# **Active Directory Creation and Administration**

**Tutorial Number: 02** 

# 01 - Domain and Forest Creation

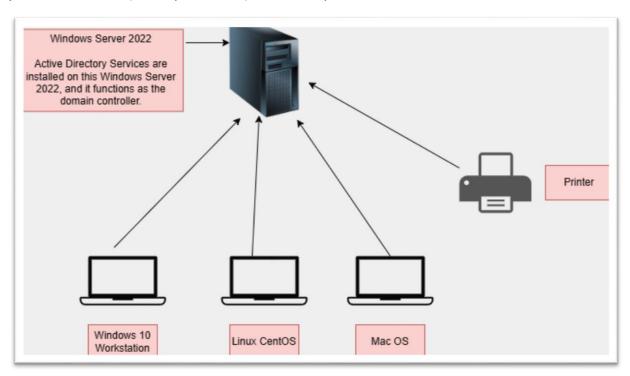
## What is Active Directory (AD)?

Active Directory (AD) is a service that helps you manage users, computers, and resources in a centralized way in a network domain.

# What is AD DS (Active Directory Domain Services)?

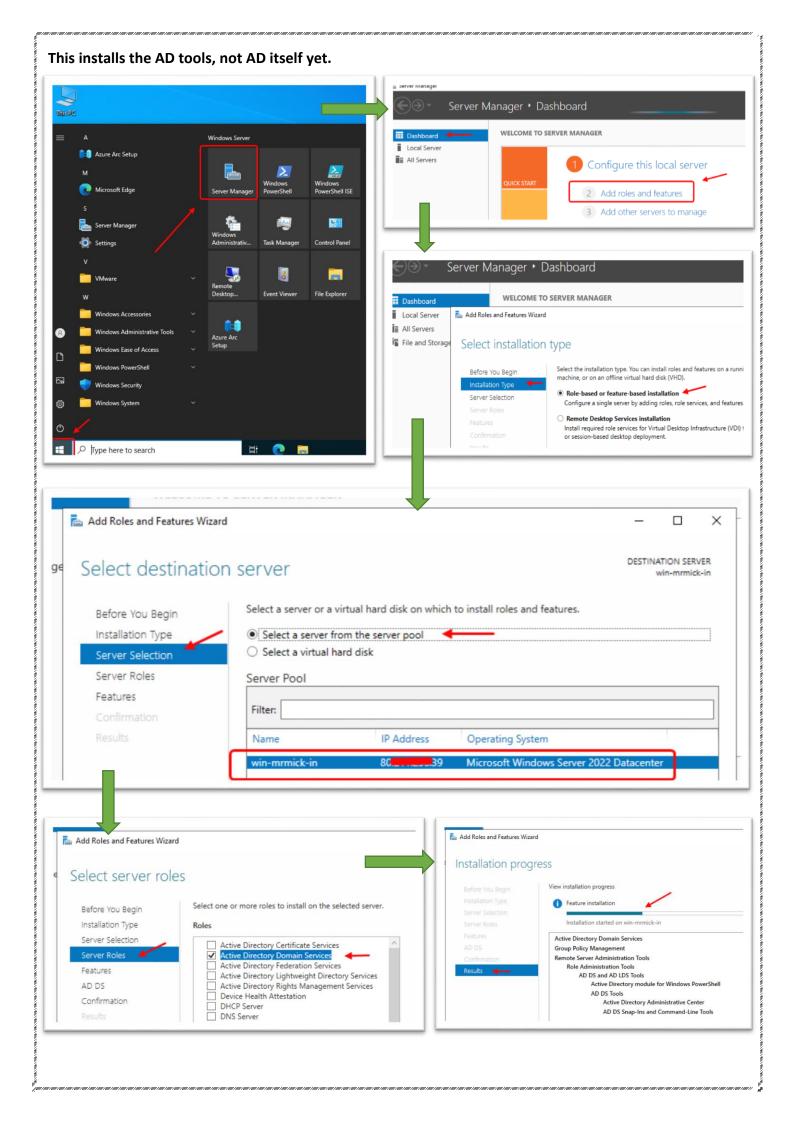
- AD DS is the Windows Server role that enables you to run Active Directory.
- Installing AD DS is just the first step it does not yet configure AD.

It only installs the tools (like dcpromo.exe) needed to promote the server to become a Domain Controller.



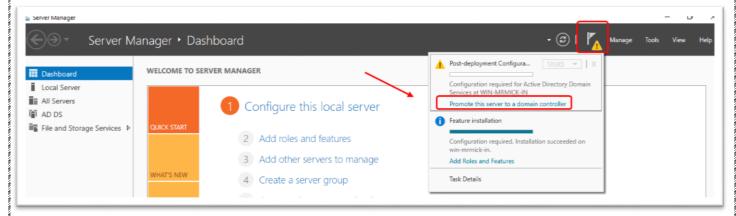
## LAB: Install and Configure AD on Windows Server 2022

- Goal: Create a new forest and promote this server to the first domain controller.
- ✓ Step 1: Install AD DS Role
  - Open Server Manager
  - Click Add Roles and Features
  - Select:
    - Role-based or feature-based installation
    - Select your local server
  - Under Server Roles → Check Active Directory Domain Services
  - Click Next until Install



✓ Step 2: Promote the Server to Domain Controller

After AD DS is installed, you'll see a yellow exclamation! in Server Manager. Click "Promote this server to a domain controller"



## **Concept:**

# 1. Deployment Type: Create a New Forest

- Since this is your first domain controller, you must create a new forest.
- A forest is the topmost structure in AD it contains one or more domains that trust each other and share a schema.

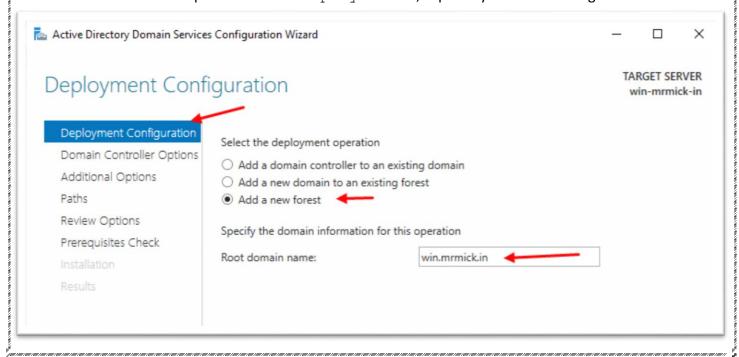
#### 2. Root Domain Name

- You are asked to enter a fully qualified domain name (FQDN) like: corp.example.com
- It's recommended to use a domain you own publicly, like example.com.

Why choose a publicly owned domain?

- ✓ Prevents conflicts if your network connects to the internet or external services
- ✓ Avoids name resolution issues with non-routable domains like .local
- ✓ You can get SSL certificates, DNS records, email routing easier

Avoid made-up domains like company.local, especially with cloud integration.



### 3. Forest and Domain Functional Level

You must choose the lowest version of Windows Server you want to support.

- Forest Functional Level: Applies to the entire forest
- Domain Functional Level: Applies to the domain

## 4. Domain Controller Capabilities

- DNS Server
  - Yes needed unless you already have a DNS setup
- Global Catalog
  - Yes this DC will host full copy of AD
- Read-only DC
  - o No you need writable DC for first domain controller

## 5. Directory Services Restore Mode (DSRM) Password

- Set a strong password here.
- This is used when booting into DSRM mode to restore AD during disaster recovery.

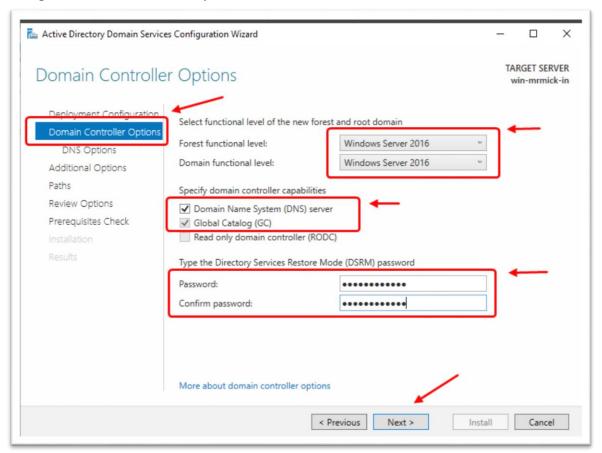
This account is local to the server only, not a domain user.

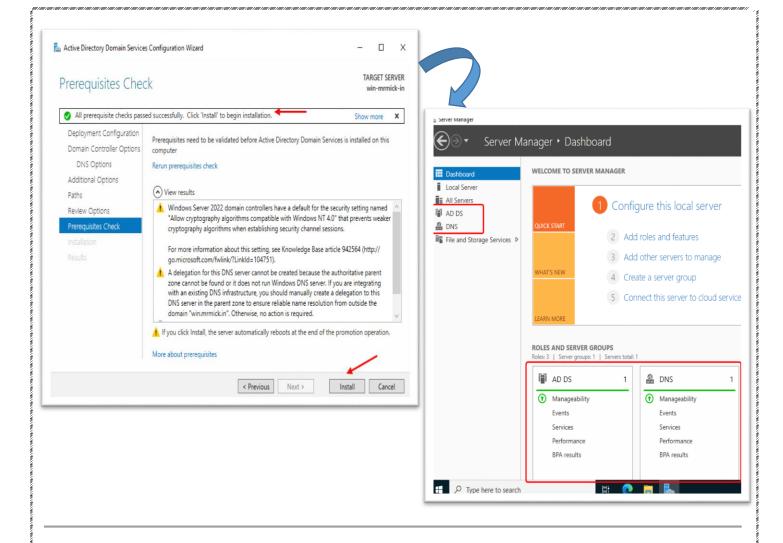
### 6. NetBIOS Domain Name

NetBIOS is an older naming system (used in legacy systems).

- Windows will automatically suggest a NetBIOS name based on your root domain.
  - E.g., corp.example.com → NetBIOS: CORP

You can change it if needed, but usually the default is fine.





## What is a Forest in Active Directory?

A Forest is the topmost container in Active Directory.

- It's like a whole company or organization.
- A forest can contain one or more domains.
- All domains in a forest trust each other automatically.
- All domains in a forest share the same schema and global catalog.

## Forest = Security boundary + Logical container for domains.

### **Example:**

Imagine a company called TechWorld Inc.

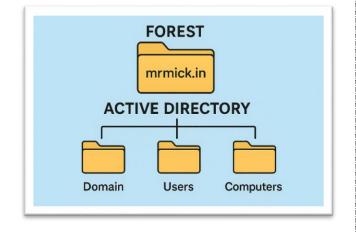
They have multiple departments in different countries.

They might set up:

Forest Name: techworld.com

## Domains under this forest:

- us.techworld.com (for USA)
- india.techworld.com (for India)
- uk.techworld.com (for UK)



All domains are part of the same forest, share information, and trust each other.

## What is a Domain in Active Directory?

A Domain is a group of objects (users, computers, printers, etc.) that are managed by the same security policies.

- It's like a department or branch within the organization.
- Domains are used to organize and secure network resources.
- Each domain has:
  - Its own Domain Controller(s)
  - A unique name (e.g., sales.techworld.com)
  - o Its own Group Policies
  - o Its own authentication

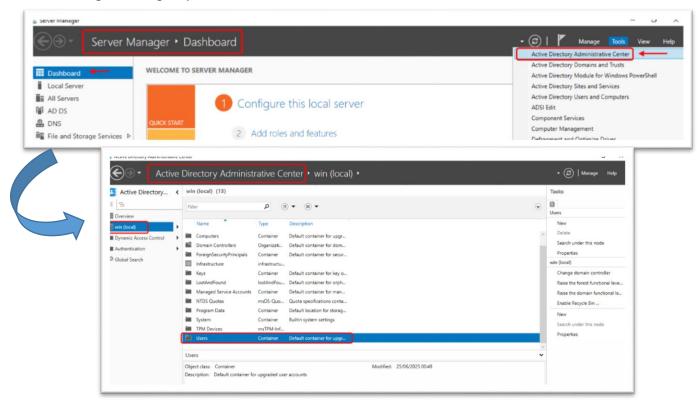
Domain = Unit inside a forest that holds users, computers, and resources.

# n. FOREST ources. ACTIVE DIRECTORY child1.mrmick.in child2.mrmick.in child3.mrmick.in

# 02 Active Directory Management Tools

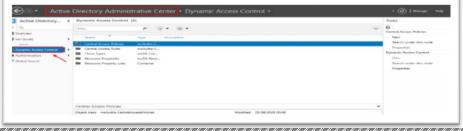
## 1. Active Directory Administrative Center (ADAC)

Tool to manage users, groups, OUs, GPOs, and advanced features in a modern interface.



- a. Dynamic Access Control (DAC)
  - i. DAC allows file/folder access based not only on users but also user claims, device claims, and resource properties.
  - ii. Example: "Give access to HR files only to users in HR department AND using domain-joined

laptops."

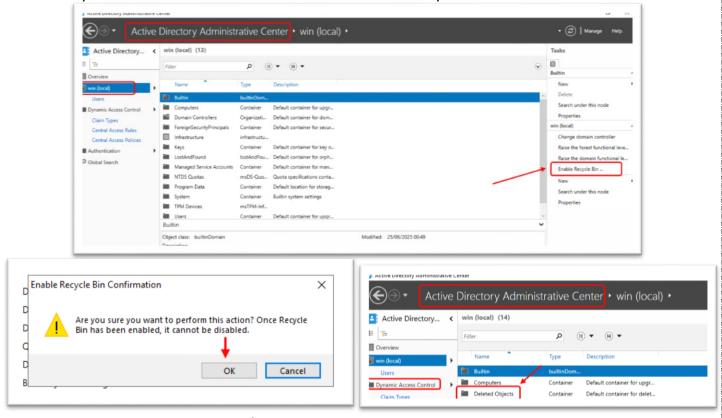


## b. Enable Recycle Bin

- i. Allows recovery of deleted users, OUs, groups, etc. directly from the console.
- ii. Must be enabled per forest.
- iii. Once enabled, you can right-click → Restore deleted objects (before tombstone period ends).

## **Example Use Case:**

Accidentally deleted a user account? Restore it in 1 click from Recycle Bin in ADAC.



## 2. Active Directory Domains and Trusts

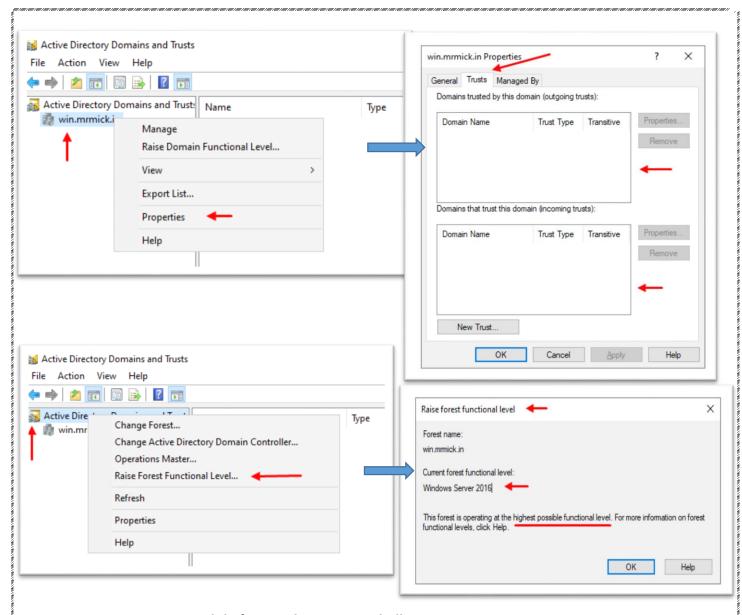
Used to manage domain relationships and domain/forest functional levels.

- a. Set Domain and Forest Functional Levels
  - i. Define the lowest version of Windows Server allowed for DCs.
  - ii. Example: Set Windows Server 2022 level to enable new security features.
- b. Create Trusts Between Domains/Forests
  - i. Create trust relationships so users in one domain can access resources in another.
  - ii. Example:
    - I. Trust between sales.example.com and hr.example.com  $\rightarrow$  cross-domain access.

## **Example Use Case:**

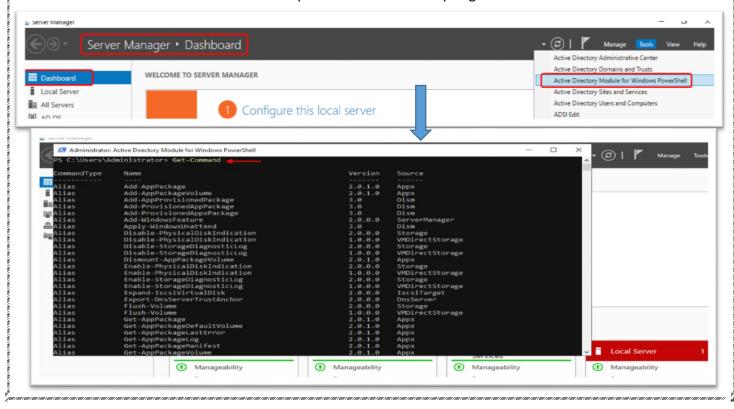
You want users in Domain A to access files in Domain B  $\rightarrow$  create a two-way trust.





## 3. Active Directory Module for Windows PowerShell

It is a PowerShell extension that adds AD-specific cmdlets for scripting and automation.



## 4. Active Directory Sites and Services

Used to manage replication between domain controllers (DCs) across different physical locations (sites).

## a. Replication

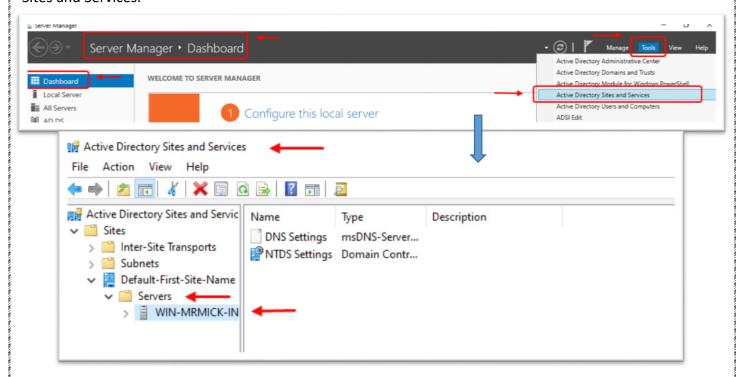
- i. AD replication is the process of copying data between domain controllers to keep them updated.
- ii. If you have multiple offices, you create sites to represent them.
- iii. Replication between DCs in the same site = fast
- iv. Replication between different sites = scheduled (to save bandwidth)

# b. Components:

- i. Sites = Physical locations (e.g., New York, London)
- ii. Site Links = Define how sites talk to each other
- iii. Bridgehead Servers = Handle inter-site replication

## **Example Use Case:**

You have DCs in India and UK. You want AD to replicate every 3 hours between them — configure this in Sites and Services.



# 5. Active Directory Users and Computers (ADUC)

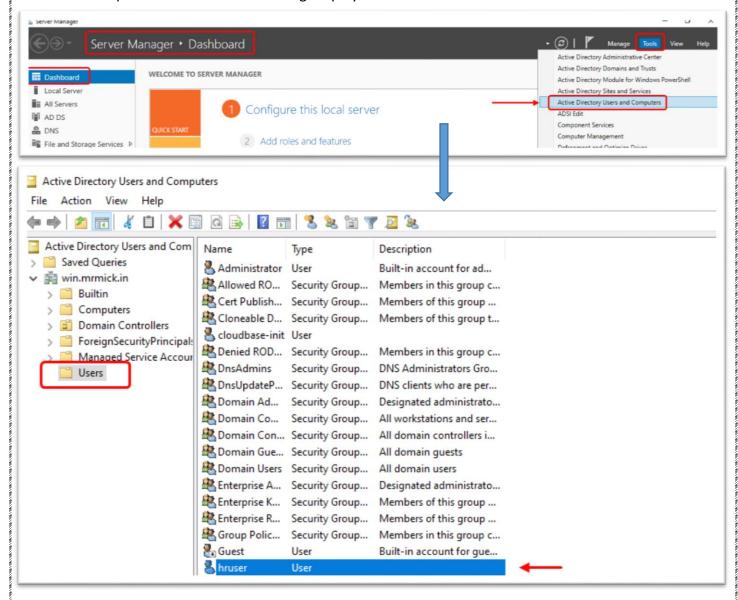
The most common and basic tool to manage users, groups, OUs, and computers.

## a. Key Features:

- i. Create/modify users
- ii. Reset passwords
- iii. Move objects between OUs
- iv. Create security groups
- v. Delegate control
- vi. Set Group Memberships

## **Example Use Case:**

HR requests creation of 5 new user accounts — do it via ADUC. Reset a user's password or disable a leaving employee's account.



# 03 - Adding Second Domain Controller OR Child Domain

### Why Add a Second Domain Controller?

Adding a second DC to your domain provides:

- Redundancy: If the first DC goes down, users can still log in and authenticate.
- Load Balancing: Authentication requests are split between DCs, improving performance.
- Replication: Both DCs share AD data changes in one are replicated to the other.

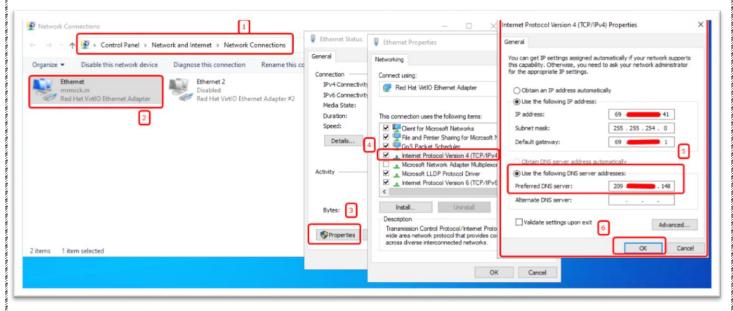
# Lab Setup Example

- First DC is: Server-01 (DC01) → Already a Domain Controller for domain: mrmick.in
- Now you want to make Server-02 a second Domain Controller in the same domain.

- ♣ Step-by-Step Guide to Add a Second Domain Controller
- ✓ Step 1: Set Correct DNS on Server-02 (DC02)
- On Server-02 (DC02), go to:
  - Control Panel > Network Adapter Settings > IPv4
  - Set Preferred DNS = IP of Server 01 (your first DC DC01)

## Why?

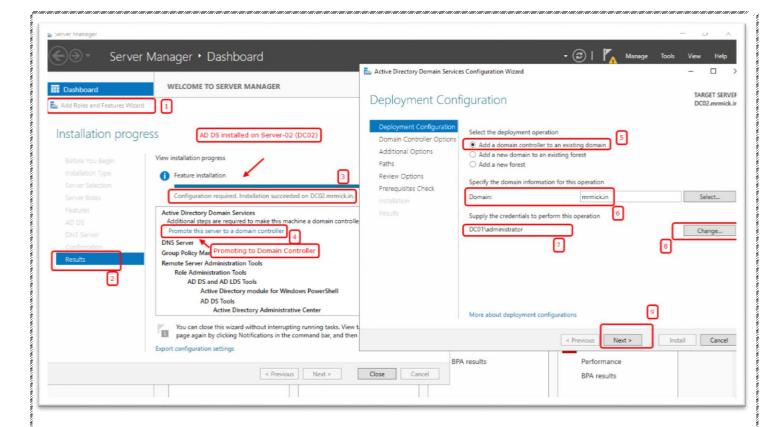
Because Server-02 needs to contact Server-01 to find domain info and join the domain.



- ✓ Step 2: Join Server-02 (DC02) to the Domain (In tutorial this has been skipped)
- Right-click This PC > Properties > Rename this PC (advanced)
- Click Change and join domain: mrmick.in
- Reboot after successful domain join.
- ✓ Step 3: Install Active Directory Domain Services Role
- On Server-02 (DC02):
  - Open Server Manager
  - Click Add Roles and Features
  - o Select Active Directory Domain Services
  - Click Next > Next > Install

[ This has been showed above, check the steps to install Active Directory Domain Services ]

- ✓ Step 4: Promote Server-02 to Domain Controller
- After install finishes, click Promote this server to a domain controller
- Choose:
  - o Add a domain controller to an existing domain
- Enter:
  - o Domain: mrmick.in
  - Credentials: Use Domain Admin account from Server-01



# ✓ Step 5: Choose Domain Controller Options

- DNS Server (Keep checked)
- Global Catalog (GC) (Keep checked)
- Read-only domain controller (RODC) (Leave unchecked for full DC)
- Set DSRM password (Directory Services Restore Mode password)

## What Happens Now?

- Server02 becomes another DC for mrmick.in
- It starts replicating AD data with Server-01 (DC01)
- Both DCs can handle:
  - o User logins
  - Group Policy
  - DNS queries (if DNS role is installed)

## **Real-World Example**

Imagine your head office is in Delhi, and branch in Mumbai.

You already have DC in Delhi. You set up a second DC in Mumbai (connected via VPN).

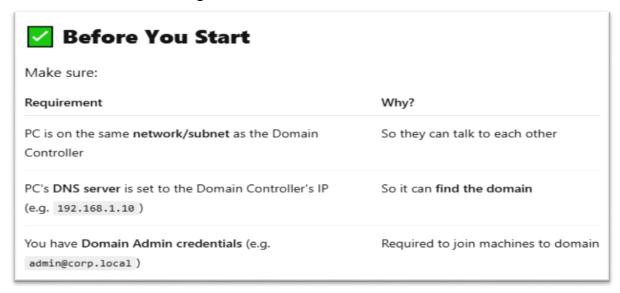
Now users in Mumbai authenticate locally, not over slow WAN — and if Delhi DC fails, Mumbai still runs smoothly.

# 04 - Joining AD from a workstation

## What Is Joining a Workstation to AD?

Joining a workstation (e.g. Windows 10/11 PC) to Active Directory allows:

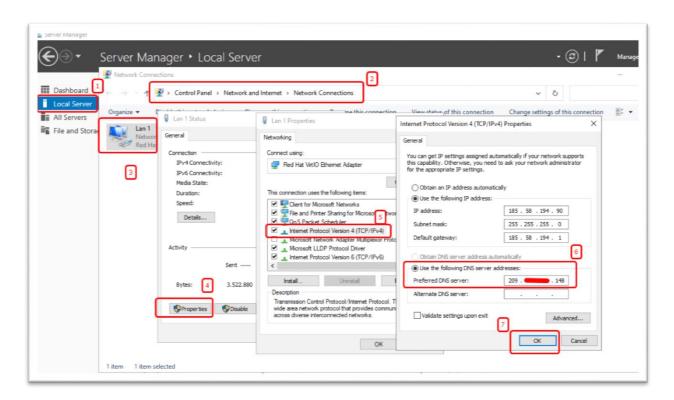
- Centralized login using domain credentials
- Applying Group Policies
- Easier device and user management from the domain controller



## Steps to Join a Workstation to AD

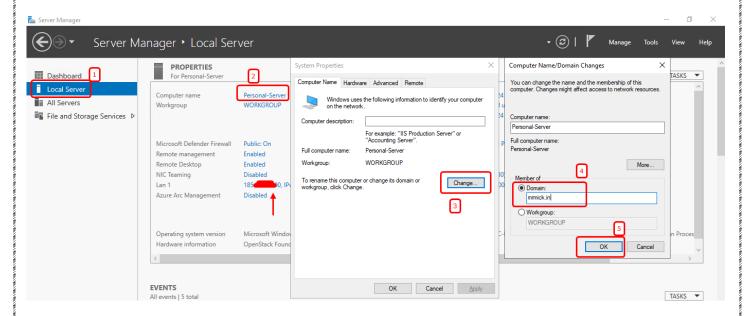
## a. Step 1: Set DNS on Workstation

- i. Go to Control Panel > Network and Sharing Center
- ii. Click your network > Properties > IPv4
- iii. Set Preferred DNS to IP of Domain Controller (e.g., 192.168.1.10)
- iv. Click OK



## b. Step 2: Join the Domain

- i. Right-click This PC > Properties
- ii. Click Advanced system settings > Computer Name tab
- iii. Click Change
- iv. In Member of, select:
  - ✓ Domain, and enter: corp.local (or your domain name)
- v. Click OK
- vi. Enter Domain Admin credentials when prompted



# Behind the scenes:

- The PC sends a request to the DC
- DC authenticates the credentials
- DC creates a computer object in AD

# **How to Verify in Active Directory**

## On Domain Controller:

- 1. Open Server Manager > Tools > Active Directory Users and Computers
- 2. Click on Computers container (left side panel)
- 3. You will see the workstation name listed there

# 05 - File Sharing and Drive Mapping

## Part 1: Creating and Sharing a Folder

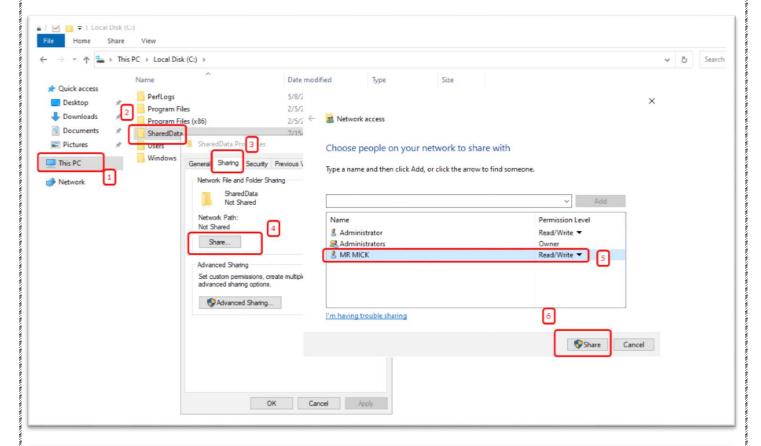
You want to share a folder from a server (e.g., Domain Controller or File Server) with domain users.

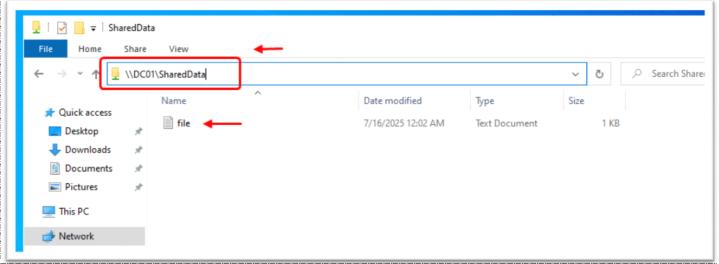
# Steps to Share a Folder:

- Create a folder, e.g.,
   C:\SharedData
- 2. Right-click > Properties > Sharing tab

## **Option 1: Basic Sharing (Share Button)**

- a) Click Share
- b) Add users or groups (e.g., HRGroup, Domain Users)
- c) Set permissions (Read / Read-Write)
- d) Click Share and then Done





## **Option 2: Advanced Sharing**

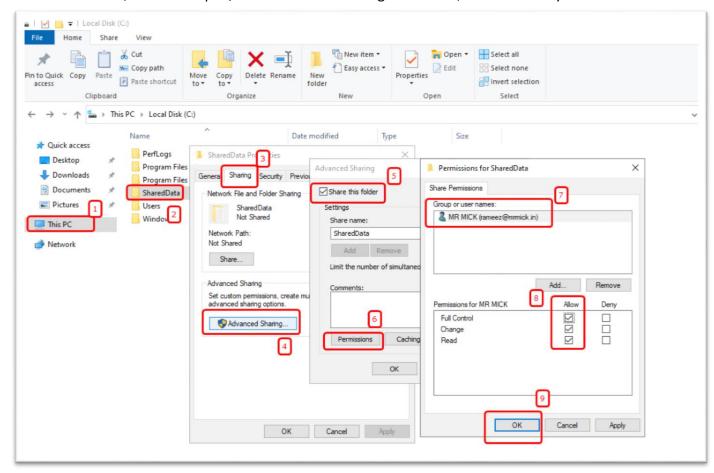
- a) Click Advanced Sharing
- c) Set Share Name (e.g., HRShare)
- d) Set Limit number of users if needed
- e) Click Permissions

## Default has Everyone = Read

Remove Everyone group to avoid giving access to all users in the domain — it's not secure.

## What is "Caching" in Advanced Sharing?

- Caching allows offline access to shared files
- If enabled, users can open/edit files without being connected, and files will sync when reconnected



## Part 2: Security Tab - NTFS Permissions

### Go to:

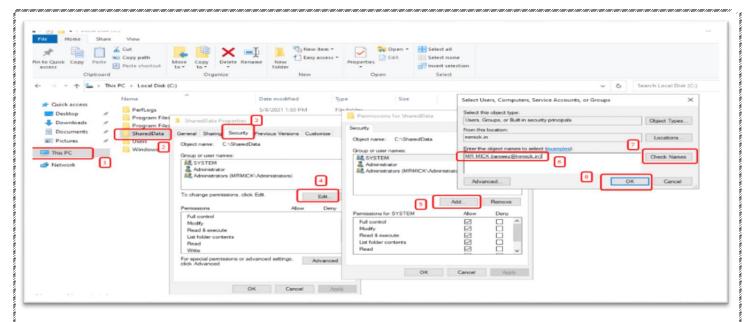
Right-click folder > Properties > Security Tab

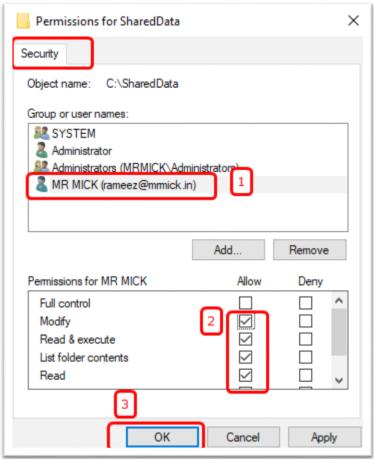
## What You Do Here:

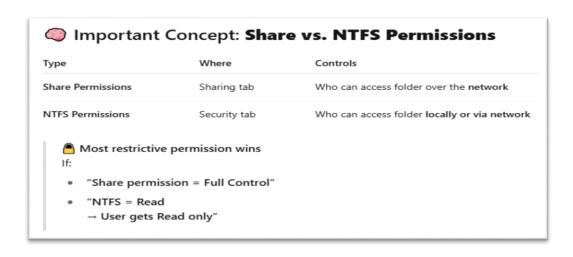
- Set actual permissions on the file system
- These are more detailed and secure

## Steps:

- 1. Click Edit
- 2. Remove or modify CREATOR OWNER if needed
- 3. Click Add to add users or groups (e.g., rameez)
- 4. Set Permissions:

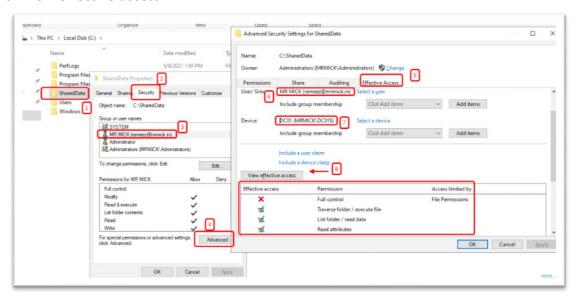






# **Checking Access: "Effective Access"**

- 1. Go to Security Tab > Advanced
- 2. Click Effective Access
- 3. Select a user or group
- 4. Click View effective access



This shows exactly what permissions that user has, considering both Share and NTFS.

# **File Sharing Using Server Manager**

Instead of right-clicking a folder, you can use Server Manager > File and Storage Services for a more structured and scalable way to manage shared folders.

## **Steps to Create a Shared Folder**

# **Step 1: Open Server Manager**

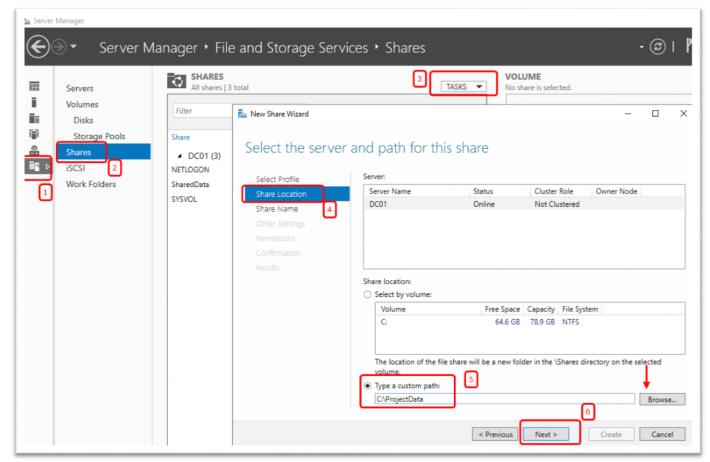
- 1. Open Server Manager
- 2. Click on File and Storage Services > Shares
- 3. On the top-right, click Tasks > New Share

Share Profile Types (Options You See)		
Option	Purpose	
SMB Share - Quick	Basic, simple sharing	
SMB Share - Advanced	Adds more controls like quotas, file screening via FSRM	
SMB Share - Applications	For use with apps like <b>Hyper-V</b> or <b>SQL</b> (handles large files & metadata better)	
NFS Share - Quick/Advanced	For Linux/Unix/Mac systems to connect to your Window shares	

## Step-by-Step: Create SMB Share - Quick

- 1. Choose Profile
  - a. Select: SMB Share Quick (simple folder sharing)
- 2. Select Share Location
  - a. Type or browse custom folder path

Example: C:\ProjectData



3. Configure Share Settings

## **Enable Access-Based Enumeration**

- Only shows the files/folders a user is allowed to access
- Hides other files/folders from unauthorized users

# **Example:**

User A only has access to Folder A — they won't even see Folder B in the same share

## Allow Caching of Share

- Allows offline access
- Users can work with files while disconnected, and changes sync back when reconnected

# **Example:**

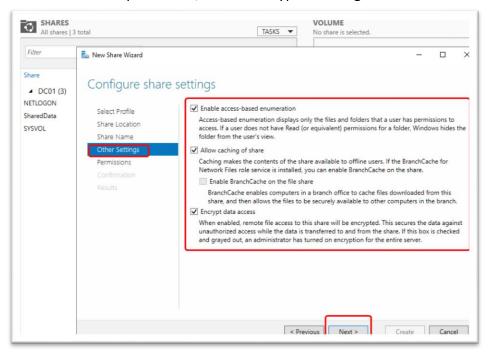
A laptop user goes out of office, edits a file offline → once they return and connect, changes sync

## **Encrypt data access**

- Secures data while transferring over network
- Helps protect against sniffing/hacking

## **Example:**

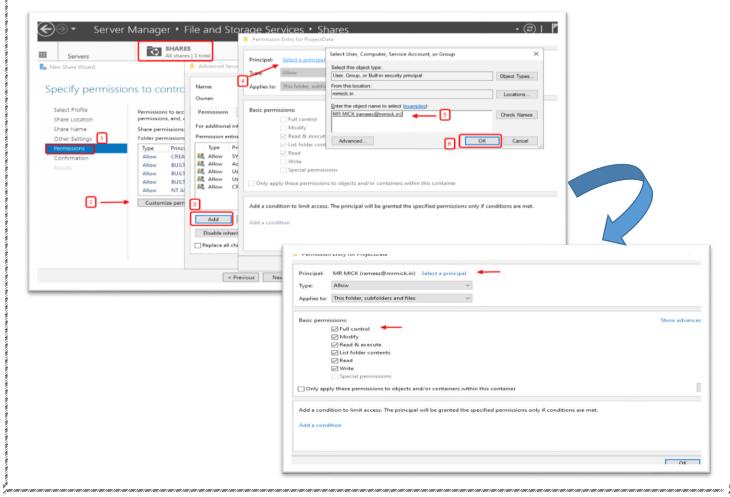
If user accesses share over Wi-Fi or public LAN, data is encrypted during transfer.

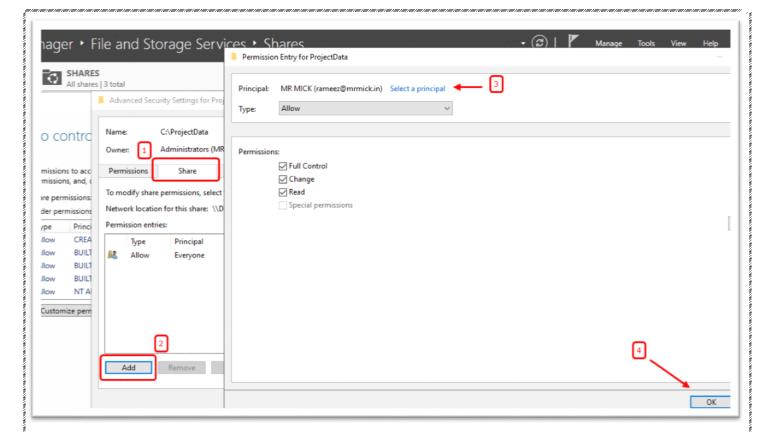


### 4. Customize Permissions

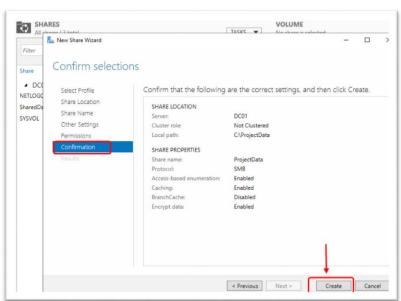
## Click Customize permissions, then:

- Go to Permissions tab (same as NTFS Security tab)
- Add Domain Users group
- Give them Modify or Read access
- Remove "Everyone" (to avoid open access)
- On Share tab, also remove Everyone and give Full Control to desired group





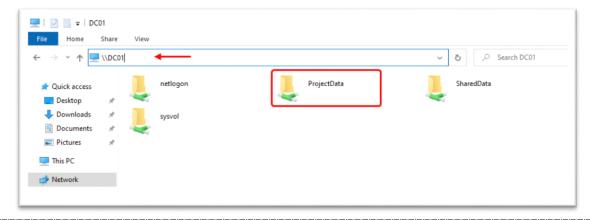
5. Create the Share



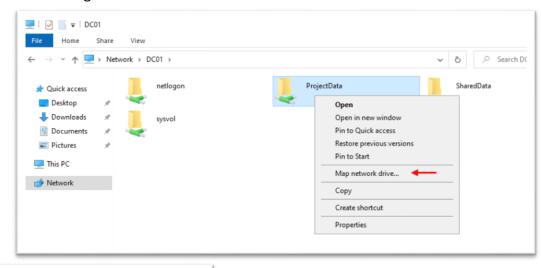
After Share Is Created

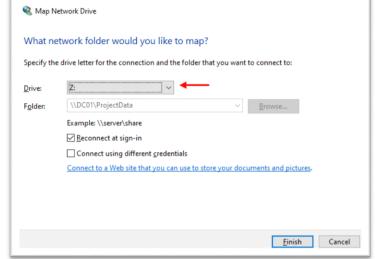
## Access the Share from Client:

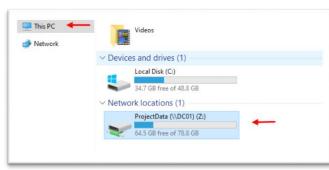
- 1. Open File Explorer
- 2. Type the UNC path in address bar:
  - a. \\ServerName\ProjectData



- 3. Map a Drive (optional):
  - a. Right-click This PC > Map Network Drive
  - b. Choose Drive Letter (e.g., Z:)
  - c. Enter path: \\ServerName\ProjectData
  - d. Check Reconnect at logon
  - e. Done!







# 06 - Group Policy

Group Policy lets administrators control user and computer settings from a central place in Active Directory (AD).

Example: You want to hide the Recycle Bin from all users' desktops — instead of going to each PC, you do it once using Group Policy.

Tool Used: Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) How to Open:

Server Manager > Tools > Group Policy Management

## Step-by-Step: Create a GPO to Hide Recycle Bin

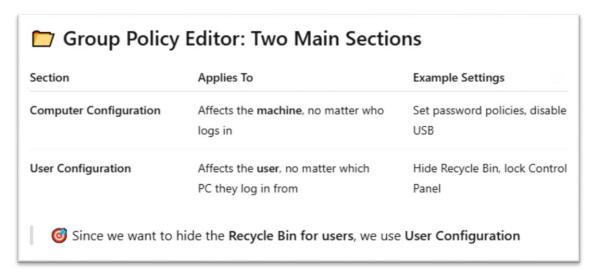
## Step 1: Create New Group Policy Object (GPO)

- 1. In Group Policy Management, right-click your domain name Example: mycompany.local
- 2. Click: "Create a GPO in this domain and link it here"
- 3. Name it:
  - a. Hide Recycle Bin

This applies the policy at domain level (applies to all users). If you want it to apply only to some users, move it to a specific OU (Organizational Unit).

## Step 2: Edit the GPO

- 1. Right-click your GPO (Hide Recycle Bin) → Click Edit
- 2. You'll see two main sections:



# Step 3: Hide Recycle Bin

- 1. Double-click: Remove Recycle Bin icon from desktop
- 2. Set to: Enabled
- 3. Click Apply > OK

Now this setting will remove Recycle Bin from desktop for users affected by this GPO.

## **Step 4: Delegation (Optional)**

You can control who can edit or manage this GPO.

- a. In GPMC, select the GPO
- b. Go to Delegation tab
- c. Click Add to give permission (Read / Edit / Full)
- d. Use this to restrict junior admins from editing critical GPOs

## **Applying the GPO**

Once created, the GPO will apply automatically:

- At next login for user-based settings
- Or during background refresh (every 90-120 mins by default)

To apply immediately, you can:

- Go to a client PC → open Command Prompt
- Run:
  - gpupdate /force

### Where Is the GPO Stored?

In GPMC, look under:

- Group Policy Objects → this contains the actual GPO "files"
- You can edit GPOs from here even if not yet linked

# **Example Lab Scenario**

Goal: Hide Recycle Bin only for users in HR

- Create an Organizational Unit: HR
- Move HR users into that OU
- Create and link the Hide Recycle Bin GPO to the HR OU
- Edit GPO → User Config → Desktop → Remove Recycle Bin icon
- Apply GPO
- Login as HR user on client → Recycle Bin should be gone

# 07 - DNS Management

#### What is DNS in Windows Server?

- DNS = Domain Name System
- It translates names (like server01.company.com) to IP addresses (like 192.168.1.10) so computers can talk to each other.

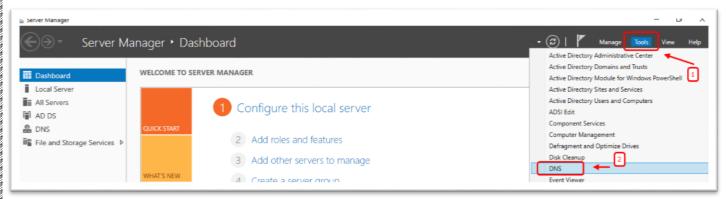
## Why It Matters for AD?

Active Directory relies heavily on DNS:

- It uses DNS to locate domain controllers, services, and replicate data.
- If DNS is misconfigured, logins, Group Policy, and AD tools will fail.

## **Open DNS Manager**

Go to Server Manager > Tools > DNS

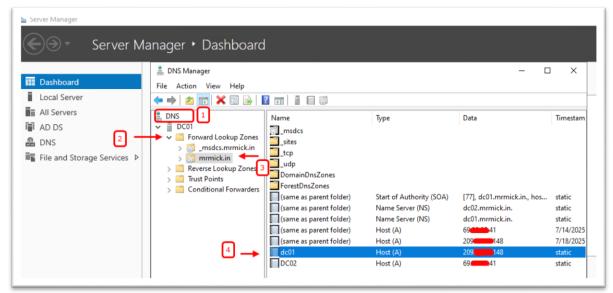


## Default Zones Created with AD

When you install Active Directory Domain Services (ADDS) and promote to Domain Controller, Windows automatically sets up DNS and creates two zones:

# 1. Forward Lookup Zone (company.local)

- a. Translates name → IP
- b. Example record: server01.company.local → 192.168.1.10

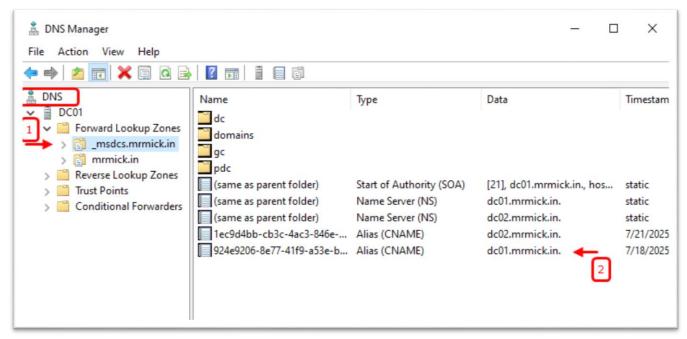


This is the working/production zone.

## 2. \_msdcs.company.local

- a. msdcs = Microsoft Domain Controller Services
- b. Contains records required for AD replication and locating domain controllers
- c. Includes:
  - i. SRV records for services like LDAP, Kerberos
  - ii. GUID-based entries for each DC

It is automatically replicated to other DNS servers when they are also domain controllers.



## **Creating a New Zone**

Right-click Forward Lookup Zones > New Zone You'll choose between:

## 1. Primary Zone

- a. Main writable copy
- b. Stored locally on the server
- c. Most commonly used for Active Directory

**Example**: You create dev.company.local for development servers

## 2. Secondary Zone

- a. Read-only copy of another DNS zone
- b. Gets data from a primary zone via zone transfer
- c. Used for redundancy and load balancing

**Example**: A second server in another office holds a copy of company local as a secondary zone

## 3. Stub Zone

- a. Holds only minimal info: NS (Name Server), SOA (Start of Authority), and A records for another zone
- b. Used for faster lookups across different DNS namespaces

**Example**: You have sales.company.local and want your server to redirect queries there without holding full records

# Reverse Lookup Zone

- Does the opposite of forward lookup
- Translates IP → name

### **How to Create:**

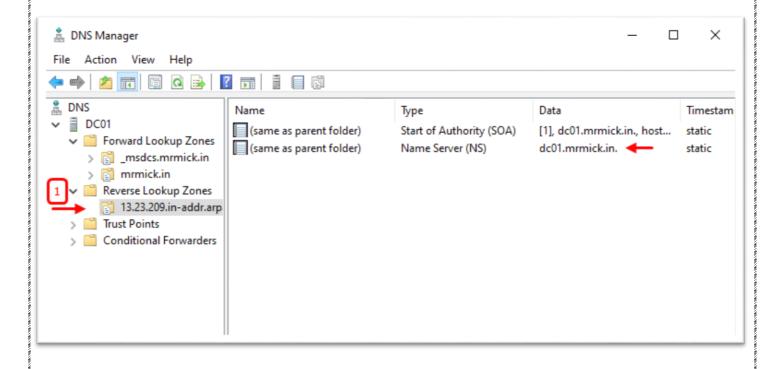
- 1. Right-click Reverse Lookup Zones > New Zone
- 2. Choose Primary Zone
- 3. Enter Network ID (based on subnet)
  - a. Example: If subnet is 192.168.1.0/24, enter 192.168.1
- 4. Now DNS can answer:
  - a. 192.168.1.10 → server01.company.local

Used in security audits, logging, and troubleshooting

## **Lab Scenario**

Goal: Create a reverse lookup zone for your AD subnet

- 1. Open DNS Manager
- 2. Right-click Reverse Lookup Zones > New Zone
- 3. Choose:
  - a. Zone Type: Primary
  - b. Replication Scope: To all DNS servers in AD forest
  - c. Network ID: 192.168.1
  - d. Finish
- 4. Now your DNS can resolve IP  $\rightarrow$  Name



# 08 - DHCP Installation

### What is DHCP?

DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) automatically assigns:

- IP address
- Subnet mask
- Default gateway
- DNS server

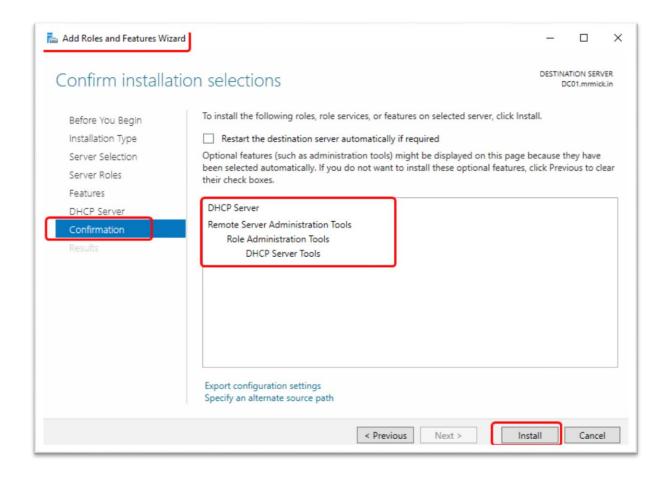
...to devices in a network.

So you don't need to set IP manually on each client PC.

# Step-by-Step: DHCP in Windows Server

## ✓ Step 1: Install DHCP Role

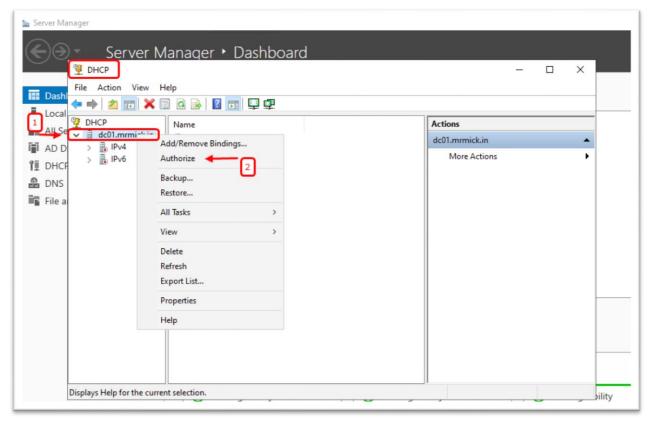
- Go to: Server Manager > Add Roles and Features
- Choose: DHCP Server
- Complete the wizard and Install
- After install, open:
  - Tools > DHCP



# √ Step 2: Authorize DHCP Server

Before the server can hand out IPs, it must be authorized in Active Directory.

- In DHCP Console, right-click your server name
- Click Authorize
- Wait a few seconds; it should show a green check mark



# √ Step 3: Create a New IPv4 Scope

- Expand: DHCP > IPv4
- Right-click IPv4 > New Scope
- Follow the wizard:

Field	Example
Scope Name	Office Network
Start IP	192.168.1.100
End IP	192.168.1.200
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.0
Lease Duration	8 days
Router (Default Gateway)	192.168.1.1
DNS Server	192.168.1.10 (your DC)

Once created, it's ready to assign IP addresses to clients.

## **Reservation**

- ✓ Reservation is used to always assign the same IP to a specific device based on its MAC address.
- ✓ Useful for printers, servers, or any device that should always get the same IP.

### **How to Create:**

- Right-click on the Reservations folder under your scope
- Click New Reservation
- Fill:
  - Reservation Name
  - o IP Address (pick from inside the range or outside)
  - MAC Address (can be found using ipconfig /all on client)

## **Server Options**

• Server Options are global settings (apply to all scopes on that DHCP server).

### You can set:

- DNS Server IP
- Default Gateway
- Domain Name
- WINS Server (if used)

## **How to Configure:**

- Right-click Server Options under IPv4
- Click Configure Options
- Check required options like:
  - o 003 Router
  - o 006 DNS Server
  - o 015 DNS Domain Name

You can also set these on a per-scope basis if needed.

## **Important Notes**

You can't have two DHCP servers active in same network unless they are in failover mode.

• Otherwise, Windows DHCP will shut down the second server to avoid IP conflicts.

## **Example Lab Scenario**

Goal: Set up a DHCP server that assigns IPs to client PCs from 192.168.10.100-192.168.10.200.

- Install DHCP Role on Domain Controller
- Authorize DHCP
- Create scope named OfficeNetwork
- Set range: 192.168.10.100 to 192.168.10.200
- Add router: 192.168.10.1
- Add DNS: 192.168.10.10
- Create reservation for printer (MAC: A0-B1-C2-D3-E4-F5) → Assign IP: 192.168.10.150
- On client PC: Set to Obtain IP automatically
- Check IP using:
  - ipconfig /all