Installing and Configuring Server Core

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Lab Summary

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   The IT department at Adatum Corporation has a current IT infrastructure and wants to test Server Core functionality. Windows Server 2016 Server Core would be the best option because it has more enhanced security and less resource-intensive than the Desktop Experience installation. It means that the Server Core option can reduce the disk space and the potential attack from outside. Since the IT department built its infrastructure, migration, instead of an in-place upgrade, would be the best option because it does not affect the current IT infrastructure.

   Installing Server Core is a simple step because the setup program would guide to decide what option would be the best. Following the steps, there is the Select the operating system you want to install page; usually, Windows Server Datacenter is for the enterprise-level infrastructure. However, the one with Desktop Experience is for the full installation, so that selecting Windows Server Datacenter would be the best choice since we only need the Server Core.

   On the Which type of installation do you want? page, there are two options: Upgrade and Custom. The Upgrade option installs Windows, and it also moves the files, settings, and applications, which the administrators do not want. The Custom option would be the better choice in this scenario.

   Once the installation of the Server Core is done, the admin should find the computer name and IP address by using a PowerShell. The IP address was 172.16.0.160, which is the DHCP address from Domain Controller. Giving a static IP address to the Server Core would be more efficient and provide more manageable administrative tasks because the DHCP address eventually expires and issues the new address, which requires the admin to make new rules

again. By using the Server Configuration tool, it can change the network settings, such as static IP address and DNS server, domain/work group.

After the new Server Core restarts, the admin should test if the configuration is applied to it. In the PowerShell, the computer name and the static IP address were changed, and the DNS server value showed True in the Success column. It means the new Server Core is established, and the Domain Controller should add this Server Core into the system by using Server Manager.

To enable remote management, the Server Core needs to be added as one of the servers in AD. When the Server Core is in the Active Directory, every step has gone through well. If not, the static IP address needs to be done again by using the Server Configuration tool. When found, it needs to be in a DNS zone. In the New Zone Wizard, this Server Core would be in the Secondary zone in Forward Lookup Zones. The Server Core is in the Secondary zone because it can have the backup to provide redundancy when the Master DNS server is down.

Once all the steps are completed, the new zone information should be examined to make sure the Server Core is in the correct DNS zones. The Primary and Secondary zones should have Adatum.com. Also, when checking the DNS Client Server address, it should have the static IP address and DNS server IP address in Ethernet because any DHCP configuration cannot be overridden for the interface.

The lab gives the knowledge of how to install and configure Server Core and examine whether the configuration is applied to other systems. Another essential factor of this lab is to set up the remote management of the Server Core. Now, I could configure the IP address, set the computer, and join an Active Directory domain.

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