

# Configuring a Network with SIEM Detection and Monitoring

## Description

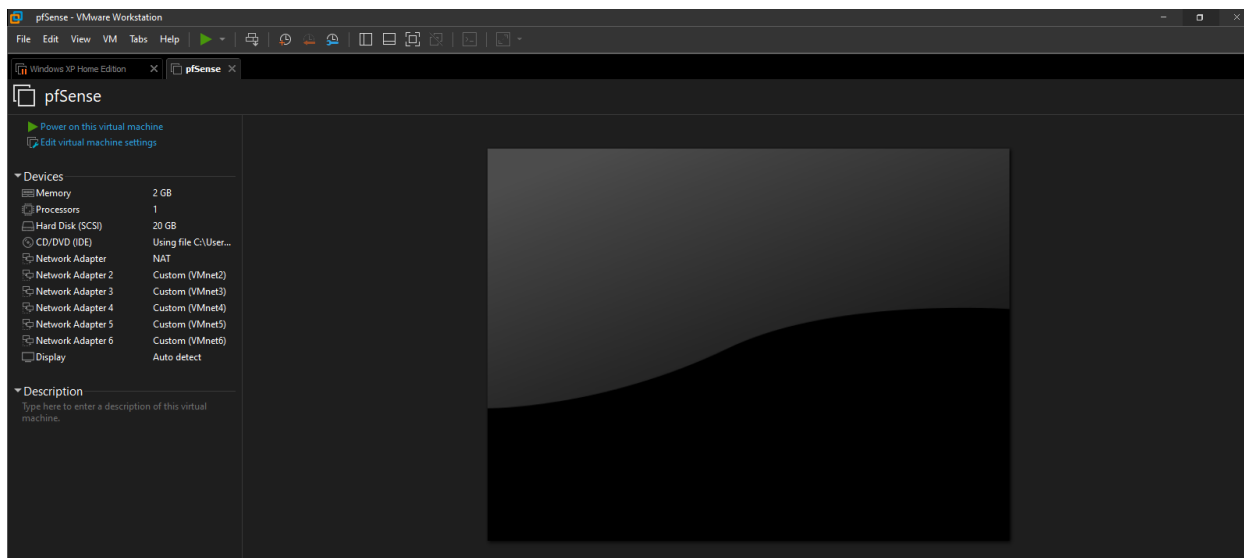
The main purpose of this lab is to gain hands-on experience with network configuration along with detecting and monitoring attacks within a controlled, virtual network by monitoring alerts and reading logs through a SIEM. The lab involves configuring a small network consisting of a victim network with one user and a Domain Controller, two SIEM tools connected separately to the victim network for security monitoring and log management of said network, a Kali Linux machine as the attacker machine, and a network firewall that will connect to all of the other virtual networks and acts as a default gateway, which will filter and segment the network.

## Programs and Environments Used

- Hypervisor: VMWare Workstation 16 Pro
- Firewall: pfSense
- SIEM Tools: Security Onion, Splunk
- Servers: Windows Server 2016 (Domain Controller), Ubuntu Server
- Desktops: Windows 10 Enterprise, Ubuntu Desktop

## pfSense Configuration

pfSense will be configured as a network firewall in order to segment the network, which can only be accessed from our Kali Linux machine for additional configuration.



For this network, pfSense will require 6 network adapters in total to support the other machines/virtual networks created in the later portion of the lab as seen above.

```
Starting syslog...done.
Starting CRON... done.
pfSense 2.6.0-RELEASE amd64 Mon Jan 31 19:57:53 UTC 2022
Bootup complete

FreeBSD/amd64 (pfSense.home.arpa) (ttyv0)

VMware Virtual Machine - Netgate Device ID: 3988b6f0cc5320bc96e2

*** Welcome to pfSense 2.6.0-RELEASE (amd64) on pfSense ***

WAN (wan)      -> em0      -> v4/DHCP4: 192.168.232.129/24
LAN (lan)      -> em1      -> v4: 192.168.1.1/24

0) Logout (SSH only)          9) pfTop
1) Assign Interfaces          10) Filter Logs
2) Set interface(s) IP address 11) Restart webConfigurator
3) Reset webConfigurator password 12) PHP shell + pfSense tools
4) Reset to factory defaults    13) Update from console
5) Reboot system              14) Enable Secure Shell (sshd)
6) Halt system                15) Restore recent configuration
7) Ping host                  16) Restart PHP-FPM
8) Shell

Enter an option: █
```

After accepting all of the default settings for the pfSense installation, pfSense will load this screen above. The LAN address will be the IP address for pfSense once we configure it. From here, we will assign the pfSense interfaces to the corresponding network interfaces for the other virtual networks as seen below:

```
NOTE: this enables full Firewalling/NAT mode.
(em1 em2 em3 em4 em5 a or nothing if finished): em1

Enter the Optional 1 interface name or 'a' for auto-detection
(em2 em3 em4 em5 a or nothing if finished): em2

Enter the Optional 2 interface name or 'a' for auto-detection
(em3 em4 em5 a or nothing if finished): em3

Enter the Optional 3 interface name or 'a' for auto-detection
(em4 em5 a or nothing if finished): em4

Enter the Optional 4 interface name or 'a' for auto-detection
(em5 a or nothing if finished): em5

The interfaces will be assigned as follows:

WAN -> em0
LAN -> em1
OPT1 -> em2
OPT2 -> em3
OPT3 -> em4
OPT4 -> em5

Do you want to proceed [y|n]? █
```

The listed pfSense interfaces will correspond with the following virtual network:

WAN → WAN

LAN → Kali

OPT1 → Victim Network

OPT2 → Security Onion

OPT3 → Span Port

OPT4 → Splunk

After assigned the pfSense interfaces to the corresponding virtual networks, pfSense will load this screen below, which shows we need to assign IP addresses to the remaining interfaces:

```
Writing configuration...done.
One moment while the settings are reloading... done!
VMware Virtual Machine - Netgate Device ID: 3988b6f0cc5320bc96e2

*** Welcome to pfSense 2.6.0-RELEASE (amd64) on pfSense ***

WAN (wan)      -> em0      -> v4/DHCP4: 192.168.232.129/24
LAN (lan)      -> em1      -> v4: 192.168.1.1/24
OPT1 (opt1)    -> em2      ->
OPT2 (opt2)    -> em3      ->
OPT3 (opt3)    -> em4      ->
OPT4 (opt4)    -> em5      ->

0) Logout (SSH only)          9) pfTop
1) Assign Interfaces          10) Filter Logs
2) Set interface(s) IP address 11) Restart webConfigurator
3) Reset webConfigurator password 12) PHP shell + pfSense tools
4) Reset to factory defaults  13) Update from console
5) Reboot system             14) Enable Secure Shell (sshd)
6) Halt system               15) Restore recent configuration
7) Ping host                 16) Restart PHP-FPM
8) Shell

Enter an option: █
```

To do so, we will enable DHCP server on the LAN network, and set a range of IP addresses for assignment to the other interfaces as shown below:

```

Enter the new LAN IPv4 address. Press <ENTER> for none:
> 192.168.1.1

Subnet masks are entered as bit counts (as in CIDR notation) in pfSense.
e.g. 255.255.255.0 = 24
      255.255.0.0   = 16
      255.0.0.0     = 8

Enter the new LAN IPv4 subnet bit count (1 to 32):
> 24

For a WAN, enter the new LAN IPv4 upstream gateway address.
For a LAN, press <ENTER> for none:
>

Enter the new LAN IPv6 address. Press <ENTER> for none:
>

Do you want to enable the DHCP server on LAN? (y/n) y
Enter the start address of the IPv4 client address range: 192.168.1.11
Enter the end address of the IPv4 client address range: 192.168.1.200
Disabling IPv6 DHCPD...

Do you want to revert to HTTP as the webConfigurator protocol? (y/n) █

```

After finish configuring the DHCP server to the LAN network, pfSense can now be accessed to its assigned IP address 192.168.1.1 through a web browser, which we will see in the later part of the lab via Kali Linux. The finished setup can be seen below:

```

For a WAN, enter the new LAN IPv4 upstream gateway address.
For a LAN, press <ENTER> for none:
>

Enter the new LAN IPv6 address. Press <ENTER> for none:
>

Do you want to enable the DHCP server on LAN? (y/n) y
Enter the start address of the IPv4 client address range: 192.168.1.11
Enter the end address of the IPv4 client address range: 192.168.1.200
Disabling IPv6 DHCPD...

Do you want to revert to HTTP as the webConfigurator protocol? (y/n) n

Please wait while the changes are saved to LAN...
Reloading filter...
Reloading routing configuration...
DHCPD...

The IPv4 LAN address has been set to 192.168.1.1/24
You can now access the webConfigurator by opening the following URL in your web
browser:
      https://192.168.1.1/

Press <ENTER> to continue. █

```

After configuring a DHCP pool of available IP addresses used for assignment, we will continue assigning IP addresses to the remaining interfaces on pfSense. OPT3 (Span Port) will be left unassigned as it is going to have Span Port with traffic that is monitored from the victim network by Security Onion. Therefore, the final pfSense configuration can be seen below:

```

The IPv4 OPT4 address has been set to 192.168.4.1/24

Press <ENTER> to continue.
VMware Virtual Machine - Netgate Device ID: 3988b6f0cc5320bc96e2

*** Welcome to pfSense 2.6.0-RELEASE (amd64) on pfSense ***

WAN (wan)      -> em0      -> v4/DHCP4: 192.168.232.129/24
LAN (lan)      -> em1      -> v4: 192.168.1.1/24
OPT1 (opt1)    -> em2      -> v4: 192.168.2.1/24
OPT2 (opt2)    -> em3      -> v4: 192.168.3.1/24
OPT3 (opt3)    -> em4      ->
OPT4 (opt4)    -> em5      -> v4: 192.168.4.1/24

0) Logout (SSH only)          9) pfTop
1) Assign Interfaces          10) Filter Logs
2) Set interface(s) IP address 11) Restart webConfigurator
3) Reset webConfigurator password 12) PHP shell + pfSense tools
4) Reset to factory defaults  13) Update from console
5) Reboot system              14) Enable Secure Shell (sshd)
6) Halt system                15) Restore recent configuration
7) Ping host                  16) Restart PHP-FPM
8) Shell

Enter an option: █

```

## Security Onion Configuration

For this section, I was not able to complete it after waiting for Security Onion to finish its installation due to how much memory it requires, and my host machine is not capable of allocating a high amount of RAM for both Security Onion and an Ubuntu desktop virtual machine running at the same time (Ubuntu desktop is used to access the SIEM web interface of Security Onion once its installation is complete). Instead, I had a friend who also worked on this lab with me and provided some screenshots of the Security Onion configuration.

Once the installation of Security Onion is fully complete, run the “sudo so-allow” command and select option [a] once this menu shows up as seen below:

```

This program allows you to add a firewall rule to allow connections from a new I
P address.

Choose the role for the IP or Range you would like to add

[a] - Analyst - ports 80/tcp and 443/tcp
[b] - Logstash Beat - port 5044/tcp
[c] - Elasticsearch REST API - port 9200/tcp
[f] - Strelka frontend - port 57314/tcp
[o] - Osquery endpoint - port 8090/tcp
[s] - Syslog device - 514/tcp/udp
[w] - Wazuh agent - port 1514/tcp/udp
[p] - Wazuh API - port 55000/tcp
[r] - Wazuh registration service - 1515/tcp

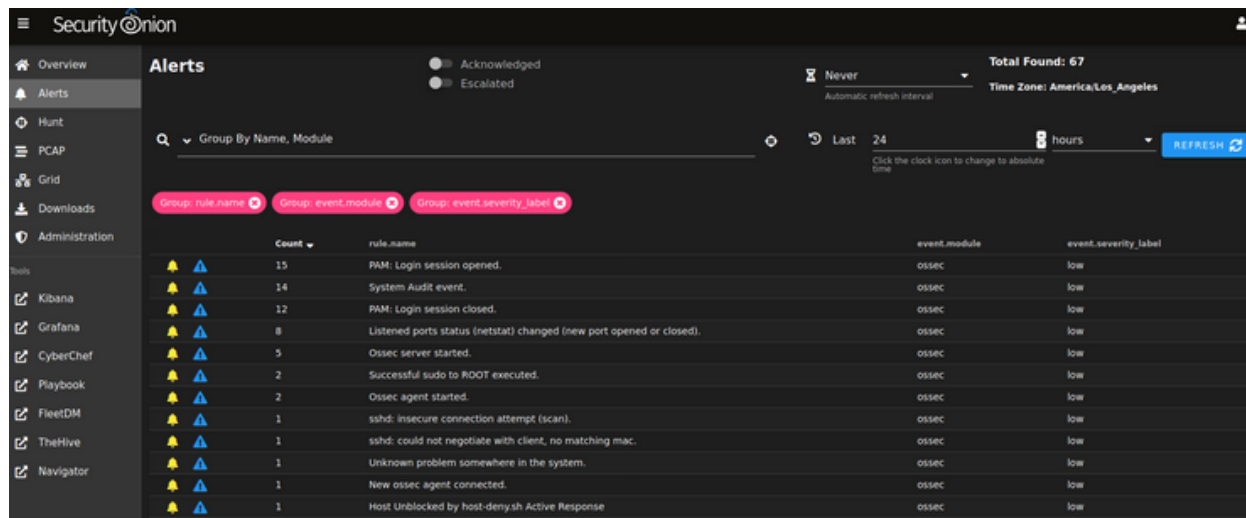
Please enter your selection:

```

 a\_

From here, type in the IP address associated with the Ubuntu Desktop. This will create a firewall rule on Security Onion that will allow the Ubuntu Desktop access to the SIEM web interface straight from the desktop.

Afterwards, navigate to the Security Onion's IP address on the Ubuntu Desktop's web browser, and you will have access to the SIEM web interface of Security Onion as seen below:

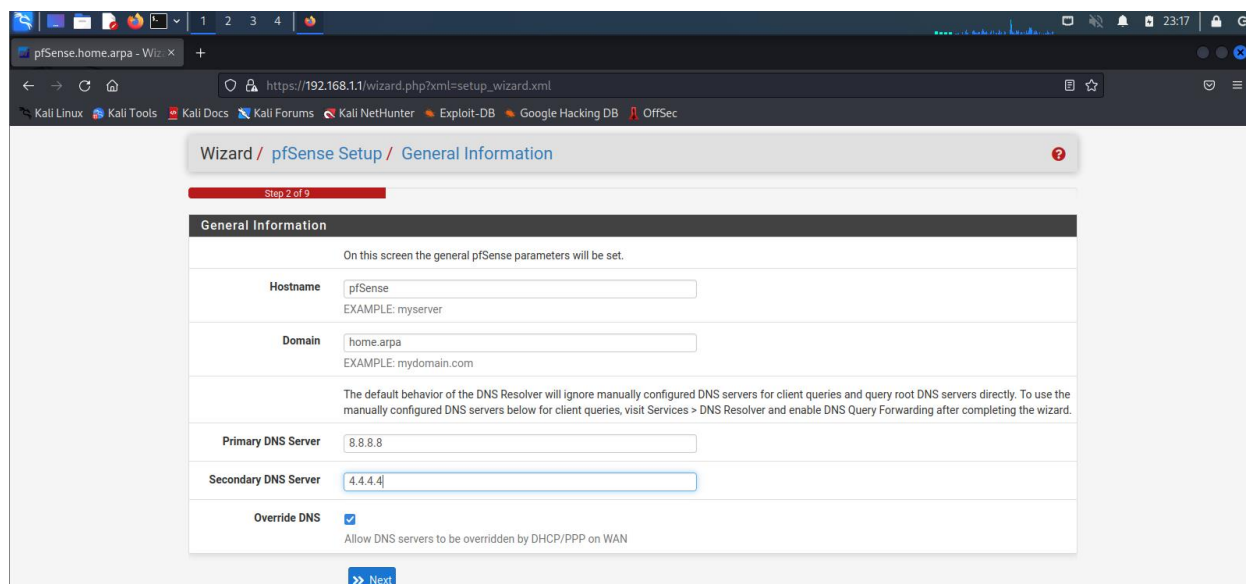


The screenshot shows the Security Onion Alerts interface. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Overview, Alerts, Hunt, PCAP, Grid, Downloads, and Administration. The main area displays a list of alerts with columns for Count, rule.name, event.module, and event.severity\_label. The alerts are sorted by rule.name. The top alert is 'PAM: Login session opened.' with a count of 15. Other alerts include 'System Audit event.', 'PAM: Login session closed.', 'Listened ports status (netstat) changed (new port opened or closed).', 'Ossec server started.', 'Successful sudo to ROOT executed.', 'Ossec agent started.', 'sshd: insecure connection attempt (scan).', 'sshd: could not negotiate with client, no matching mac.', 'Unknown problem somewhere in the system.', 'New ossec agent connected.', and 'Host Unblocked by host-deny.sh Active Response'.

Count	rule.name	event.module	event.severity_label
15	PAM: Login session opened.	ossec	low
14	System Audit event.	ossec	low
12	PAM: Login session closed.	ossec	low
8	Listened ports status (netstat) changed (new port opened or closed).	ossec	low
5	Ossec server started.	ossec	low
2	Successful sudo to ROOT executed.	ossec	low
2	Ossec agent started.	ossec	low
1	sshd: insecure connection attempt (scan).	ossec	low
1	sshd: could not negotiate with client, no matching mac.	ossec	low
1	Unknown problem somewhere in the system.	ossec	low
1	New ossec agent connected.	ossec	low
1	Host Unblocked by host-deny.sh Active Response	ossec	low

## Configuring pfSense Interfaces and Rules Through Kali Linux

With pfSense configured earlier, one can access the pfSense WebConfigurator through a web browser in order to make changes to pfSense interface and firewall rules. To do so, we will search for pfSense's IP address (192.168.1.1) in Firefox. After login into pfSense, we will receive this webpage for initial setup as seen below:

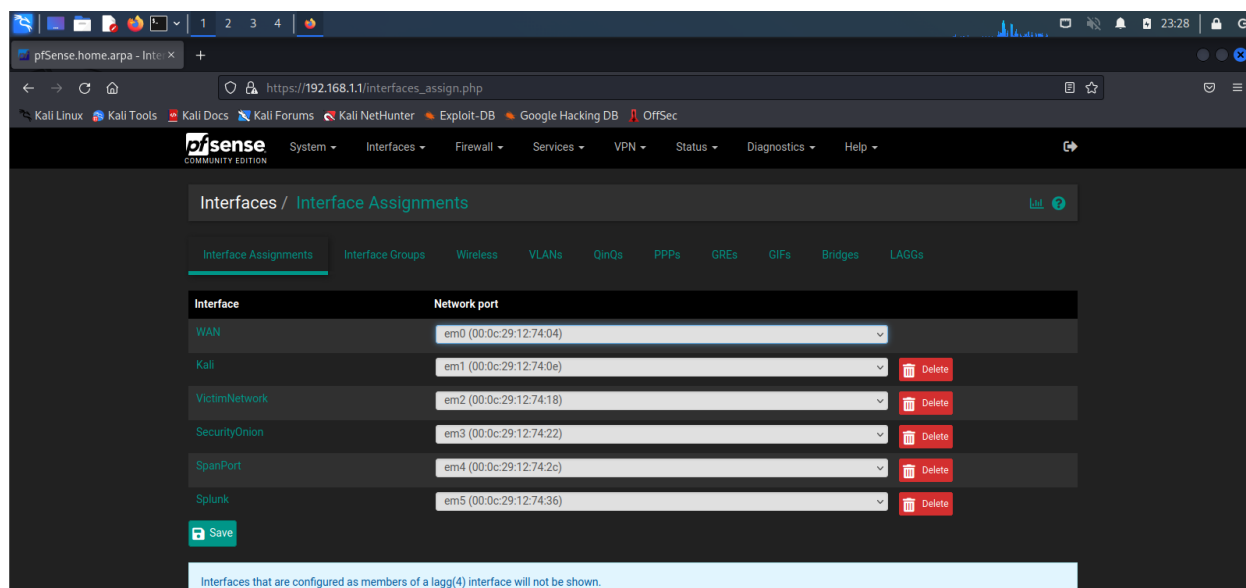


The screenshot shows the pfSense WebConfigurator General Information page. The page is titled 'Wizard / pfSense Setup / General Information' and is labeled 'Step 2 of 9'. It contains a form for setting general pfSense parameters. The fields are: Hostname (pfSense), Domain (home.arpa), Primary DNS Server (8.8.8.8), Secondary DNS Server (4.4.4.4), and Override DNS (checked). A 'Next' button is at the bottom.

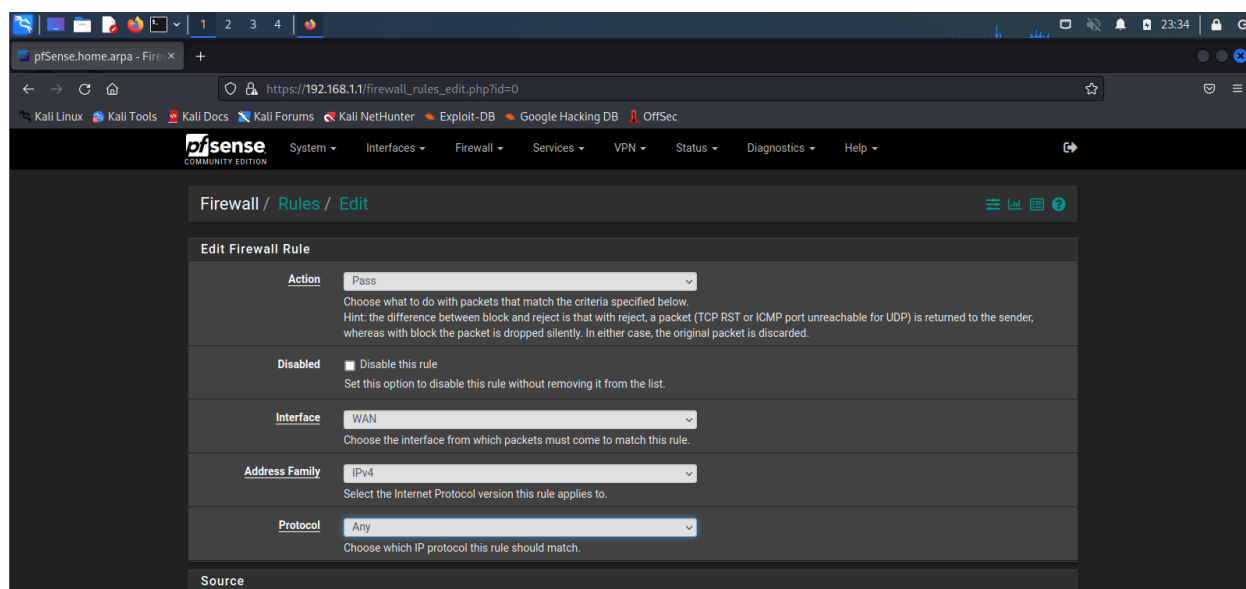
Field	Value
Hostname	pfSense
Domain	home.arpa
Primary DNS Server	8.8.8.8
Secondary DNS Server	4.4.4.4
Override DNS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

From here, we will assign pfSense's primary and secondary DNS servers as shown above. 8.8.8.8 and 4.4.4.4 are Google's DNS servers.

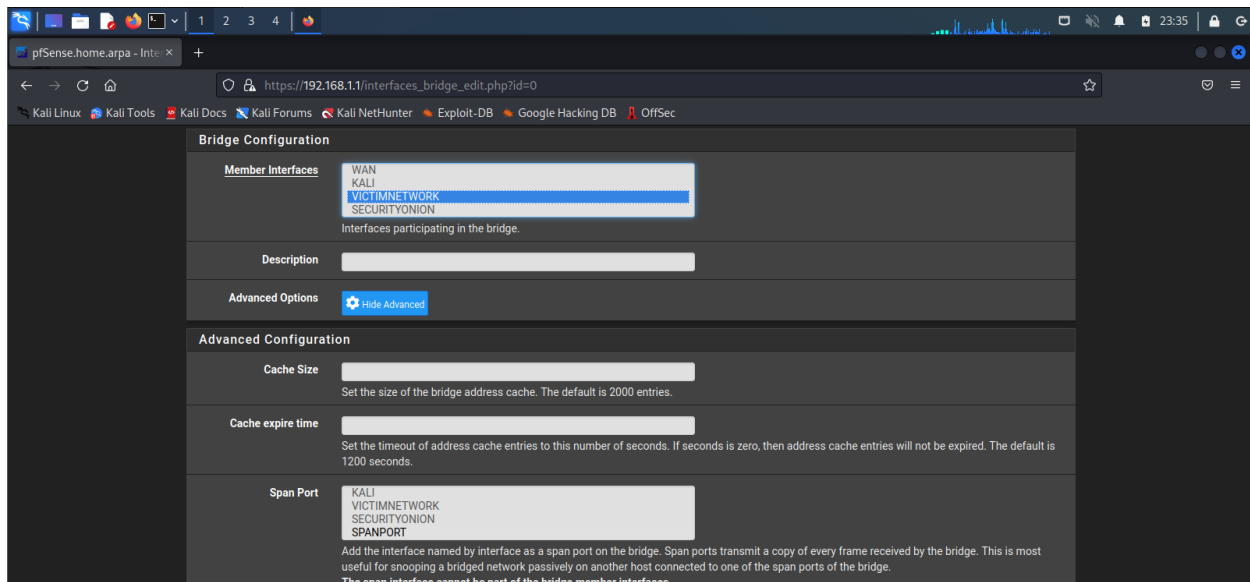
Afterwards, once we finish the initial setup, we will go to interfaces assignments to view all of our assigned interfaces from earlier. From here, we will change the pfSense default interface names to the ones that corresponds to their virtual network in our lab (listed previously in pfSense Configuration) as seen below:



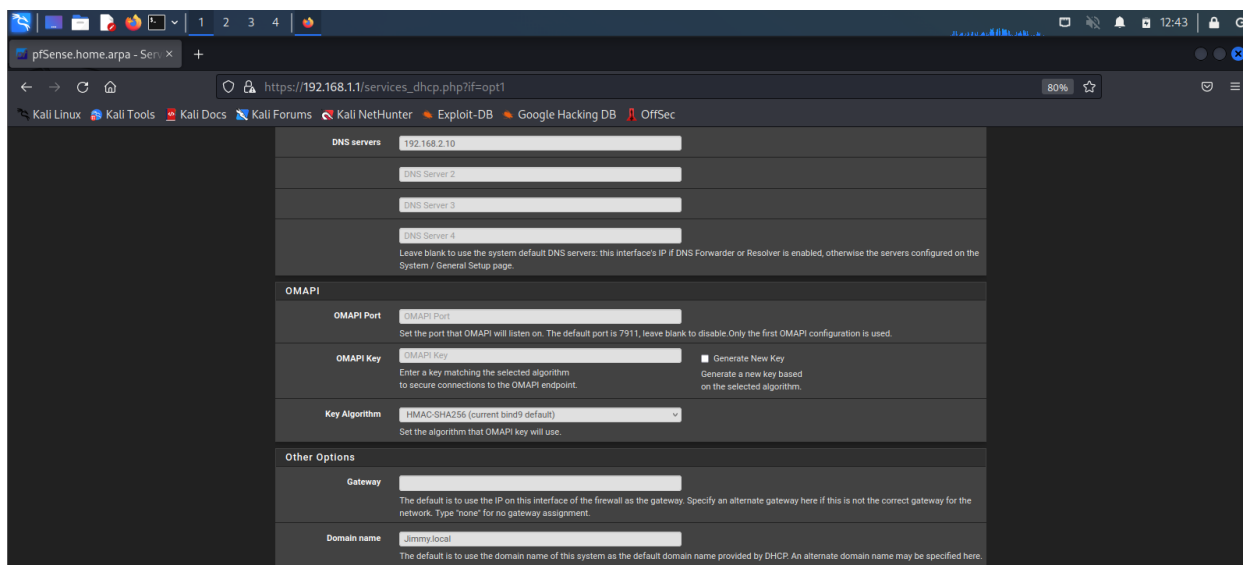
Next, we will create a firewall rule where the pfSense will accept any protocols pass through the firewall as shown below. This will allow for interesting types of security alerts and logs to view when we conduct an attack and monitor/detect it:



We will also want to create a bridge where the member interface is the victim network with the Span Port set as shown below:



Lastly, we will need to add the DNS server to the DHCP server for the victim network. In addition, we will also add the domain name “Jimmy.local” as shown below. This DNS server IP address and domain name will be from the Domain Controller that will be set up in the next section of this lab. These settings are necessary in order for the Windows User to join the local Active Directory domain in the later section of the lab:

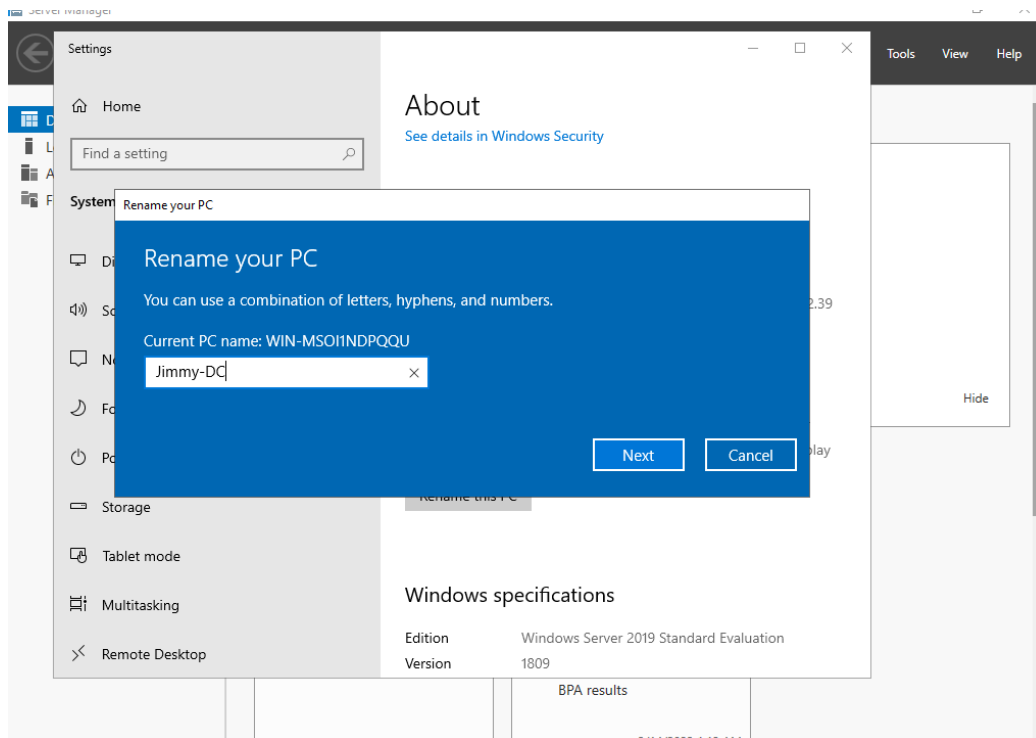


## Windows Server Domain Controller Configuration

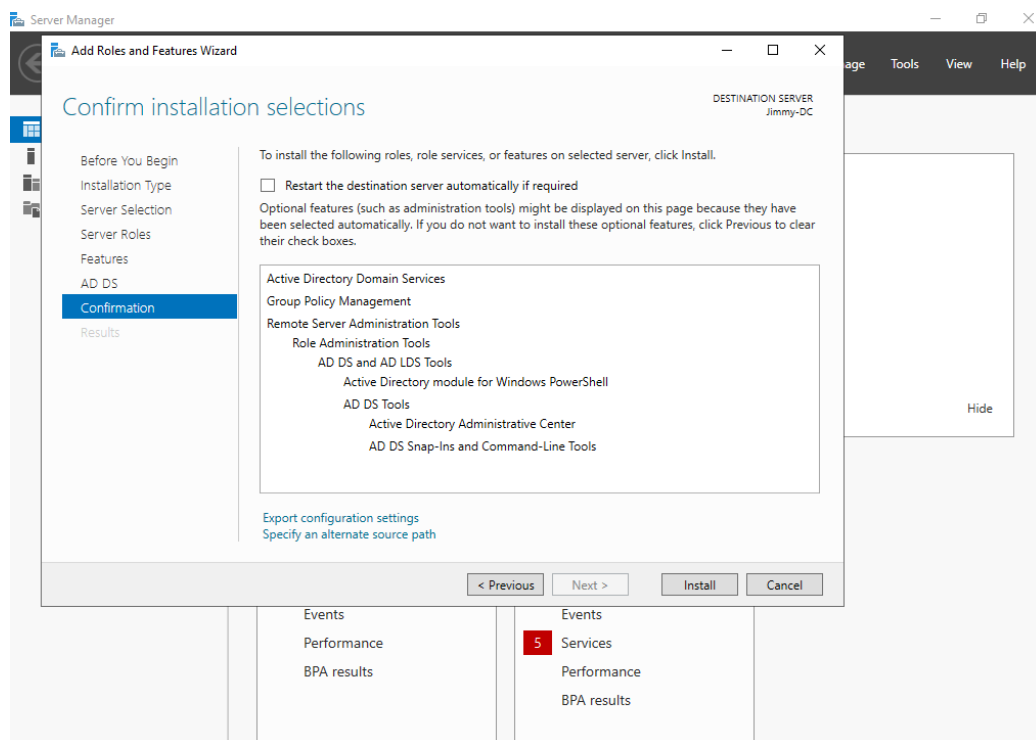
In this section, we will be setting an local Active Directory domain with a Windows 2016 Server as the Domain Controller with one Windows 10 user. Once we are finished with configuring the initial setup of making an Administrator account, we will change the PC



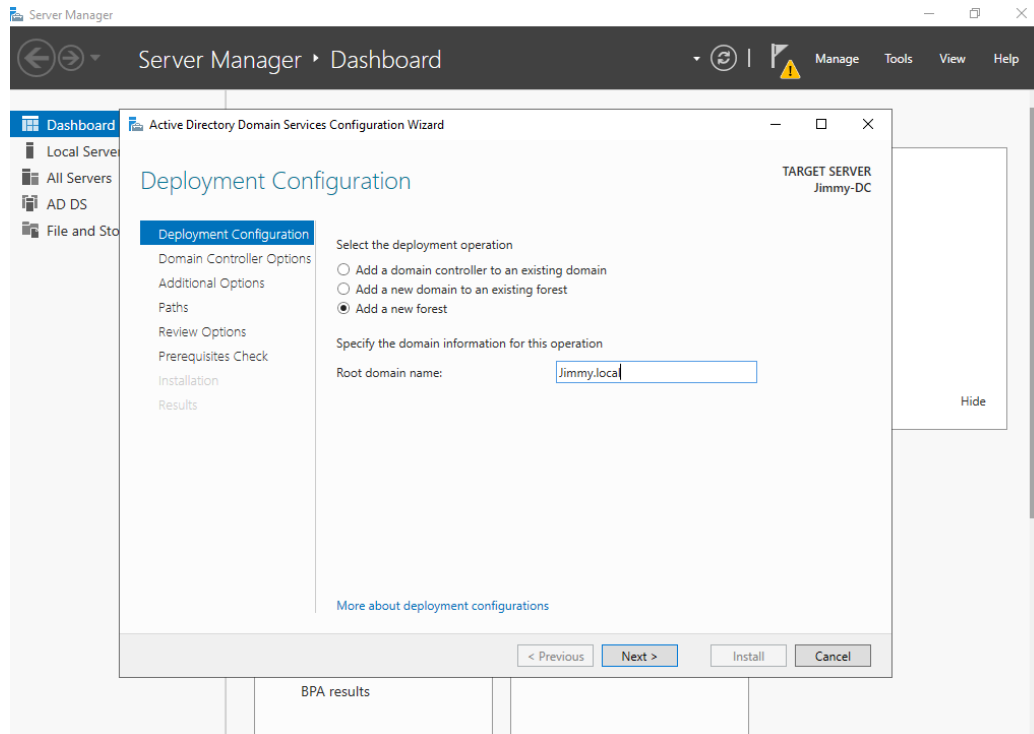
name of the Windows Server to something that we can resemble it is a Domain Controller as shown below:



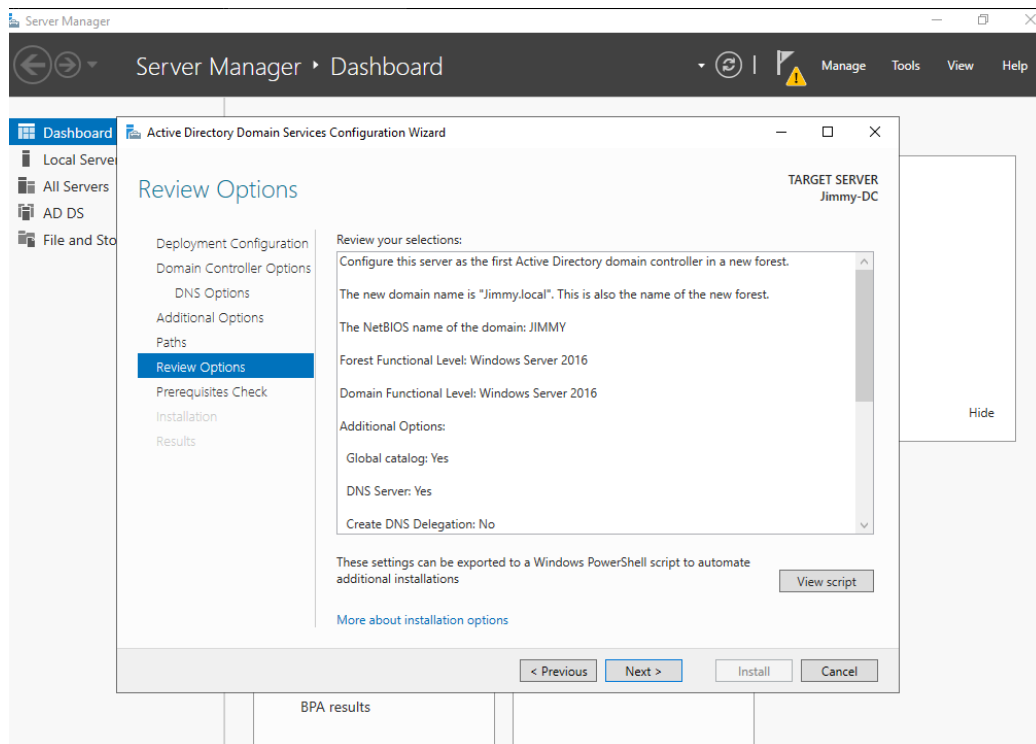
Next, we will want to add the Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) server role with the default features as shown below:



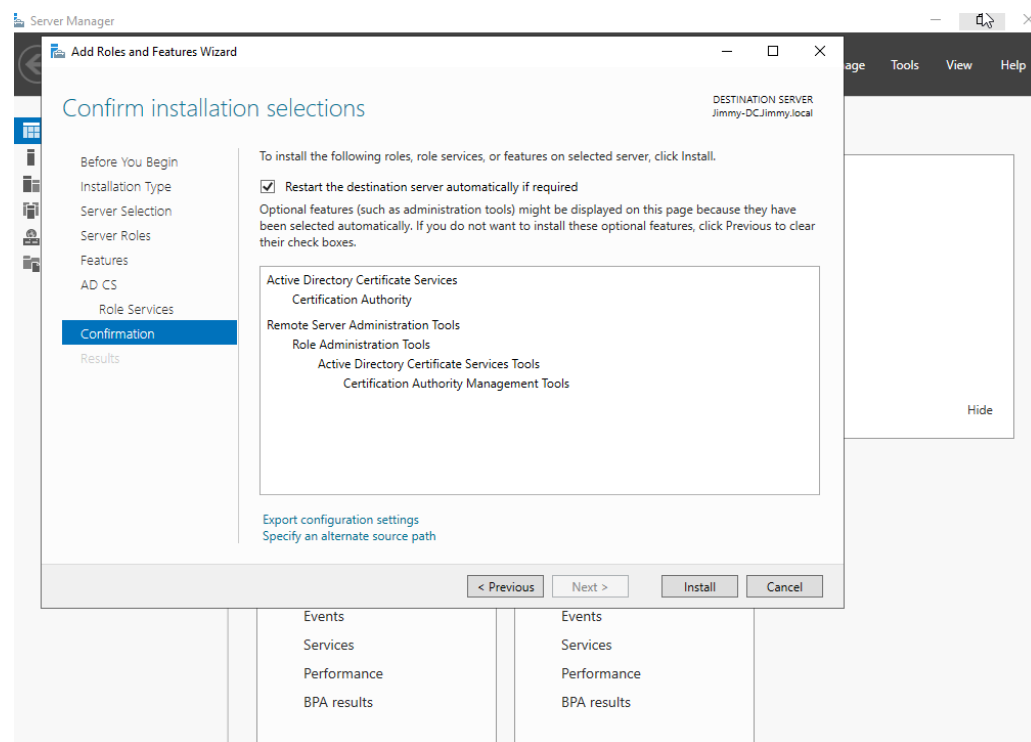
After the server role installation is complete, we would want to promote the Windows server to a Domain Controller. Since this is our first Domain Controller, we will create a new forest with a root domain name as “Jimmy.local” as our local Active Directory domain as shown below:

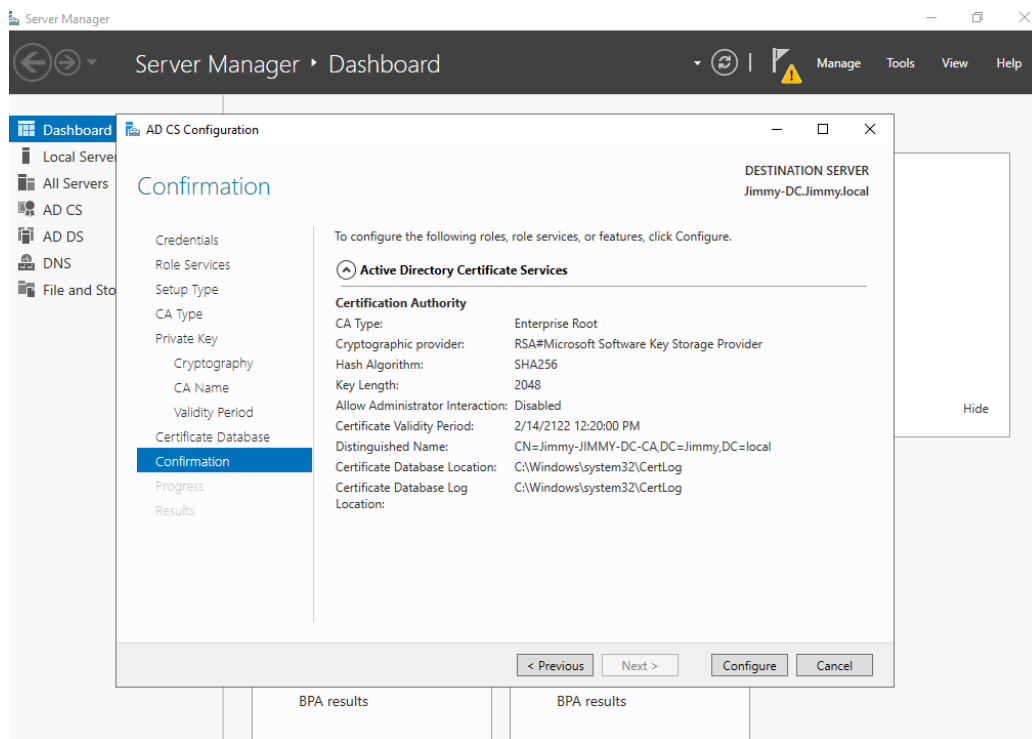
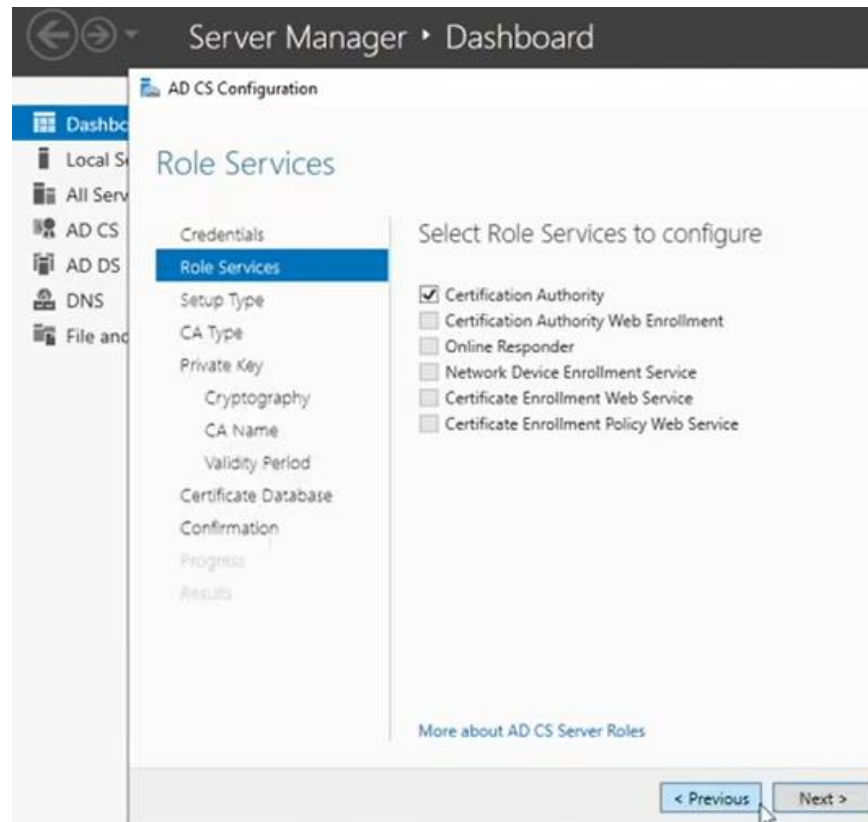


The Domain Controller will have DNS Server and Global catalog options checked by default as they are necessary for it to operate properly. The full configuration of the Domain Controller can be seen below:

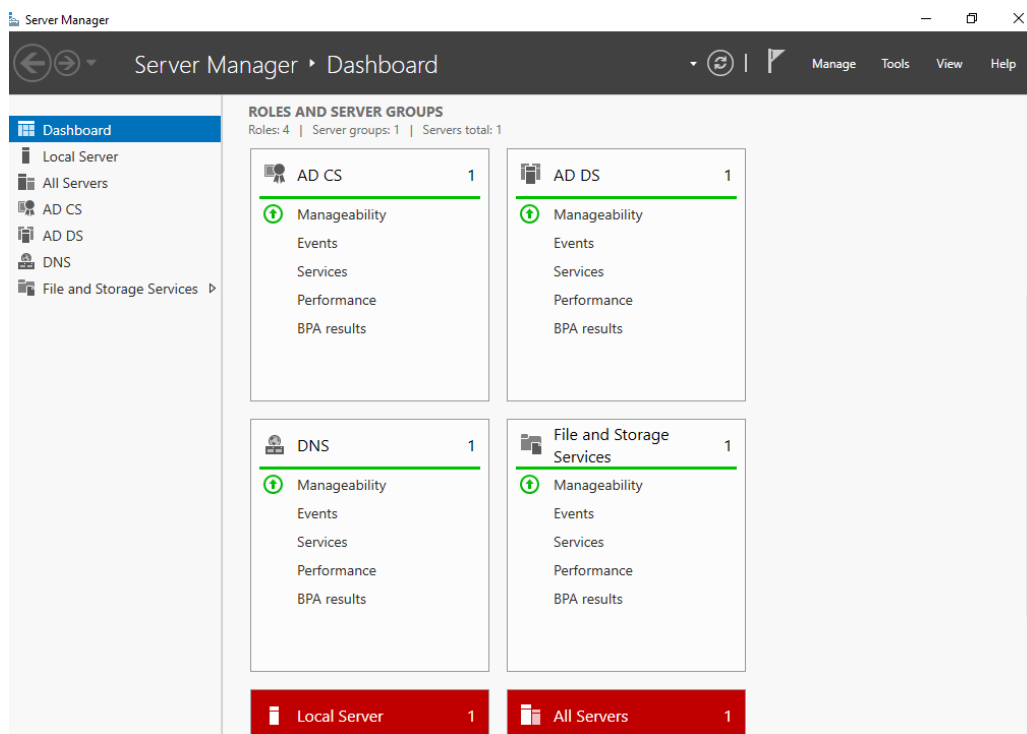


Next, we would want to go through the same process for setting up the Active Directory Certificate Services (AD CS). In the installation, we would want to check the box for Certificate Authority (CA) as that would allow the Domain Controller to act as a CA to validate certificates. The screenshots of settings that up can be seen below:

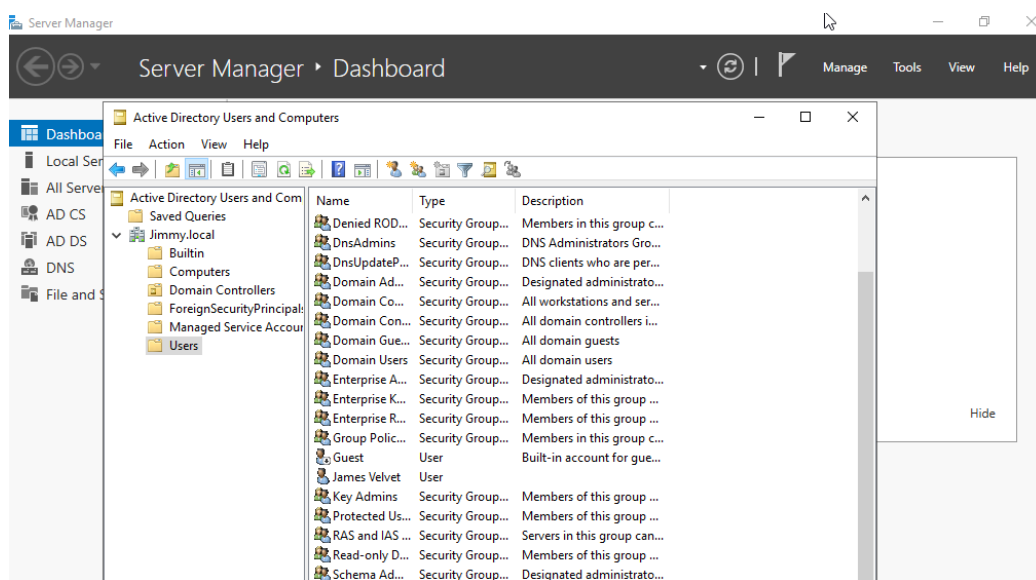




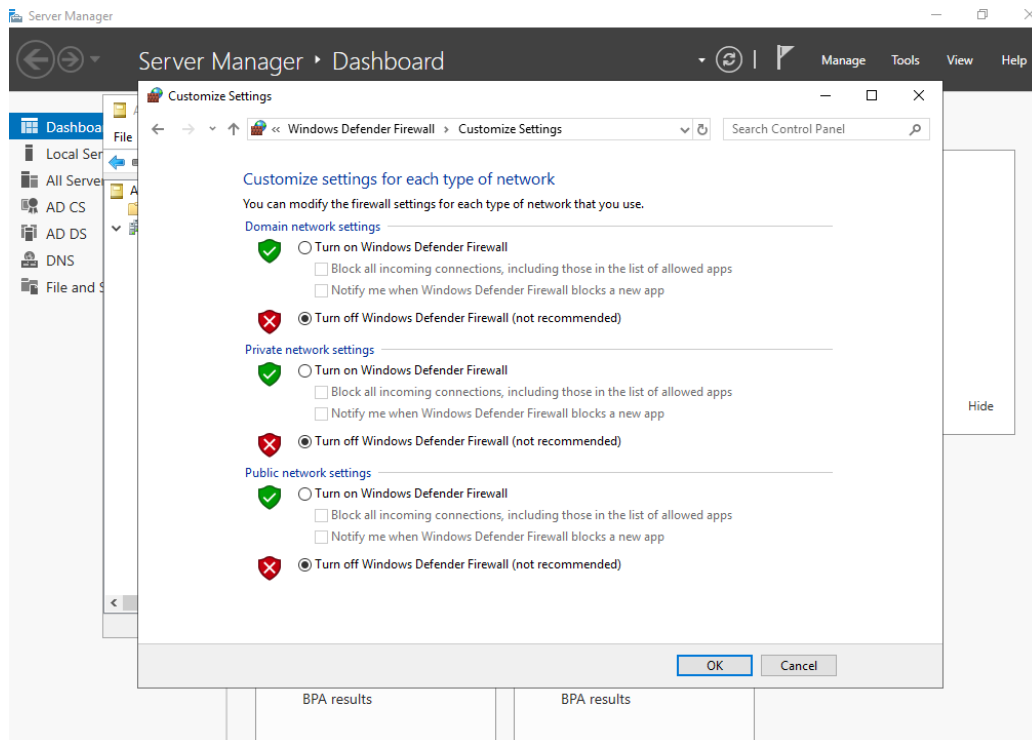
Once both AD DS and AD CS are properly installed and assigned to the now Windows Server Domain Controller, we should see this screenshot in our main dashboard below:



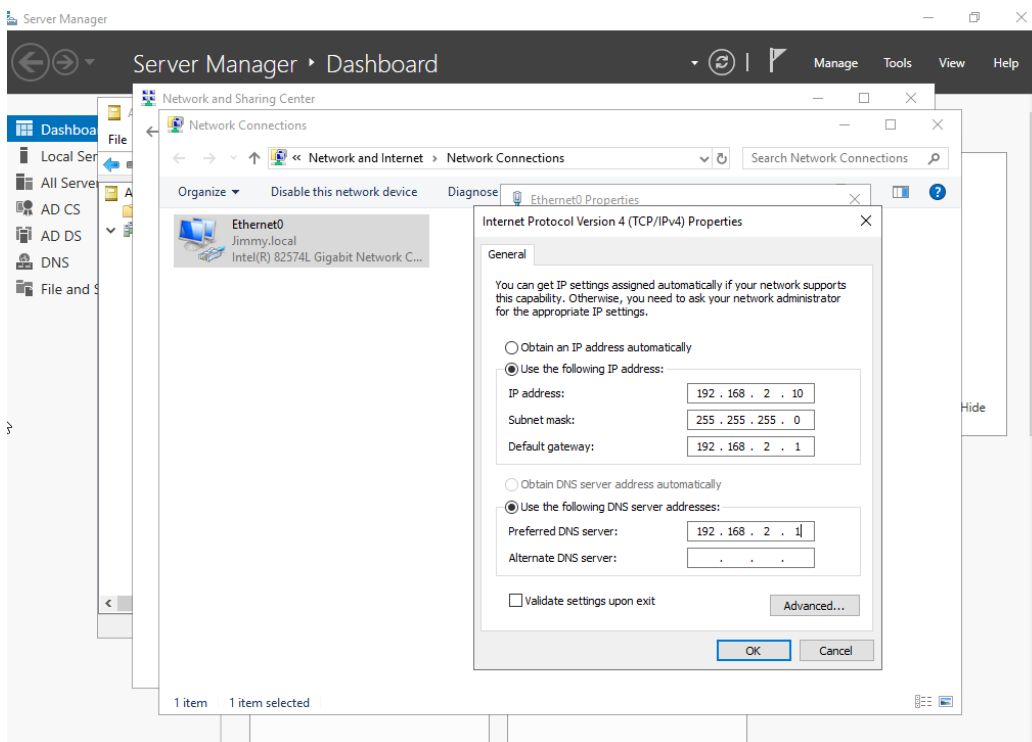
Next, we would want to create a new Windows user (named James Velvet) within the Users folder for our Active Directory as shown below:



Afterwards, we will disable all of the default Windows firewall settings in order to maximize the amount of vulnerabilities we can generate from alerts and logs once we start detecting and monitoring them. The disabling of the Windows firewall can be seen below:

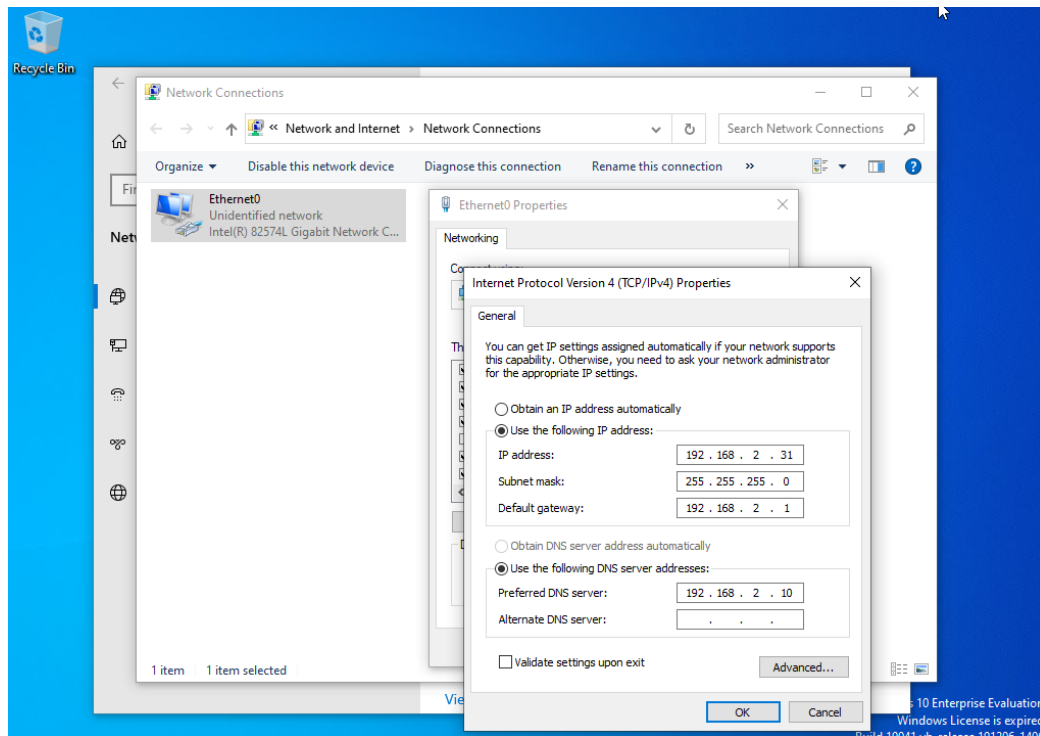


Lastly, we will assign the Domain Controller its network adapter configurations with 192.168.2.10 as its IP address, pfSense firewall as its default gateway and DNS server as seen below:

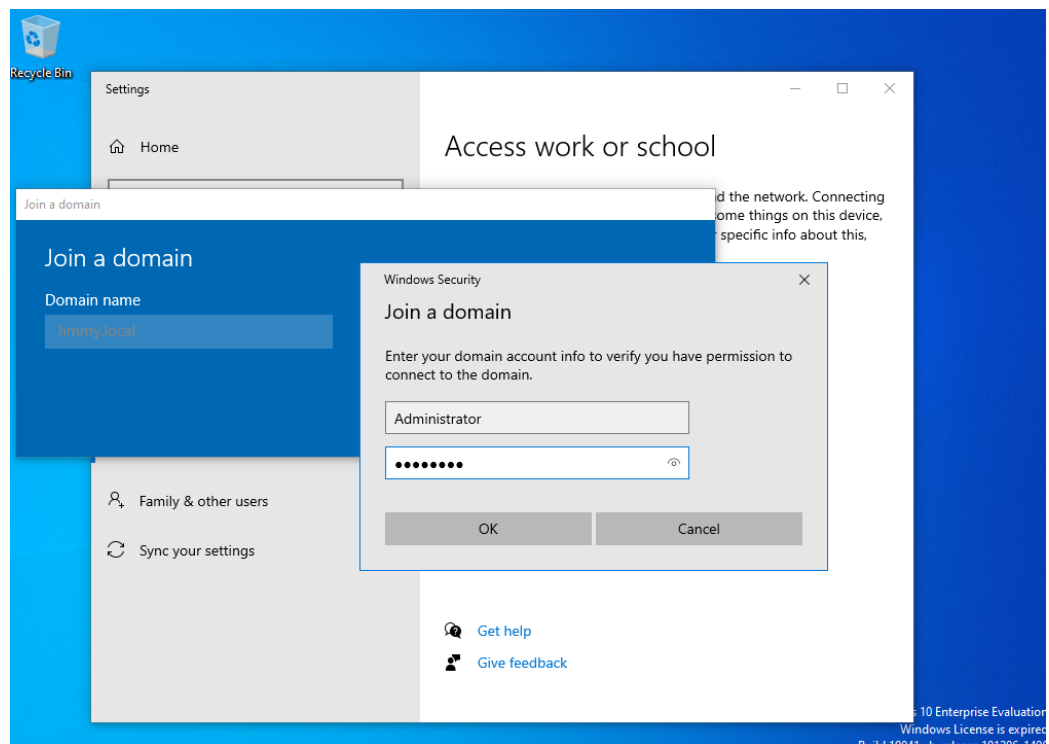
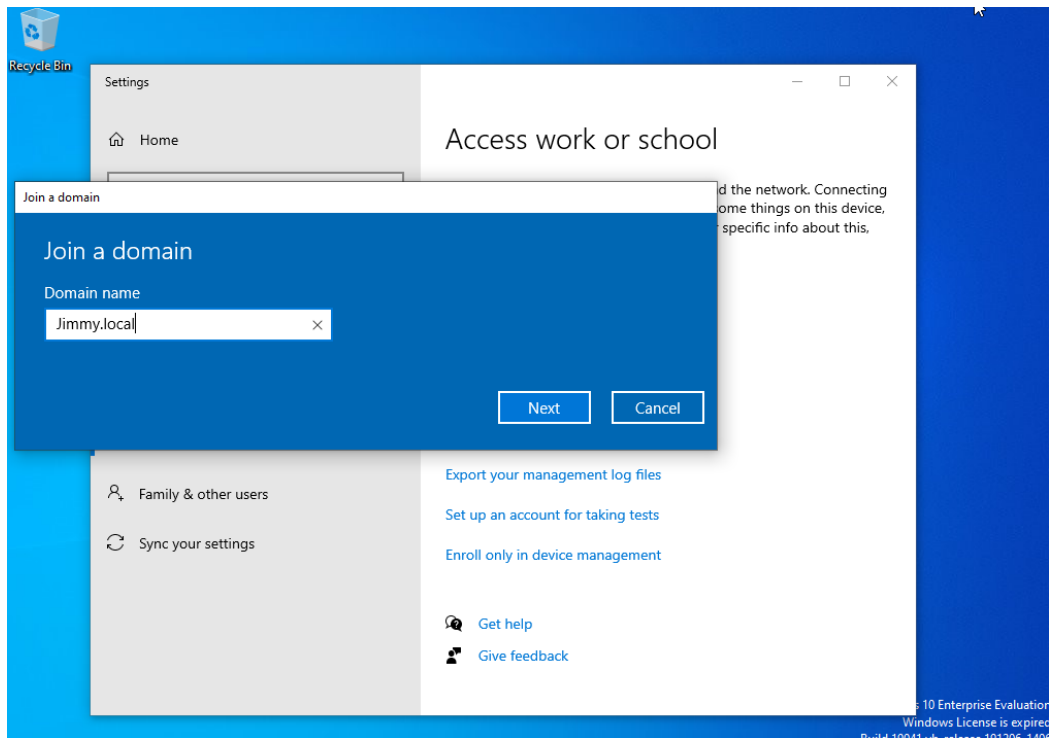


## Adding the User to the Local Active Directory Domain

Once the virtual machine for the Windows user (James Velvet) is set and we have changed the PC name for that respective Windows user, we would want to first configure its network adapter settings with 192.168.2.31 as its IP address, pfSense as its default gateway, and the Domain Controller as its DNS server as seen below:

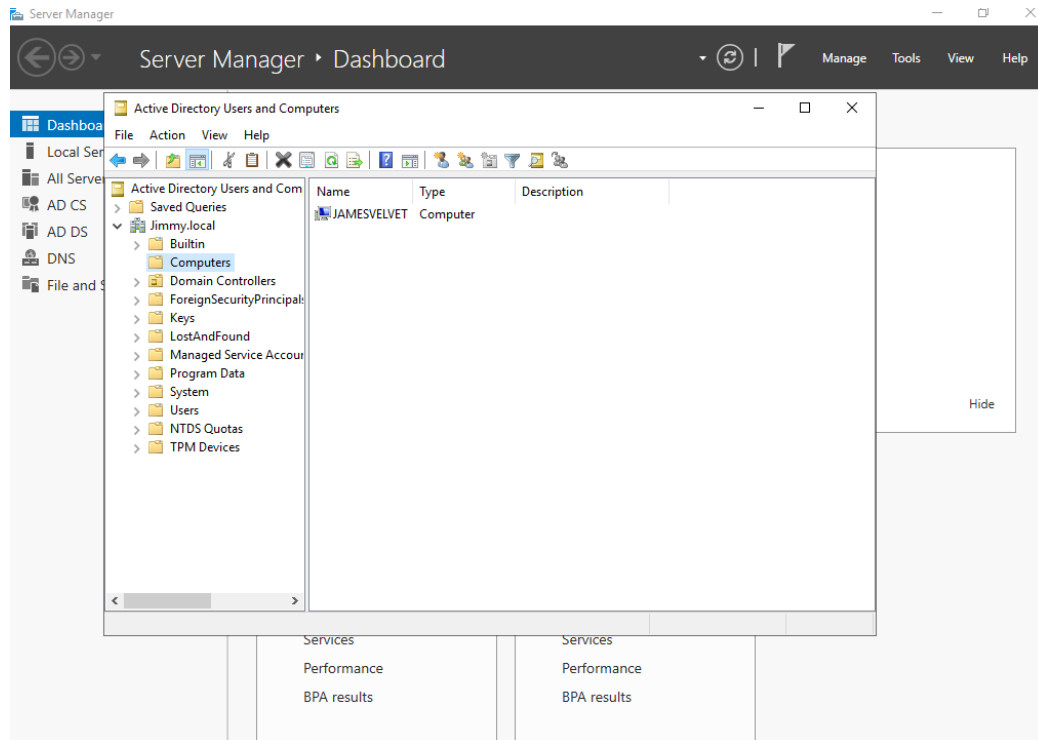


Afterwards, we will let the user join the local Active Directory domain (Jimmy.local) as seen below. The domain account used to verify is the Administrator account set up within the Windows Server at the very beginning of that section:



We can confirm that the Windows user (James Velvet) was able to join the local Active Directory domain by checking the Windows Server's Active Directory Computers folder as seen below:





## Ubuntu Server and Splunk Configuration

TBA

## Installing Universal Forwarder on Windows Server

TBA