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Deploy Windows 10 Using MDT and WDS, Part 2: Create an MDT Task Sequence and Configure WDS

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In the first part of this two-part series, I showed you how to deploy the Microsoft Deployment Toolkit (MDT) and import a Windows 10 image ready for distribution over the network using Windows Deployment Services (WDS). In the second part, you'll create an MDT task sequence to manage the deployment of Windows 10, and configure WDS.

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Create an MDT Task Sequence

A task sequence specifies a list of jobs are required to install the OS after the PXE-enabled device boots. In this lab, we'll use one of the standard task sequences supplied out-of-the-box in MDT.

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- Open Deployment Workbench on the MDT server.

- In the left pane of Deployment Workbench, expand **Deployment Share**, your deployment share, right-click **Task Sequences** and select **New Task Sequence** from the menu.

- In the *New Task Sequence Wizard*, give the new sequence an ID and name, and then click **Next**.

Create a new task sequence in MDT (Image Credit: Russell Smith)

- On the *Select Template* screen, select **Standard Client Task Sequence** from the menu to configure a complete client task sequence, and click **Next**.

- On the *Select OS* screen, select **Windows 10 Enterprise Evaluation in Windows 10 Enterprise Evaluation x64 install.wim,** or the OS of your choice, and click **Next**.

- On the *Specify Product Key* screen, select **Do not specify a product key at this time**. I'm using an evaluation version of Windows for this lab, so I don't need a product key. You can choose a MAK key or retail product key if necessary. Click **Next** to continue.

- Type an organization name on the *OS Settings* screen, and click

Administrator password, type and confirm a password, and click **Next**.

- Click **Next** on the *Summary* screen.

- Click **Finish** on the *Confirmation* screen to complete the process.

- Right-click the new task sequence and select **Properties** from the menu.

- In the *Properties* dialog box on the *General* tab, make sure that **This can run on any platform** is selected.

- Switch to the **Task Sequence** tab. Here you can see each step of the task, and customize the options if you wish. For this lab, we're going to use the default settings. Click **OK**.

An MDT task sequence (Image Credit: Russell Smith)

Now there's a task sequence in place, we need to update the deployment share.

- Right-click the deployment share in the left pane of Deployment Workbench and select **Update Deployment Share** from the menu.

- In the *Update Deployment Share Wizard*, select **Completely regenerate the boot images** and click **Next**.

- On the *Summary* screen, click **Next**.

- Wait for the boot images to be regenerated, and click **Finish** on the *Confirmation* screen.

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Before completing the steps below, the WDS server must be configured with an NTFS partition that is separate from the OS system partition. I recommend at least 20GB or larger.

- Log in to the WDS server with an account that has access to the domain, and local administrator permissions.

- On the desktop taskbar, right-click the **PowerShell** icon and select **Run as Administrator** from the menu.

- In the PowerShell window, type *Install-WindowsFeature -Name WDS -IncludeManagementTools* and press **ENTER**.

- Wait for Windows Deployment Services to install, and reboot the server if prompted to do so.

- Click the **Server Manager** icon on the desktop taskbar.

- In Server Manager, select **Windows Deployment Services** from the **Tools** menu.

- In the left pane of the Windows Deployment Services MMC, expand **Servers**, right click your WDS server, and select **Configure Server** from the menu.

- Click **Next** on the *Before you Begin* screen in the *Windows Deployment Services Configuration Wizard*.

- On the *Install Options* screen, check **Integrated with Active Directory** and click **Next**.

- On the *Remote Installation Folder Location* screen, change the path. On my server, I have a 20GB NTFS partition (E:) configured for WDS. So, I changed the path to **E:\RemoteInstall** and clicked **Next**. Alternatively, you can click **Browse** to find the location.

- On the *PXE Server Initial Settings* screen, check **Respond to all**

PXE boot options in WDS (Image Credit: Russell Smith)

- Uncheck **Add images to the server now**, and click **Finish**.

Add a Boot Image

The next step is to add a boot image to the WDS server.

- Expand **Servers** in the left pane of the WDS management console, expand your WDS server, right click **Boot Images** and select **Add Boot Image** from the menu.

located on the MDT server. In my lab, the share URL is ***mdt\\deploymentshare$***, which I pasted into the address bar of the ***Select Windows Image File*** dialog box. Then double-click on the **Boot** folder, select **LiteTouchPE_x86.wim** and click **Next**.

- On the ***Image Metadata*** screen, click **Next** to accept the default image name and description.

- Click **Next** on the ***Summary*** screen.

- Click **Finish** on the ***Task Progress*** screen.

- Repeat these steps to add the ***LiteTouchPE_x64.wim*** boot image to WDS.

Set WDS Server Options

Finally, there are some options that we need to set for WDS.

- Right-click your WDS server in the left pane of the console and select **Properties** from the menu.

- Switch to the **Boot** tab.

- Make sure under ***Known clients*** and ***Unknown clients*** that **Require the user to press the F12 key to continue the PXE boot** is selected.

- In the ***Default boot image (optional)*** section, click **Select** to the right of ***x86 architecture***, select **Lite Touch Windows PE (x86)** from the list of images in the ***Select Default Boot Image*** dialog box, and click **OK**.

WDS server options (Image Credit: Russell Smith)

- Click **Select** to the right of *x64 architecture*, select **Lite Touch Windows PE (x64)** from the list of images in the *Select Default Boot Image* dialog, and click **OK**.

- Repeat this procedure respectively for the x86 (UEFI) architecture and x64 (UEFI) architecture images, then click **OK**.

- Finally, restart the WDS service by right-clicking your WDS in the left pane of the management console, and select **All Tasks** > **Restart** from the menu.

- Click **OK** in the *Server* dialog box.

In this article, I showed you how to customize the Windows 10 deployment in MDT using a task sequence and configure WDS. In the final part of this series, I'll show you step-by-step how to deploy Windows 10 over the network using the WDS server.

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