

Windows Active Directory

Removing an Additional Domain Controller from an existing domain

The steps mentioned in this document can be performed on Windows Server 2012 R2 and above.

This step removes an additional domain controller server from an existing active directory domain. This is required when an ADC is no longer required like a branch office is closed and all the IT setup is removed. This step is also required when you want to replace the existing ADC with a new server with higher hardware configuration. In this case you remove the old ADC first and then add the new ADC to the domain.

Prerequisites :-

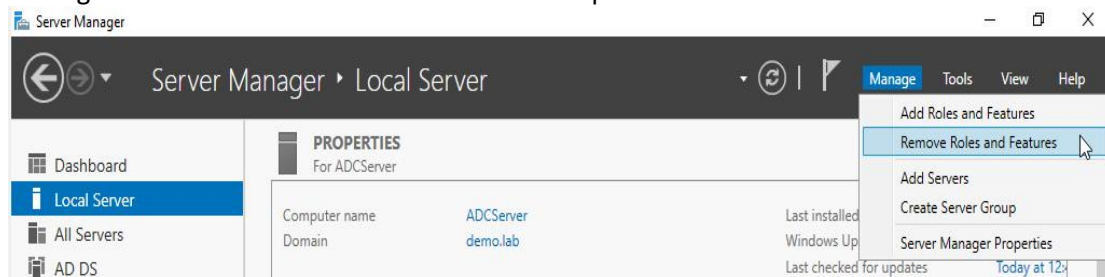
1. A Windows Server 2012 R2 or above installed either on physical server or on a virtual machine. For this document Windows Server 2016 Evaluation version is used.
2. An existing forest and a domain with domain controller up and running.
3. A working additional domain controller in the above domain.
4. Basic knowledge about Windows Active Directory and its terms like Forest, Domain, Domain Controller, Additional Domain Controller etc.

*****Perform following steps on the second server which is configured as an additional domain controller.**

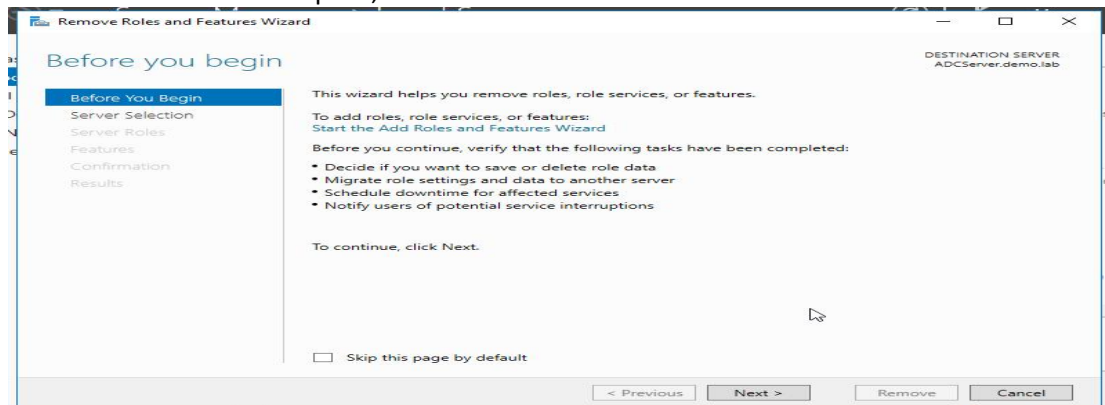
Steps:-

1. Demote The additional domain controller

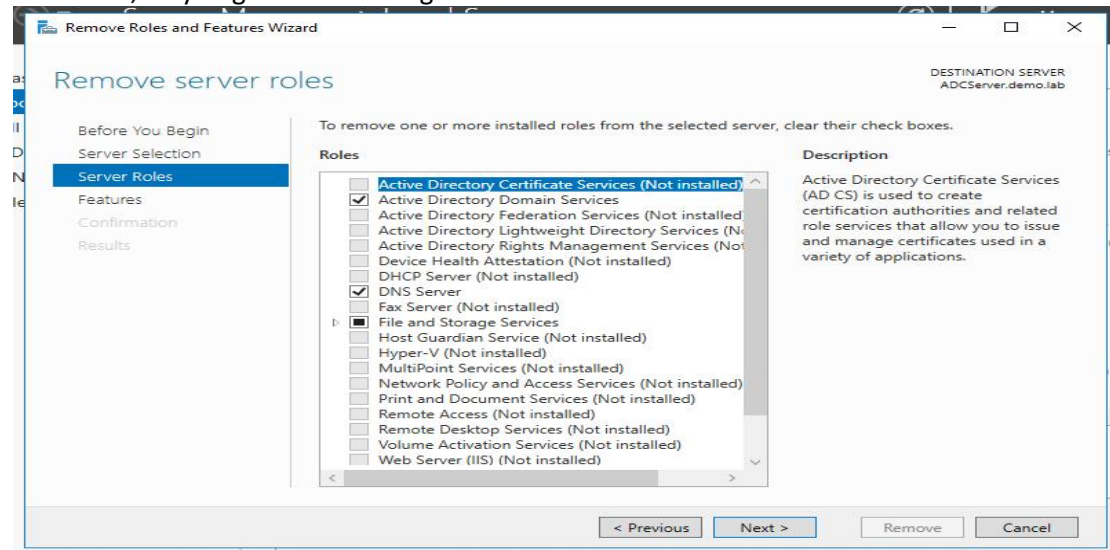
To perform this step, logon to ADC as administrator. In the Server Manager window, click Manage and select Remove Roles and Features option.



In the new window that opens, click Next.



Click Next, till you get the following window.

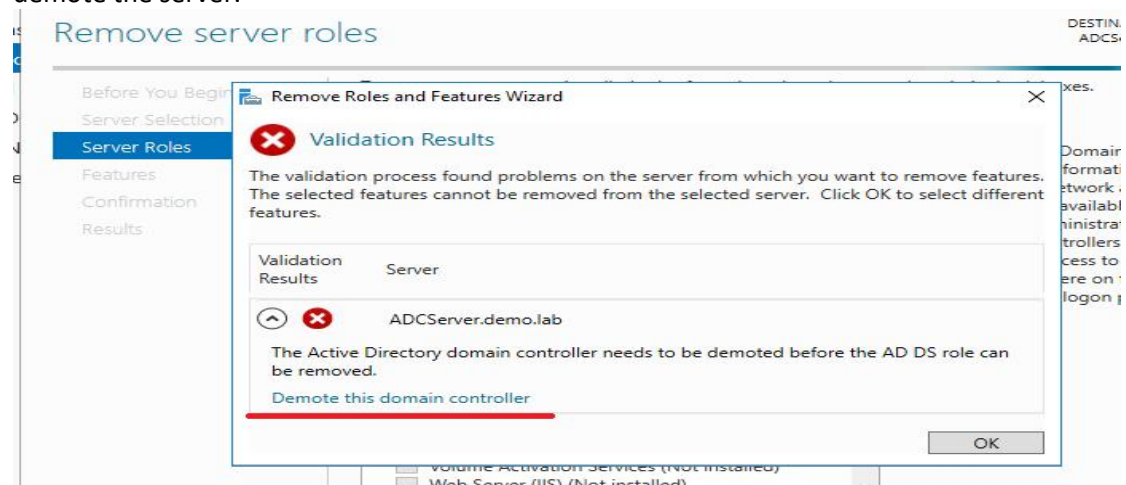


Un-check the check box for the Active Directory Domain Services. As soon as you un-check the box, following screen is displayed.



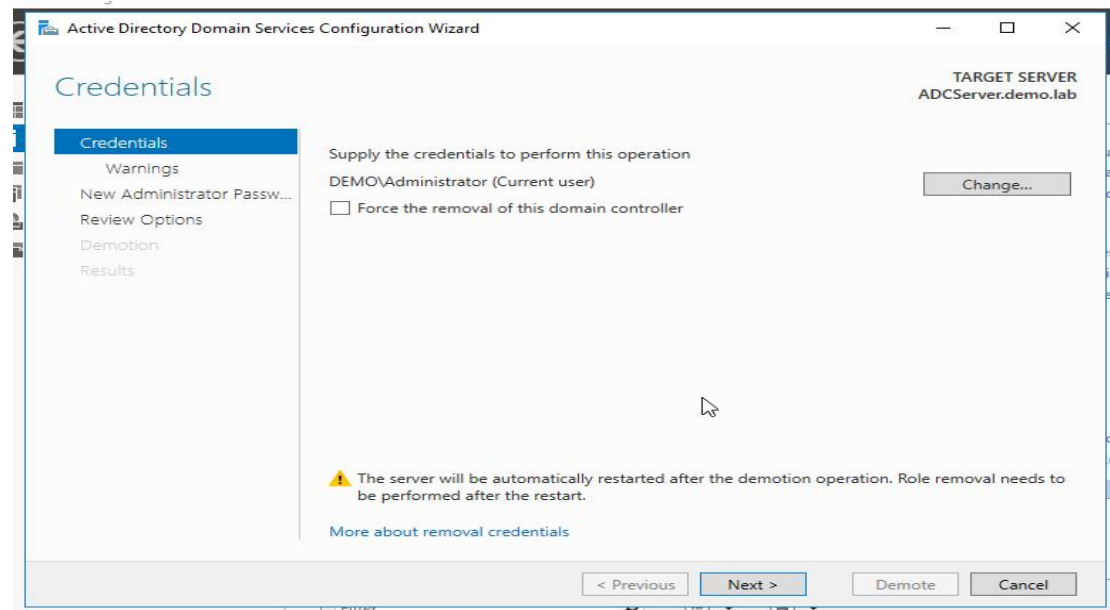
Click Remove Features.

Next following screen appears. Even though it is an error message. It gives you an option to demote the server.



Click the **Demote the domain controller** option.

Following screen will be displayed. However it may take some time to display the next button. Thus just wait.

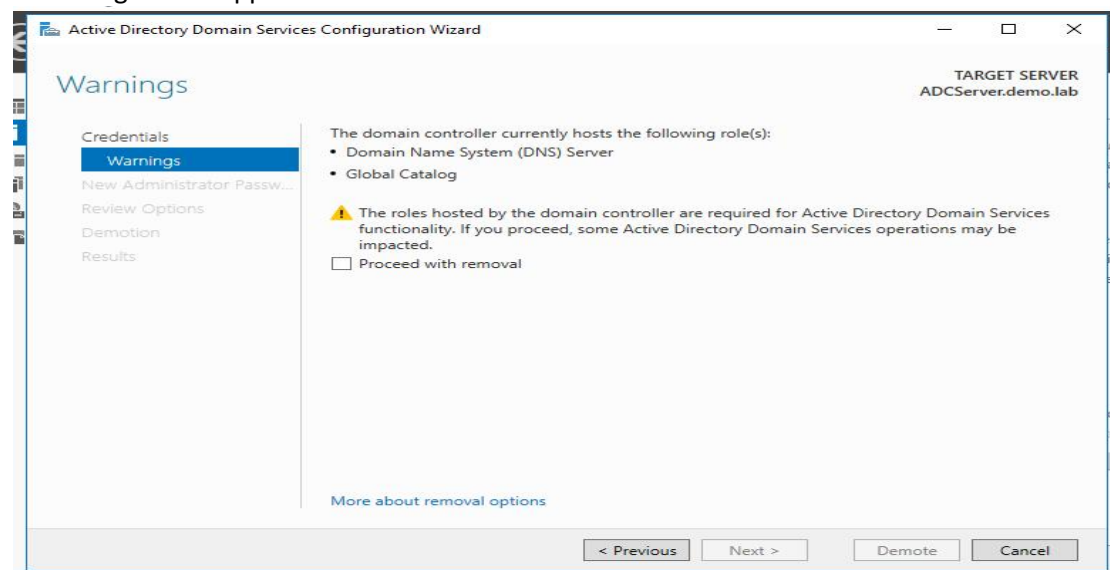


Click Next.

Do not select the check box of Force the removal of this domain controller option.

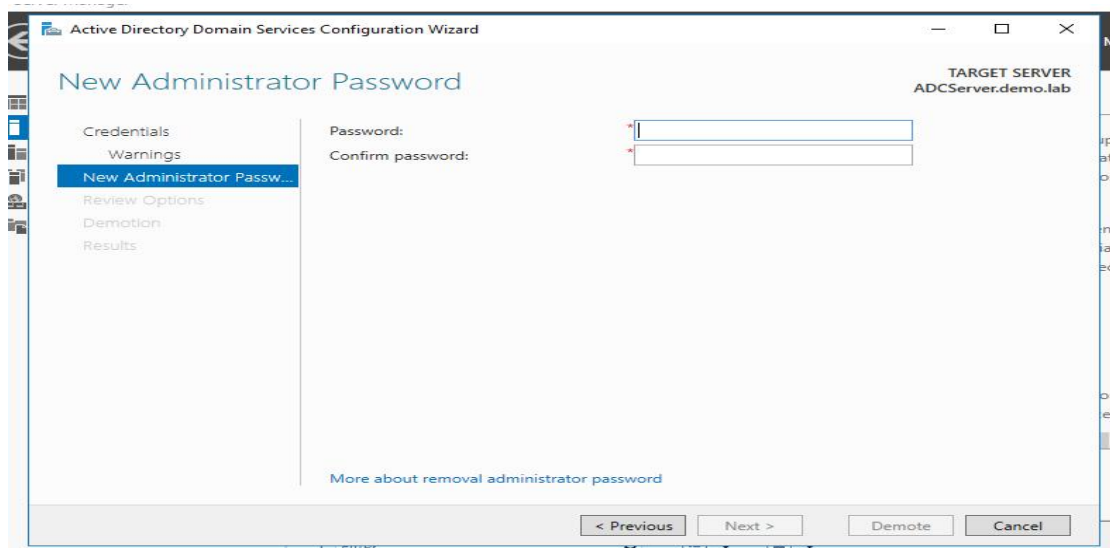
This option should be used only when the normal removal fails or this domain controller is not able to connect to the main DC.

Following screen appears.



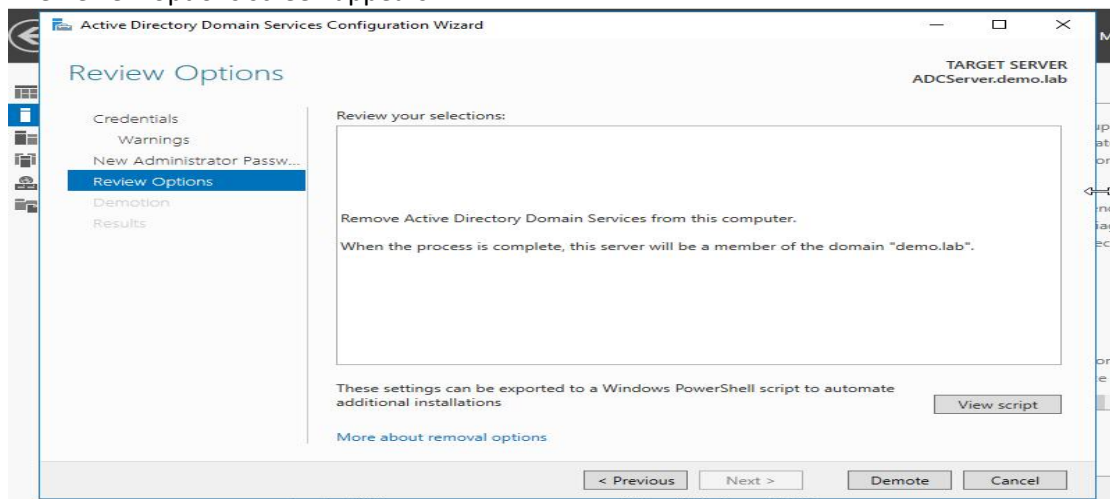
On this screen click check box in front of **Proceed with removal**. Click Next.

On the next screen that appears, you need to enter a password for the administrator password. As you are aware that when you made this server as ADC, its SAM file was disabled. Now as you are demoting the server, its SAM file will be enabled.



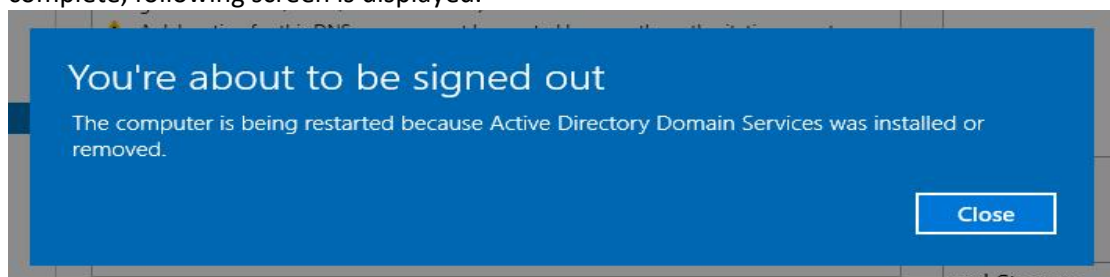
On this screen provide a password and click Next.

The Review options screen appears.



Click the Demote button.

It will start the demotion process. It will take some time. Once the demotion process is complete, following screen is displayed.



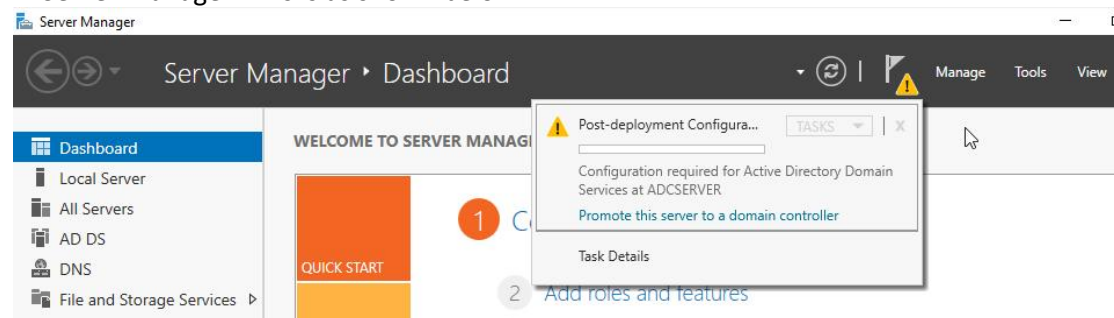
Wait for some time. The server will automatically restart.

Once the server restarts, logon as administrator. The server is demoted as a member server. However the Active Directory Domain Services role is not yet removed.

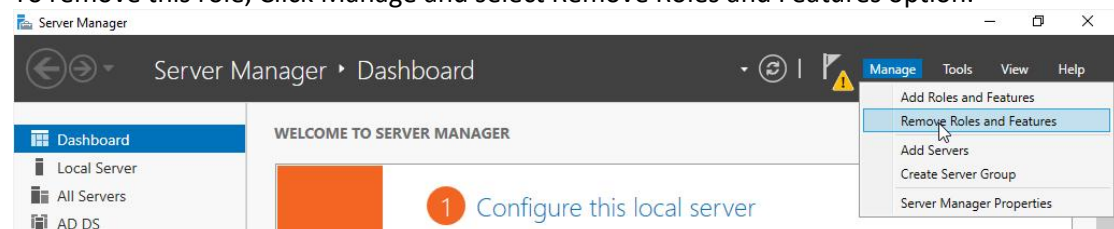
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2. Remove the Active Directory Domain Services (ADDS)

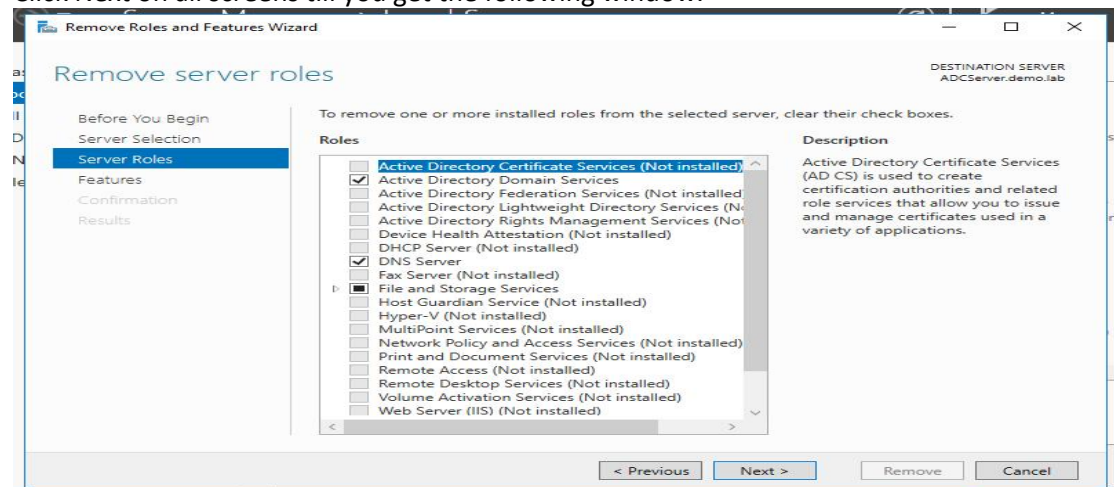
After restart when you logon to the server, you can see the yellow triangle near the flag sign in Server Manager. This is as shown below.



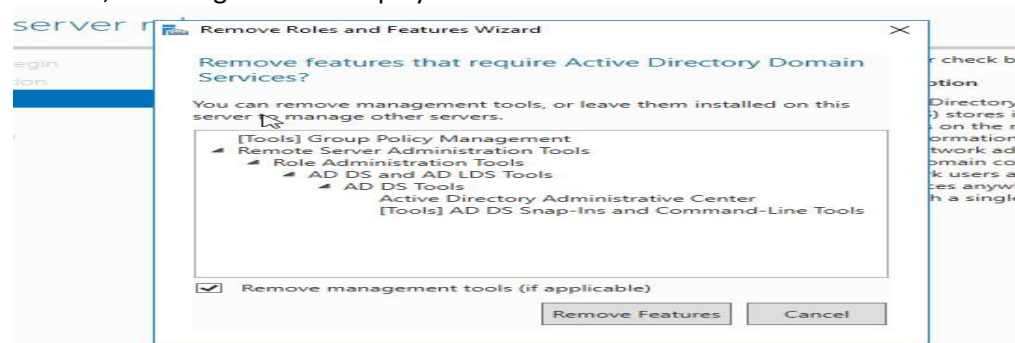
This appears because the Active Directory Domain Services (ADDS) role is not removed. To remove this role, Click Manage and select Remove Roles and Features option.



Click Next on all screens till you get the following window.



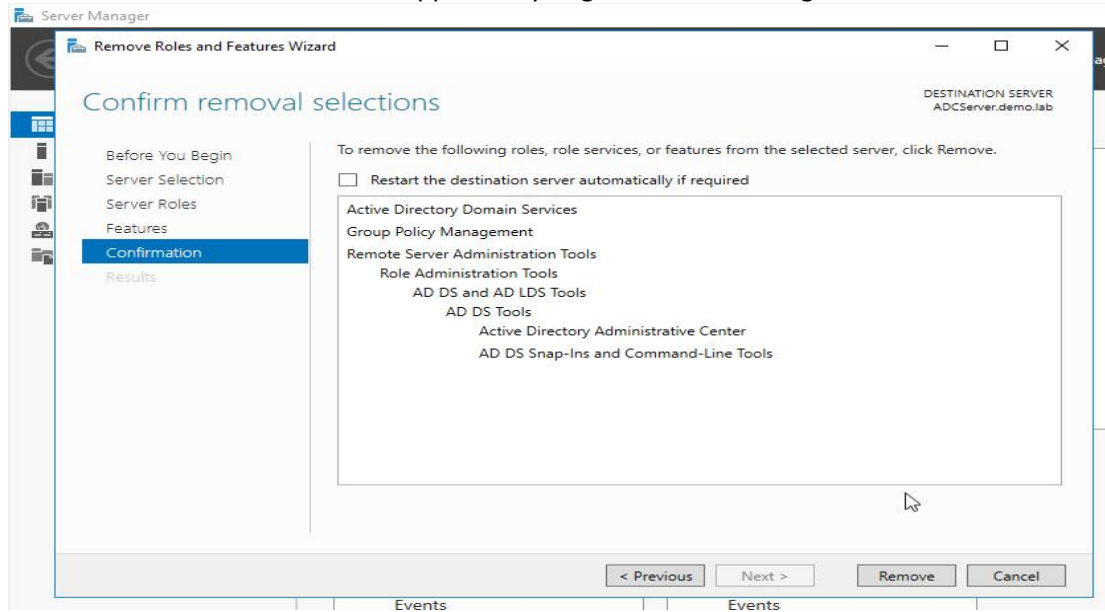
Un-check the check box for the Active Directory Domain Services. As soon as you un-check the box, following screen is displayed.



Click Remove Features.

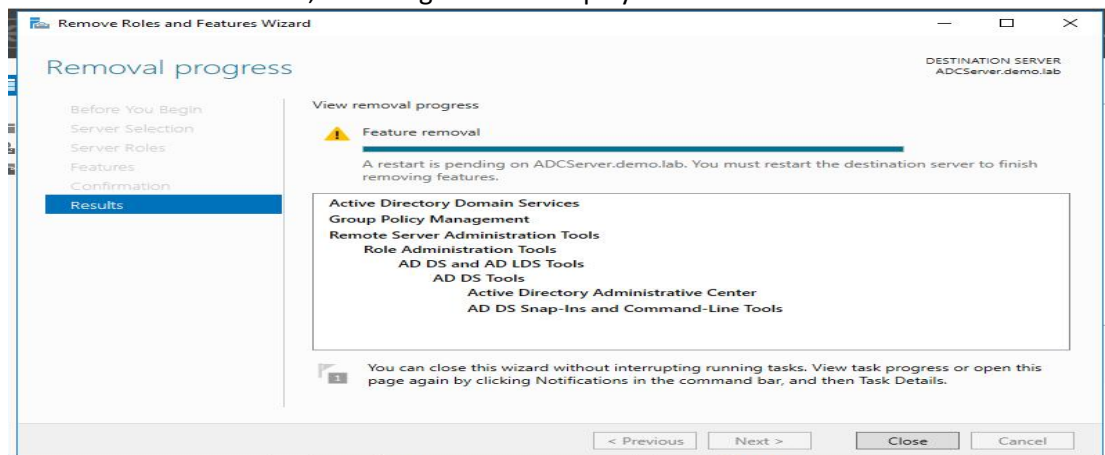
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Click Next on all the screens that appear till you get to the following screen.



Click Remove button.

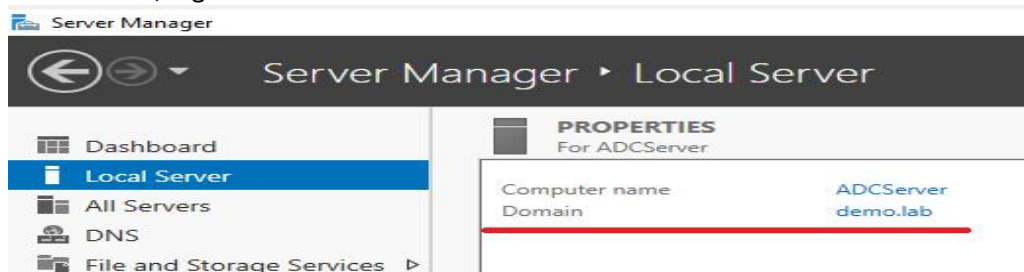
Once the role is removed, following screen is displayed.



Click Close.

You need to manually restart the server.

After restart, logon to server as administrator. The server is still the member of the domain.



This is how you have successfully demoted the server from Additional Domain Controller (ADC) to a member server. This server is now a member server of the domain demo.lab.

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