# Windows Server 2022 Installation Steps

These steps are for installing **Windows Server 2022** in a virtual machine (VMware or Virtual Box) because it's the safest and most common approach for learning and experimentation. The core steps are similar for physical hardware, but driver management and hardware compatibility become more critical.

Here are steps

Step 1. Preparation:

• Verify Hardware: Ensure your host machine (if virtualizing) meets the minimum hardware requirements. Allocate sufficient resources to the VM (RAM, CPU cores, disk space).

• Download the ISO: Download the Windows Server 2022 ISO file from the Microsoft Evaluation Center.
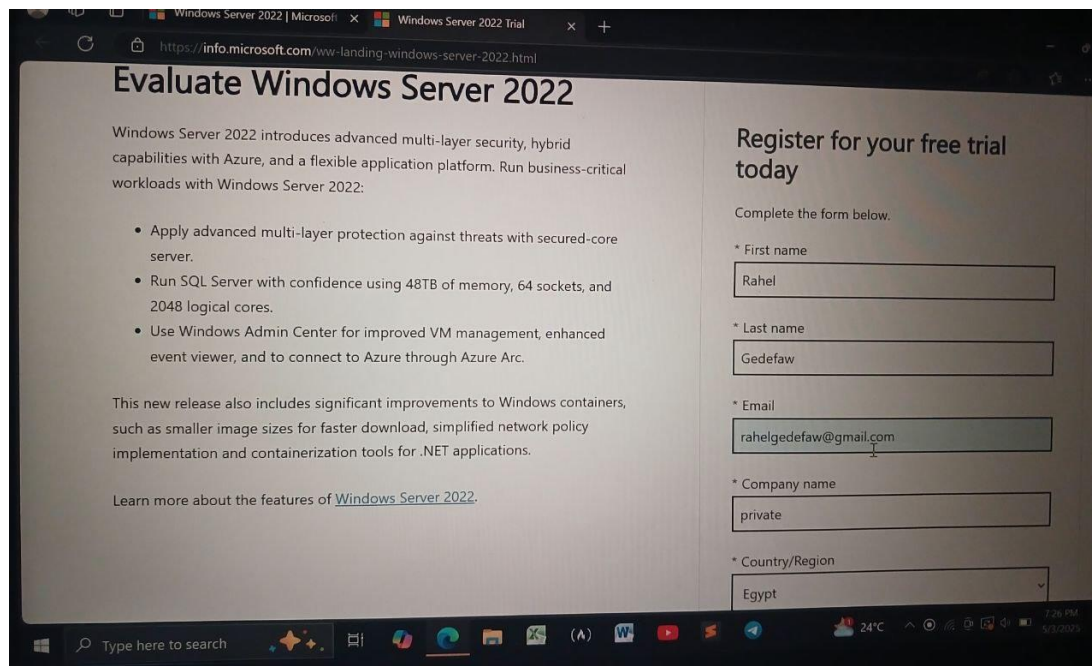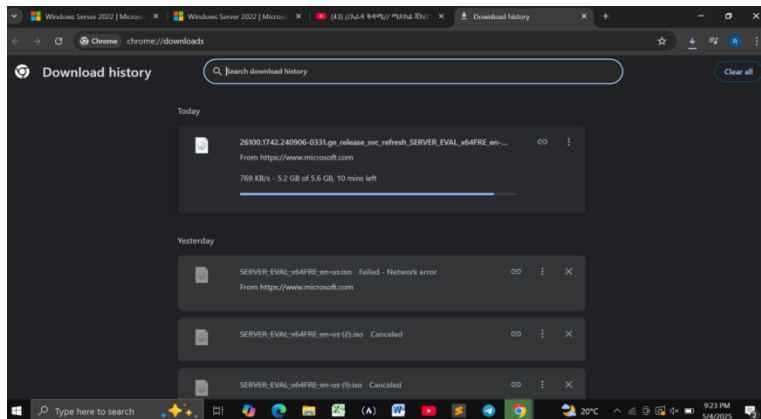
• Virtual Machine Creation (If applicable): Create a new virtual machine in VMware or VirtualBox. Specify the ISO file as the bootable disk.
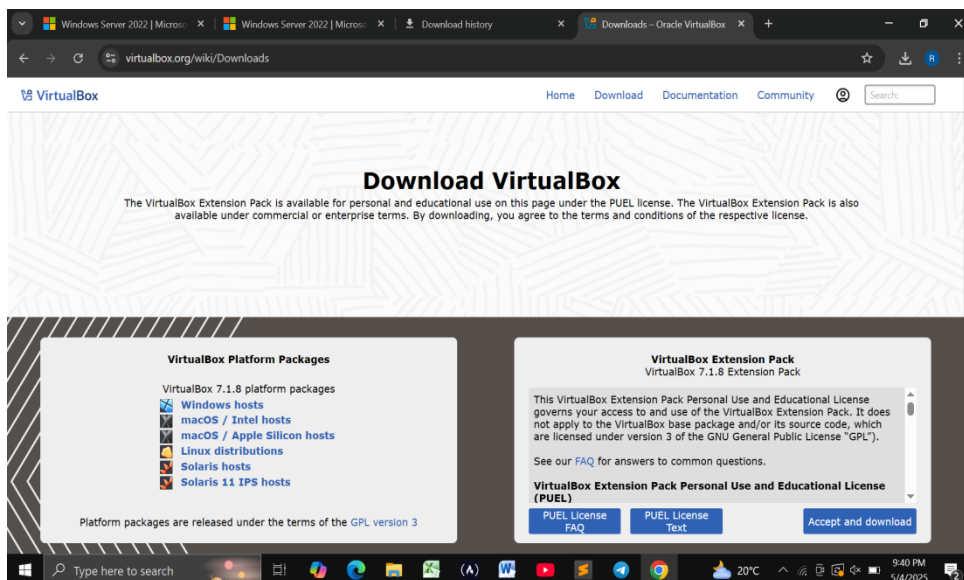

Step 2. Start the Virtual Machine:

• Select your newly created VM in VMware or Virtual Box and click **"Start"** or "**Power On**."

Step 3. Boot from the Installation Media:

• The VM should automatically boot from the ISO file you specified. If it doesn't, you may need to adjust the boot order in the VM's BIOS settings (usually accessible by pressing a key like F2, Delete, or Esc during startup – the specific key varies by VM software and firmware).

Step 4. Windows Setup – Language, Time, and Keyboard

• Select your preferred language, time zone, and keyboard layout. Click "**Next."**
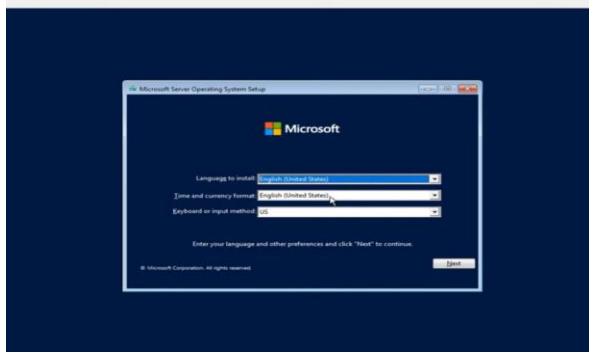

Step 5. Install Now

• Click the "**Install Now**" button.

Step 6. Enter Product Key (or Skip)

• If you have a product key, enter it. If you're using the evaluation version, click **"I don't have a product key."**

Step 7. Select Operating System Edition (Crucial Step)

• Carefully select the correct edition of Windows Server 2022:

 * Windows Server 2022 Standard (Desktop Experience): This is generally the best choice for beginners. It includes the graphical user interface (GUI).

 * Windows Server 2022 Datacenter (Desktop Experience): This is the more advanced edition with features for large-scale deployments and virtualization. It also includes the GUI.

 * Windows Server 2022 Standard: (Without "Desktop Experience") This is the Server Core installation, which is command-line only. It has a smaller footprint and can be more secure but requires more expertise.

 * Windows Server 2022 Datacenter: (Without "Desktop Experience") This is the Server Core version of the Datacenter edition.
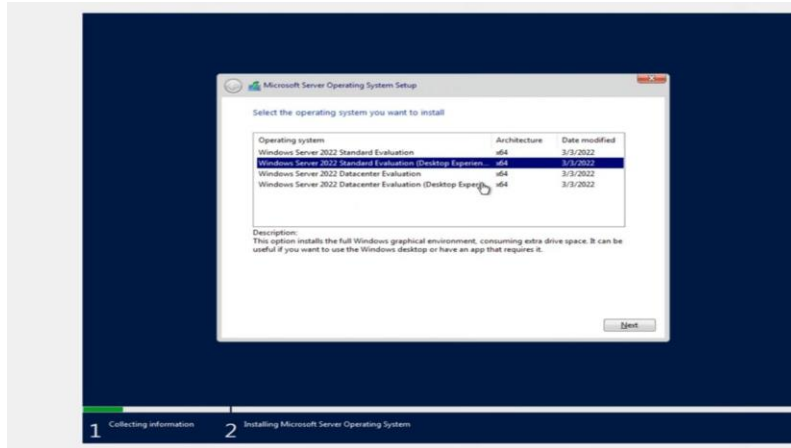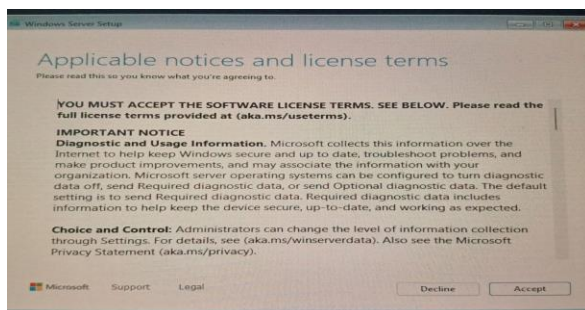
For this project I prefer to select "Standard (Desktop Experience).

- Click **"Next**."

Step 8. Accept the License Terms

- Check the "**I accept the license terms**" box and click "**Next."**


Step 9. Choose Installation Type

- Select "**Custom: Install Windows only (advanced)."** This option allows you to choose the partition where you want to install the OS.

Step 10. Where do you want to install Windows? – Disk Selection

- Select the virtual disk you created when setting up the VM. If the disk is unallocated, select it and click "**New**" to create a partition. Accept the default size (or adjust as needed) and click **"Apply."** Windows may create additional system partitions. Select the primary partition you created and click "Next."

• If no drives are listed, it could indicate a driver issue. For VMs, this is rare. For physical hardware, you might need to load a storage controller driver from a USB drive.
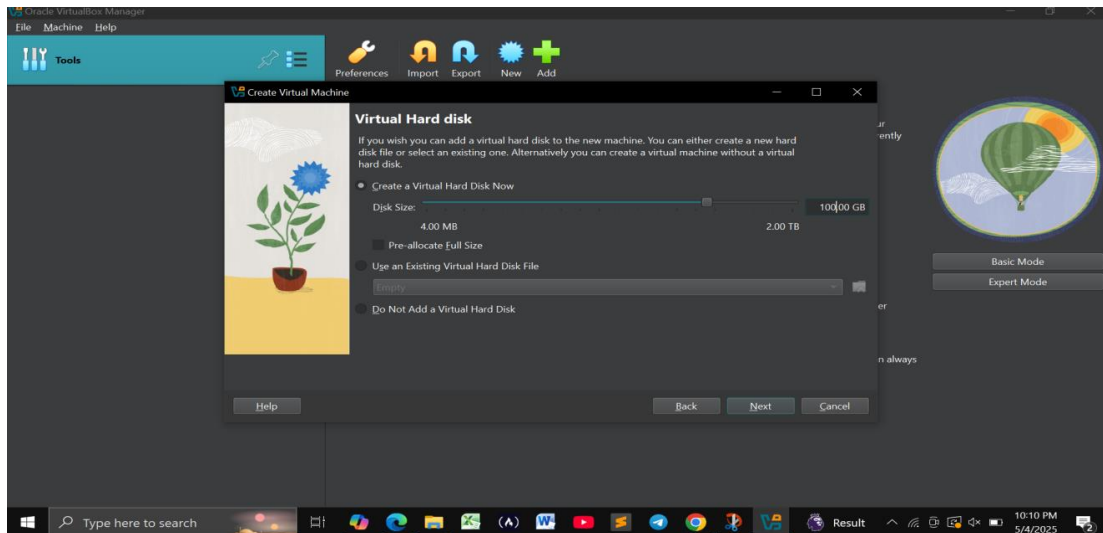

Step 11. Installing Windows

• The installation process will begin, copying files, installing features, and installing updates. This may take 20-40 minutes or longer, depending on your hardware. The VM will restart automatically several times during this process.
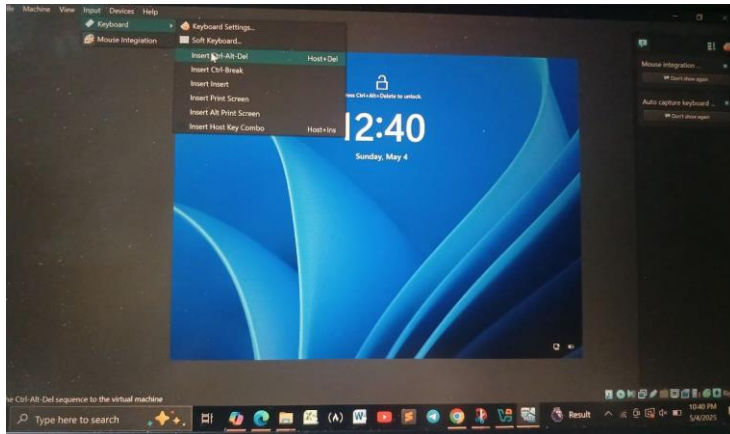
Step 12. Setting the Administrator Password

• After the final restart, the system will boot into the setup screen. You'll be prompted to set a password for the built-in "Administrator" account. Choose a strong password and remember it.
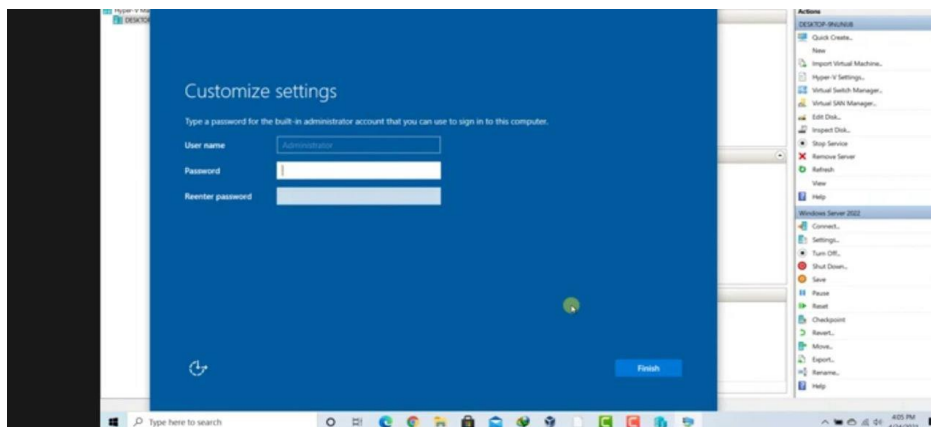
• Press **Ctrl+Alt+Delete (or Ctrl+Alt+Insert in some VMs)** to bring up the login screen. Log in as "Administrator" with the password you just set.


Then you can create a Local User Account:

Step 14.

• After logging in as Administrator, you should create a new local user account on the server, using your full legal name as the username . This is in addition to the built-in Administrator account.

Here is how to Create a Local User Account (After Installation):

• Open Computer Management: Right-click on the Start button and select "**Computer Management**."

• Expand "Local Users and Groups": In the left pane, expand "**Local Users and Groups**."

• Select "Users": Click on "**Users**."

• Create a New User: Right-click in the right pane and select "**New User**..."

• Fill in the Details:

• **User name**: Enter your full name example ("Rahel Gedefaw").

• **Full name**: You can also enter your full name here.

- **Description**: (Optional) but you can enter like ("Student Account").

- **Password**: Enter a **strong** password.

- Confirm password: Re-enter the password.

- **User must change password at next logon**: Uncheck this box. For a test environment, it's usually easier to manage if you know the password.

- User cannot change password: (Optional) Check this box if you don't want the user to be able to change their password.

- Password never expires: Check this box

- Account is disabled: Make sure this box is unchecked.
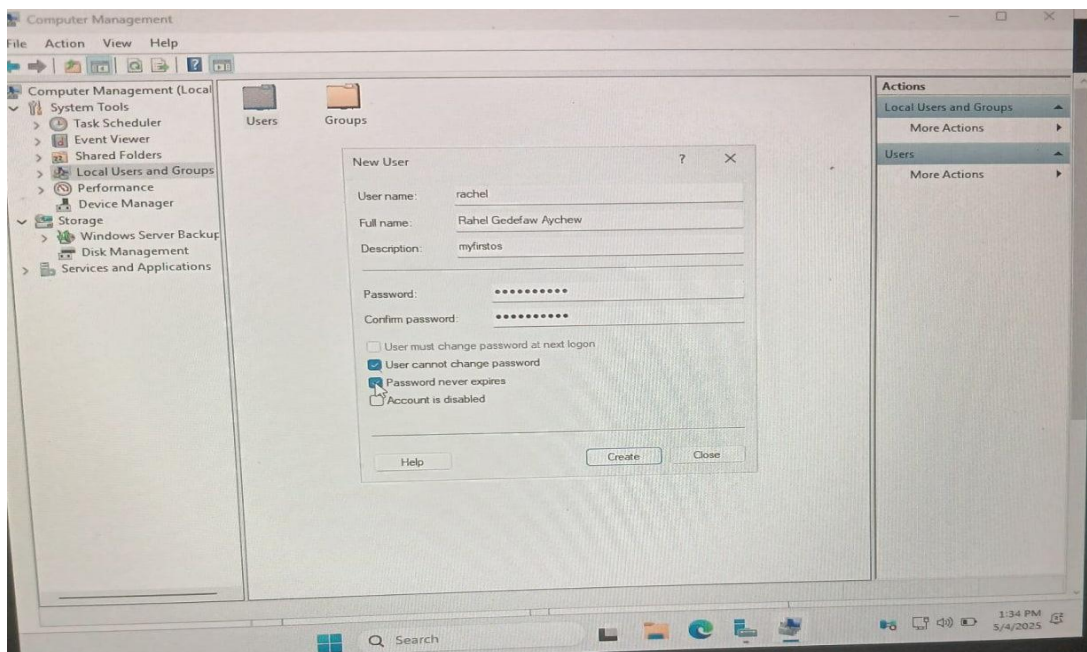
- Click **"Create**" and then "**Close."**

- Add to Administrators Group (If Required): If you need the new account to have administrative privileges, double-click the new user account, go to the "Member Of" tab, click "Add...", type "Administrators" and click "OK."

Post-Installation Configuration (Key Tasks):

1**. Set Static IP Address**: Assign a static IP address to the server. This is essential for servers to have a consistent address. In Server Manager, go to "Local Server" and click on "Ethernet" (or the name of your network adapter).

2. Install Windows Updates: In Server Manager, go to "Local Server" and check for updates. Install all available updates. This is crucial for security and stability.

3**. Rename the Computer**: In Server Manager, go to "Local Server" and change the computer name to something descriptive. Restart the server after renaming.

4. Configure Windows Firewall: Configure the Windows Firewall to allow necessary traffic for the services you plan to run.
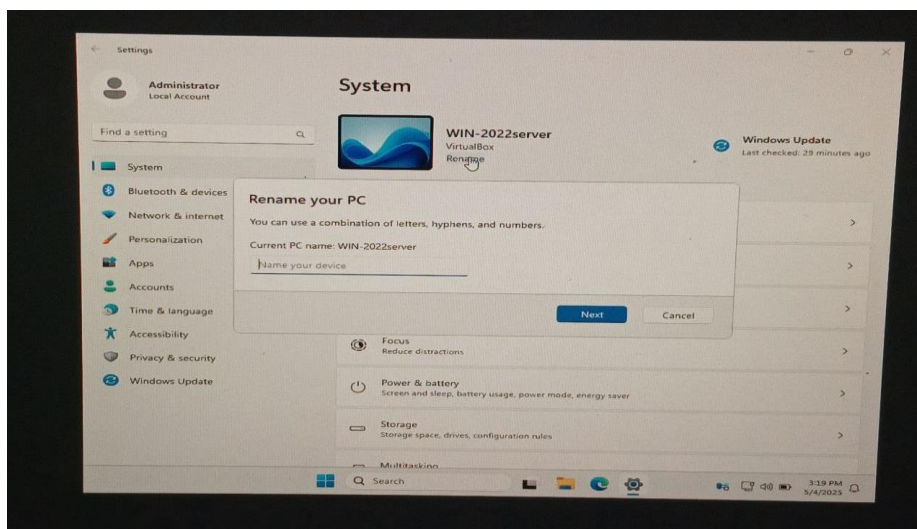
5. Install Server Roles and Features: Use Server Manager to add the roles and features required for your assignment (e.g., Active Directory Domain Services, DNS Server, Web Server (IIS)).

6. Create Local User Account (with Your Full Name): As described above.

  By following these steps carefully and paying attention to the details, you should be able to successfully install Windows Server 2022 and create the required user account.