WSUS – Setup Connected and Disconnected Servers

This guide provides the general steps needed to setup two WSUS servers: one that connects to the internet and Microsoft, and one that is disconnected from the internet on some internal network.

# Connected Online WSUS Server Setup Steps

Refer to TechNet: <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh852344(v=ws.11).aspx>

1. **Install** Windows 2012 R2
2. **Turn off the Firewall in the control panel and stop/disable the firewall service**
3. **Rename** the server to the hostname it needs to be
4. **Shutdown** server
5. Go into VM settings and **add another HDD**. This will hold the WSUS content.
6. **Power on** server
7. Go into **Disc Management**, **initialize disc**, and give it drive label of **E:\** and call it “wsus\_files”
8. Create a **new folder** in E:\ called “wsus”
9. **Restart** the server
10. Run a **Check for Updates** to update the server itself.
    1. You might get the error that ends in …19 (I think that’s the one), but it means you need to keep trying to connect for updates. It should work after the 3rd or 4th try.
11. **Restart** the server
12. Check again for any remaining necessary updates. Restart if needed.
13. Install WSUS Role (refer to <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh852344(v=ws.11).aspx>
14. Enter “e:\wsus” (assuming E:\ is the partition you created earlier) as the **Content Location Selection**
15. Proceed to “Step 3: Configure WSUS” in the TechNet guide
16. Only choose EN-US for language
17. For **Choose Products** only select the bare minimum required.
    1. Example: For my proof-of-concept build, I’m only choosing Microsoft > Windows > Windows 7
18. For **Choose Classifications** only choose bare minimum required. I chose Critical Updates, Security Updates, Update Rollups.
19. Finish configuring – but DO NOT tell it to do initial sync
20. Edit the Automatic Approvals to auto approve Critical and Security updates for the types of systems. In my case, only Windows 7
21. Once that’s done, Start Synchronization. This will take some time.
22. Once synchronization is successfully complete, go to the WSUS dashboard to view the progress of update downloads. All approved updates will need to be downloaded from Microsoft to the WSUS server. This will take some time.
    1. Example: After first synch, which showed 1,304 New Updates and 61 Expired Updates. The dashboard shows “Updates needing files: 1,035” a total of 10,937.39 MB.
23. **Copy** the WsusContent folder to be transferred to the disconnected WSUS server.
24. **Export** the metadata to be imported into the disconnected WSUS server.

# Disconnected WSUS Server Setup Steps

Refer to TechNet: <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc708513(v=ws.10).aspx>

1. **Install** Windows Server 2012.
2. **Rename** the server to the hostname it needs to be
3. **Shutdown** the server
4. Go into **VM settings** and **add another HDD**. This will hold the WSUS content. Consider the hard drive space required for the number of products and services that the server will be patching. 300 GB is a safe start size.
5. **Power on** server
6. Go into **Disc Management**, **initialize disc**, and give it drive label of **E:\** and call it “wsus\_files”
7. Create a **new folder** in E:\ called “wsus”
8. **Restart** the server
9. **Turn off the Firewall in the control panel and stop/disable the firewall service**
10. **Restart** server
11. **Install** WSUS Role (refer to <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh852344(v=ws.11).aspx>
12. Enter “e:\wsus” (assuming E:\ is the partition you created earlier) as the **Content Location Selection**
13. **Launch Post Installation tasks**
14. **Restart** the server
15. Proceed to “Step 3: Configure WSUS” in the TechNet guide to understand what you’re about to set.
16. In Server Manager go to **Tools** > **Windows Server Update Service**
17. The WSUS config wizard will start. Close it. It’s useless to run on the disconnected import server. You will set the settings manually next
18. Open the WSUS module, and go to **Options** > **Products and Classifications**
19. **Copy** over WsusContent folder from the connected WSUS server to the disconnected server
20. **Import** metadata to disconnected server
21. **Approve** the updates you need. Typically this will be every update that was imported, so you can Select All, Right-Click, and Approve for Install.
22. You may need to wait a few hours for WSUS to “download” update files. Basically it’s re-synching all of the metadata for newly approved updates with the actual update files you copied over in WsusContent. You can watch the progress from the WSUS dashboard under the “Download Status” section. You will see **Updates needing files** and **Downloaded** **xxxx.xx MB of xxxx.xx MB** that show the progress.