Using MDT to Deploy Windows Server 2016

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Lab Summary 11

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As the datacenter in London, UK has grown, automated server deployment became necessary to save significant time by using MDT. Microsoft Deployment Toolkit is a program that allows a network deployment of MS Windows and Office. From the beginning to the end, the MDT gives guidance of planning, building, and deploying Windows OS.

In the lab, the version of MDT is MDT 2013 Update 2. There are three types of deployments in MDT: Zero Touch Installation or ZTI, Lite Tough Installation or LTI, and User Driven Installation or UDI. ZTI is a full deployment mode that a user interaction is not required; UDI deployment requires manual installations from the user; LTI is the deployment of limited user interaction.

Before determining which deployment option is chosen, the admin configures the deployment share through the Deployment Workbench in MDT. When creating the deployment share, the file is in the path C:\DeploymentShare, which is a hidden share. Followed by the prompt, it will guide to the MDT Deployment Share.

There are two tasks with MDT in the lab. The admin should create a reference image of Windows Server 2016 and install the Excel viewer application. The reference image of the OS can be added through the DVD drive. In the lab, the reference image was already created in the reference computer. The image is called a capture image, which is a boot image that captures its system drive and saves in a .wim file. The capture image helps deploy the operating system to the computers. Even the Excel viewer application should have the source, directory, and destination.

Once all the required images are added to the MDT, the next task is to build the deployment task sequence. There are several options for the MDT task sequence templates, such

as Sysprep, standard, Lighttouch, and custom task sequences. In the lab, the Standard Server Task Sequence is used to deploy server operating system images; this template is the default task sequence. This task needs to be performed well because the installation of the applications and operating system might not work thoroughly. The OS should come first because they work as a foundation, then the application comes next over the OS installation.

Finally, the image deploys to the target computer, LON-SVR6. Since the target computer does not have an operating system image, the Litetouch OEM should be installed before deploying the task sequence template in MDT. Then, the MDT Wizard starts to install a new operating system. In this process, one of the pages is to enable BitLocker, which provides a higher level of data security. When every progress is completed successfully, the admin would be able to monitor the details of the computer name and domain status in the Server Manager in the target computer. The Excel viewer application can be shown in the start menu icon.

