**. Preparing a Golden Image**

This involves creating a virtual machine (VM), configuring it, and capturing it as an image.

**Step 1: Create & Configure the Original VM**

* Create a new VM.
* Apply updates and install required applications.
* Remove unnecessary local accounts and configurations.
* Create a backup of the VM.

**Step 2: Prepare for Cloning**

* Power off and deallocate the VM.
* Clone the VM.

**Step 3: Prepare the Cloned VM for Imaging**

* Run **Sysprep** to generalize the OS.
* Capture the VM as an image.
* Delete or deallocate the cloned VM.

**Step 4: Deploy**

* Use the captured image to deploy session hosts.
* Done!

**2. Updating a Golden Image**

Whenever there are software updates, security patches, or application changes, the golden image should be updated.

**Step 1: Deploy and Update an Existing Golden Image**

* Deploy a new VM from the existing golden image.
* Apply OS and application updates.
* Remove any unnecessary files or temporary data.

**Step 2: Recapture the Image**

* Run **Sysprep** to generalize the updated VM.
* Capture it as a **new version** of the golden image.

**Step 3: Replace Old Image & Deploy**

* Retire or archive the old image.
* Use the newly updated image to deploy new session hosts.