04-x64-2.111.1.tar.gz
benday@ubuntu-1604:~/Downloads$ 
```

- Paste the copied path into the terminal window and press Enter
- Verify that you got a result that looks similar to the one above and does not report any "No such file or directory" errors

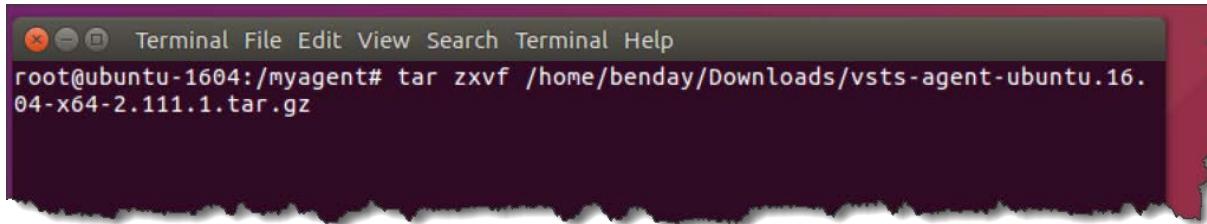
Next, you'll create the directory where you'll install the build agent bits.



```
Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
benday@ubuntu-1604:~/Downloads$ cd /
benday@ubuntu-1604:$ sudo su
root@ubuntu-1604:# mkdir myagent
root@ubuntu-1604:# cd myagent
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent# 
```

- Type "cd /" and press Enter
- Type "sudo su" and press Enter
- When prompted, enter your password
- Type "mkdir myagent" and press Enter
- Type "cd myagent" and press Enter

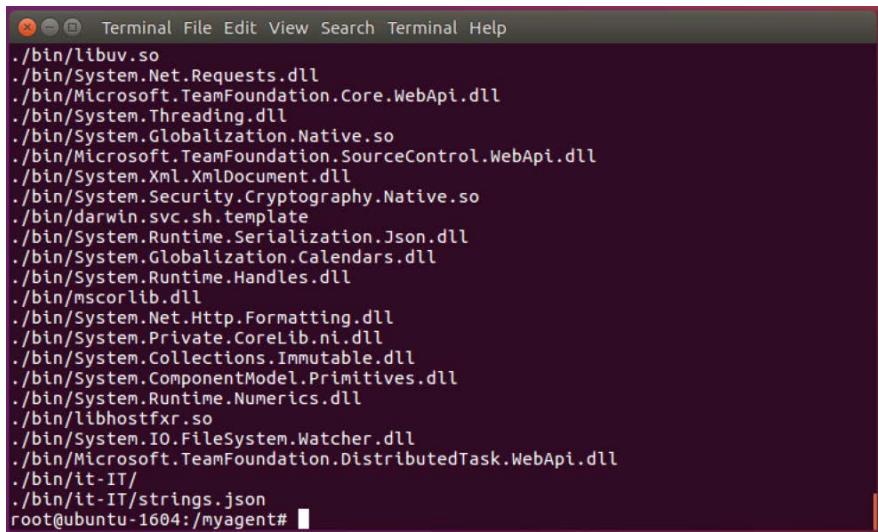
The commands you just ran should complete without errors. Now you're ready to extract the agent tar.gz to this directory. This is where that path in the text editor will come in handy.



```
Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent# tar zxvf /home/benday/Downloads/vsts-agent-ubuntu.16.04-x64-2.111.1.tar.gz
```

- Type "tar zxvf " followed by the copied path to the tar.gz file. In this screenshot, the value is "tar zxvf /home/benday/Downloads/vsts-agent-ubuntu.16.04-x64-2.111.1.tar.gz"
- Press Enter to run the extract command

You should have just seen a bunch of text fly by in the Terminal window. The files should have extracted without errors.



```
Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
./bin/libuv.so
./bin/System.Net.Requests.dll
./bin/Microsoft.TeamFoundation.Core.WebApi.dll
./bin/System.Threading.dll
./bin/System.Globalization.Native.so
./bin/Microsoft.TeamFoundation.SourceControl.WebApi.dll
./bin/System.Xml.XmlDocument.dll
./bin/System.Security.Cryptography.Native.so
./bin/darwin.svc.sh.template
./bin/System.Runtime.Serialization.Json.dll
./bin/System.Globalization.Calendars.dll
./bin/System.Runtime.Handles.dll
./bin/mscorlib.dll
./bin/System.Net.Http.Formatting.dll
./bin/System.Private.CoreLib.ni.dll
./bin/System.Collections.Immutable.dll
./bin/System.ComponentModel.Primitives.dll
./bin/System.Runtime.Numerics.dll
./bin/libhostfxr.so
./bin/System.IO.FileSystem.Watcher.dll
./bin/Microsoft.TeamFoundation.DistributedTask.WebApi.dll
./bin/it-IT/
./bin/it-IT/strings.json
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent#
```

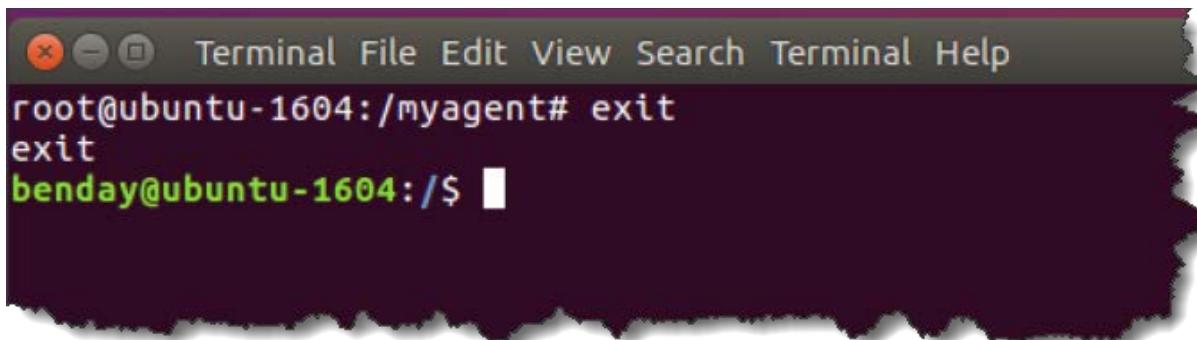
Configure the Agent

Now that the bits are deployed to disk, you can start configuring this build agent.

You're going to be prompted for a handful of values during the configuration process:

- **TFS server URL:** This is the same URL that you used to access the TFS web interface. By default this will be something like <http://servername:8080/tfs>
- **Authentication Type:** This describes how the agent will talk to TFS. Since this is a Linux machine rather than a Windows machine, we'll be using a method called "Negotiate". In order support more complex scenarios and multiple platforms, there are also several other options. This guide will show you how to do Negotiate mode.
- **User name & password for the agent service:** These are the credentials for the service. In my case, I've created an Active Directory user named "tfsbuild". The fully qualified username for this user is "DEMO\tfsbuild".

In the current directory there's a shell script named config.sh. This cannot be run as root / superuser.

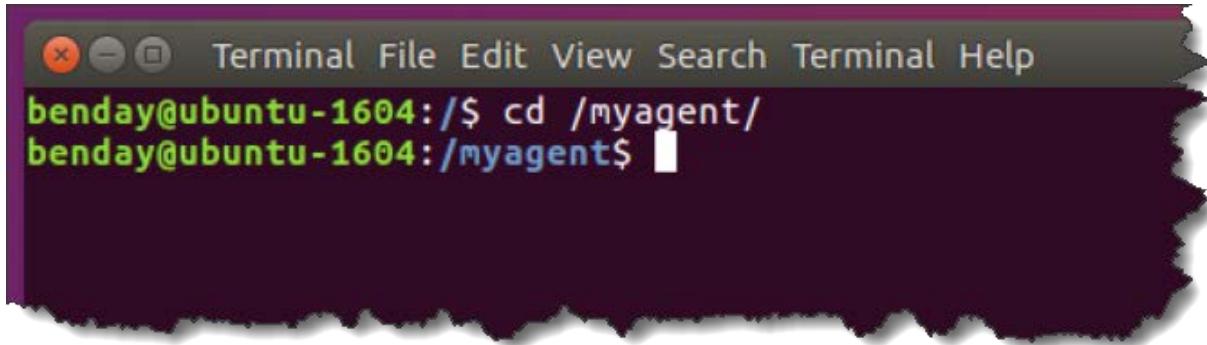


```
Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent# exit
exit
benday@ubuntu-1604:/$
```

- Type "exit" and press Enter

You should be back in the context of your regular user account.

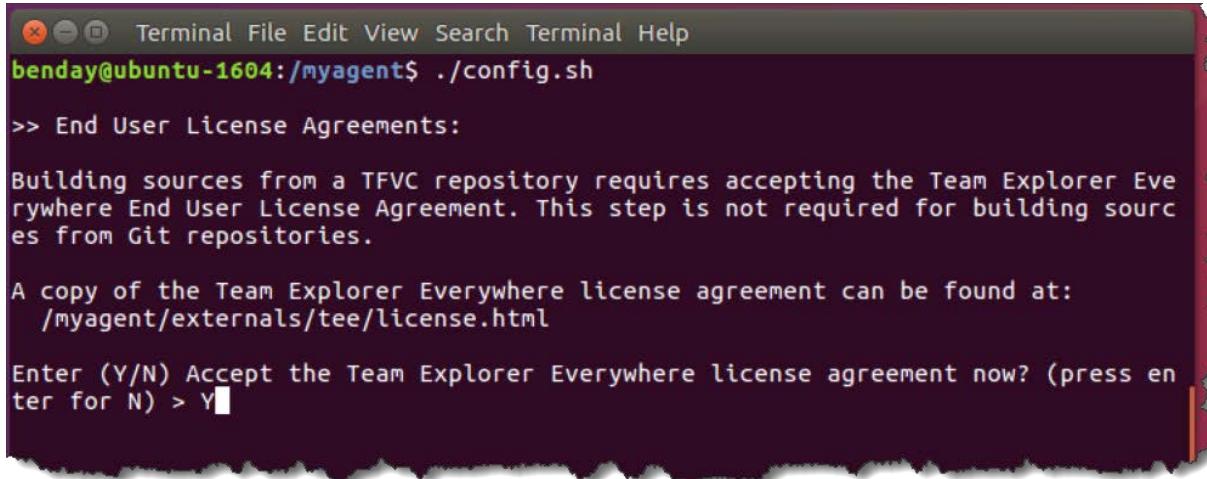
Now you'll need to "cd" to the agent directory.



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "Terminal". The window has a dark background and light-colored text. At the top, it shows the path "benday@ubuntu-1604:/\$ cd /myagent/" followed by a cursor. Below that, it shows "benday@ubuntu-1604:/myagent\$". The window has standard window controls (close, minimize, maximize) at the top left.

- Type "cd /myagent/" and press Enter

Now you'll run the config shell script.



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "Terminal". The window shows the command "benday@ubuntu-1604:/myagent\$./config.sh" being typed. The text then continues with the output of the script, which includes prompts for accepting the EULA and instructions for finding the license agreement. The window has standard window controls at the top left.

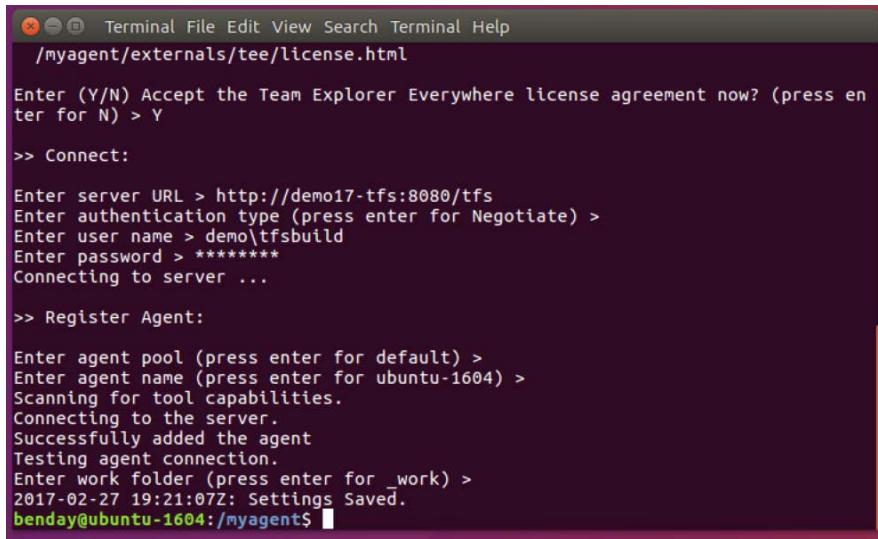
```
benday@ubuntu-1604:/myagent$ ./config.sh
>> End User License Agreements:

Building sources from a TFVC repository requires accepting the Team Explorer Everywhere End User License Agreement. This step is not required for building sources from Git repositories.

A copy of the Team Explorer Everywhere license agreement can be found at:
/myagent/externals/tee/license.html

Enter (Y/N) Accept the Team Explorer Everywhere license agreement now? (press enter for N) > Y
```

- Type "./config.sh" and press Enter
- When prompted for the EULA, read it thoroughly, (and if you agree) type 'Y' and press Enter to accept the EULA.



The screenshot shows a terminal window with the following text:

```
Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
/myagent/externals/tee/license.html
Enter (Y/N) Accept the Team Explorer Everywhere license agreement now? (press enter for N) > Y
>> Connect:
Enter server URL > http://demo17-tfs:8080/tfs
Enter authentication type (press enter for Negotiate) >
Enter user name > demo\tfssbuild
Enter password > *****
Connecting to server ...
>> Register Agent:
Enter agent pool (press enter for default) >
Enter agent name (press enter for ubuntu-1604) >
Scanning for tool capabilities.
Connecting to the server.
Successfully added the agent
Testing agent connection.
Enter work folder (press enter for _work) >
2017-02-27 19:21:07Z: Settings Saved.
benday@ubuntu-1604:/myagent$
```

- “Enter server URL >”:

Type the **URL for your TFS instance** and click **Enter**

(Example: `http://servername:8080/tfs`)

- “Enter authentication type (press enter for Negotiate)”:

Press **Enter**

- “Enter user name”:

Type the fully qualified user name for the agent service and press **Enter**

(Example: `demo\tfssbuild`)

- “Enter password”:

Type the password for the agent service user and press **Enter**

- “Enter agent pool (press enter for default)”:

Press **Enter**

- “Enter agent name (press enter for *[local server name]*)”:

Press **Enter**

- “Enter work folder (press enter for _work)”:

Press **Enter**

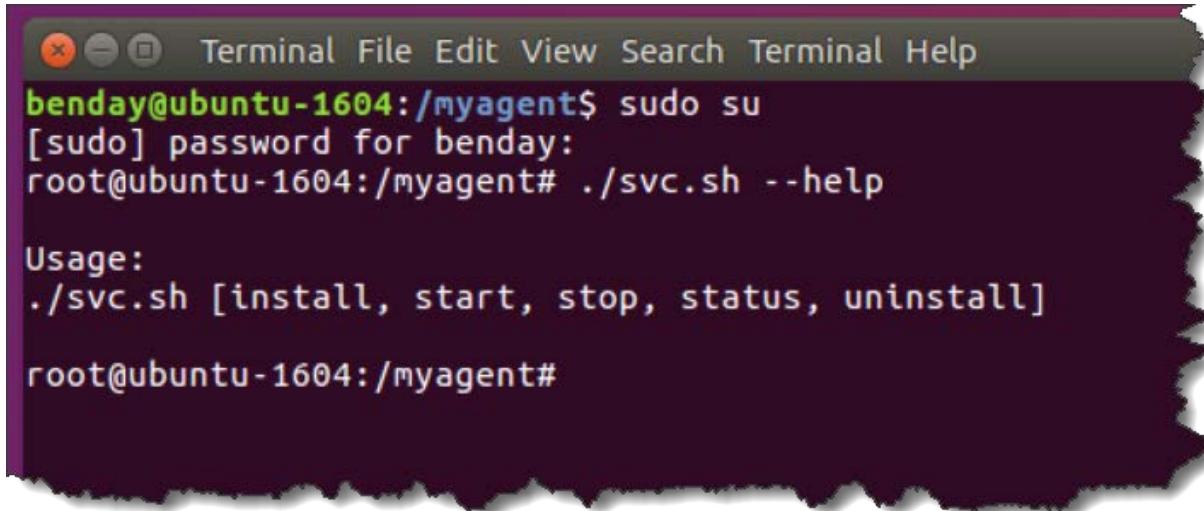
If you go back to your browser and look at the Agent Pools page, you should now see your new build agent in the list. But it will probably have the State value of Offline and this is because the service isn't running yet.

The screenshot shows the 'Agent Pools' section of the TFS 2017 interface. The 'Default' pool is selected. Two agents are listed:

Enabled	Name	State	Current Status
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEMO17-BUILD	Offline	Idle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ubuntu-1604	Offline	Idle

Configure the Agent to Run as a Service

One of the files in the MyAgent directory is "svc.sh". This script controls the setup, start, and shutdown of the build agent when it is run as a service. This script must be run as su or via sudo.



The screenshot shows a terminal window with a dark background and light-colored text. The window title is "Terminal". The command entered is "sudo su", followed by a password prompt "[sudo] password for benday:". Then, the command ". /svc.sh --help" is run. The output shows usage instructions: "Usage: ./svc.sh [install, start, stop, status, uninstall]". The user then types "root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent#" to end the session.

```
Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
benday@ubuntu-1604:/myagent$ sudo su
[sudo] password for benday:
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent# ./svc.sh --help
Usage:
./svc.sh [install, start, stop, status, uninstall]
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent#
```

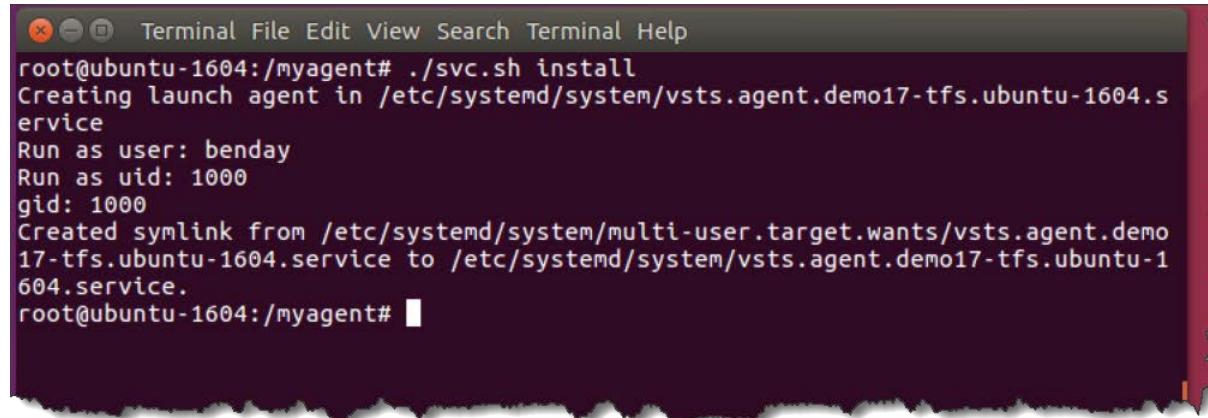
- Type "sudo su" and press Enter

Next, view the list of available commands in svc.sh.

- Type "./svc.sh --help" and press Enter

This shows you the commands that are available to run. To register this agent as a service, you'll run the install command. Start is used to start the service. Stop is used to stop it. Status is used to show the current state of the service. Uninstall deregisters the agent service.

Let's run the install command.

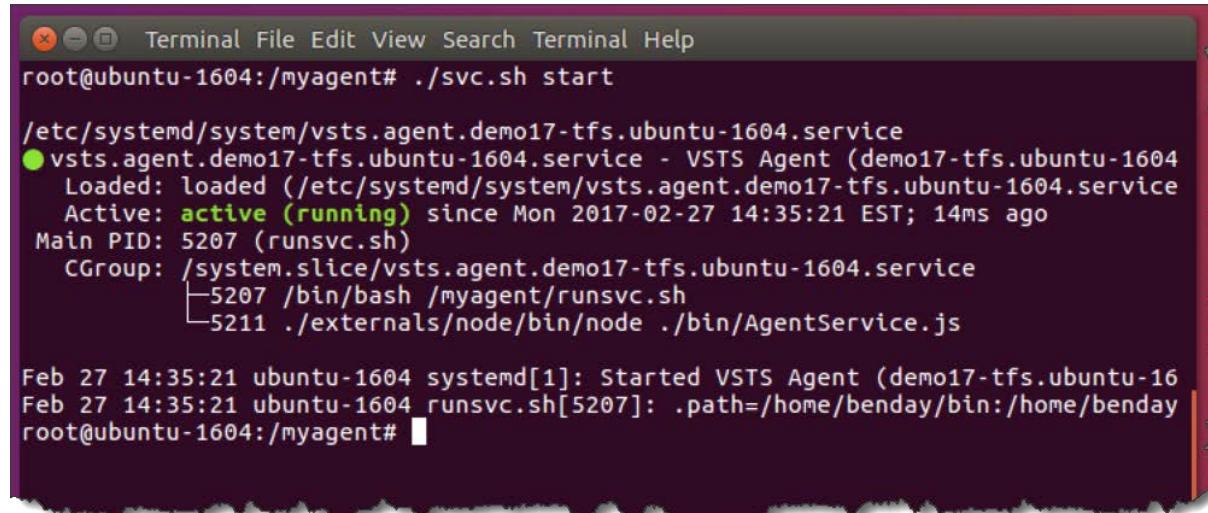


```
Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent# ./svc.sh install
Creating launch agent in /etc/systemd/system/vsts.agent.demo17-tfs.ubuntu-1604.service
Run as user: benday
Run as uid: 1000
gid: 1000
Created symlink from /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/vsts.agent.demo17-tfs.ubuntu-1604.service to /etc/systemd/system/vsts.agent.demo17-tfs.ubuntu-1604.service.
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent#
```

- Type "./svc.sh install" and press Enter

It should show you output that looks similar to the screenshot above and it should complete without error.

Now that it's registered, you can start the service.



```
Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent# ./svc.sh start
/etc/systemd/system/vsts.agent.demo17-tfs.ubuntu-1604.service
● vsts.agent.demo17-tfs.ubuntu-1604.service - VSTS Agent (demo17-tfs.ubuntu-1604
   Loaded: loaded (/etc/systemd/system/vsts.agent.demo17-tfs.ubuntu-1604.service
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2017-02-27 14:35:21 EST; 14ms ago
     Main PID: 5207 (runsvc.sh)
        CGrou: /system.slice/vsts.agent.demo17-tfs.ubuntu-1604.service
                  └─5207 /bin/bash /myagent/runsvc.sh
                      ├─5211 ./externals/node/bin/node ./bin/AgentService.js
Feb 27 14:35:21 ubuntu-1604 systemd[1]: Started VSTS Agent (demo17-tfs.ubuntu-16
Feb 27 14:35:21 ubuntu-1604 runsvc.sh[5207]: .path=/home/benday/bin:/home/benday
root@ubuntu-1604:/myagent#
```

- Type "./svc.sh start" and press Enter
- Press 'Q' to exit the command

The service should be started now and TFS should think that it's online.

Enabled	Name	State	Current Status
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEMO17-BUILD	Offline	Idle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ubuntu-1604	Online	Idle

- Open your browser
- Navigate to the agent pools page

You should see your build agent and the state should be Online.

You've successfully created a Team Foundation Server build agent on Ubuntu 16.04.