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Setup Active Directory on Windows Server 2016

JANUARY 18, 2016 BY CHRISADMIN

How to setup Active Directory in Windows Server 2016 as a new domain controller.

Here we are going to tackle the first part of setting up a domain; promoting our brand new server as a domain controller.

This is considered tutorial number three in a video series titled: **Server Basics 2016**. [Tutorial number 1](#) was about downloading Server 2016 and a brief overview. [Tutorial number 2](#) was on installing Server 2016.

It's a fairly simple process these days since the system walks you through the entire thing. Join me within the video, or in the text instructions below.

Remember, we are only setting up a test environment here in a virtual test lab. I am using VirtualBox for my VM foundation since it's free and super easy to use.

Downloading Windows Server 2016 - Server Basics ...

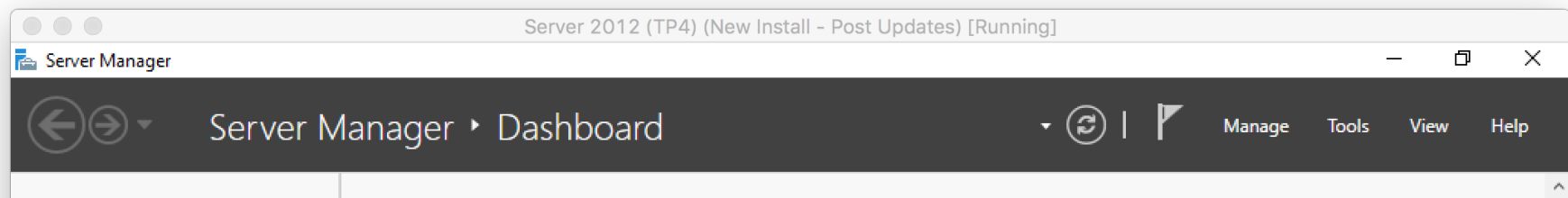


Windows Server 2016

How to Configure AD DS (Domain Controller)

Steps to setup Active Directory

- From the Server Manager Dashboard, click on **Add roles and features**.



Dashboard

- Local Server
- All Servers
- File and Storage Services ▸

WELCOME TO SERVER MANAGER

1 Configure this local server

2 Add roles and features

3 Add other servers to manage

4 Create a server group

5 Connect this server to cloud services

QUICK START

WHAT'S NEW

LEARN MORE

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ROLES AND SERVER GROUPS

Roles: 1 | Server groups: 1 | Servers total: 1

File and Storage Services 1	Local Server 1
Manageability	Manageability
Events	Events
Performance	Services
BPA results	Performance
	BPA results

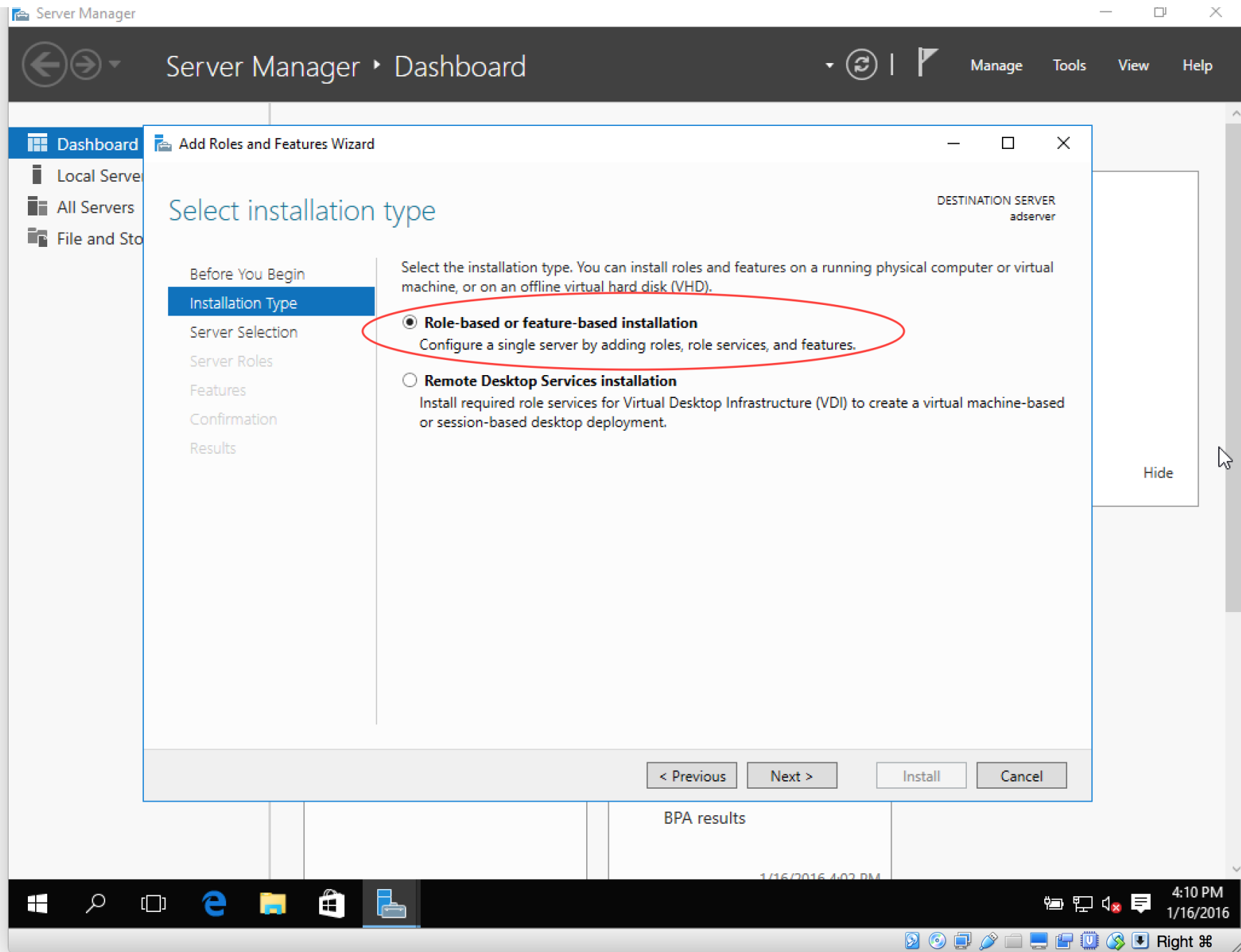
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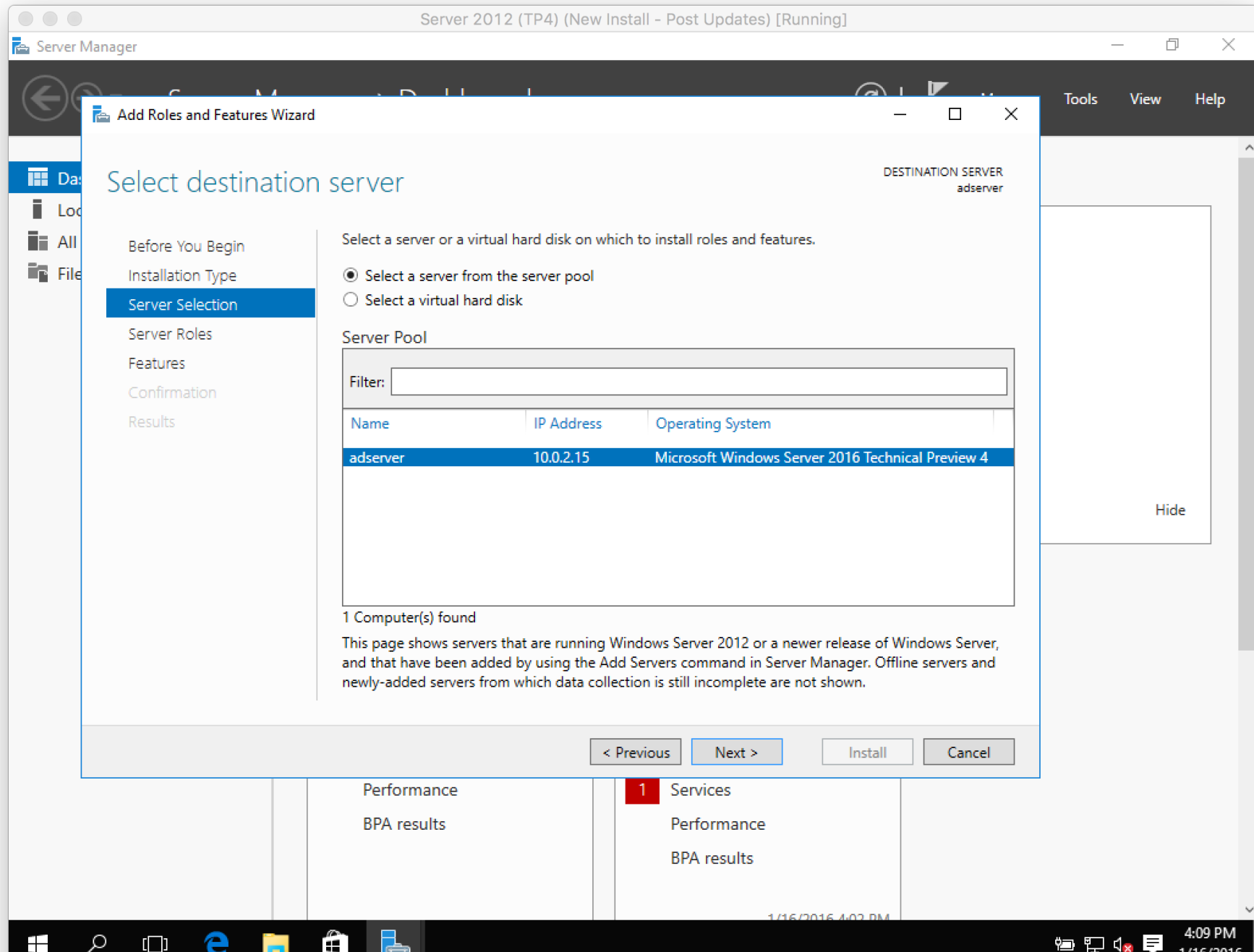
Right ⌘

- Select **Role-based or feature-based installation** and click **Next**.

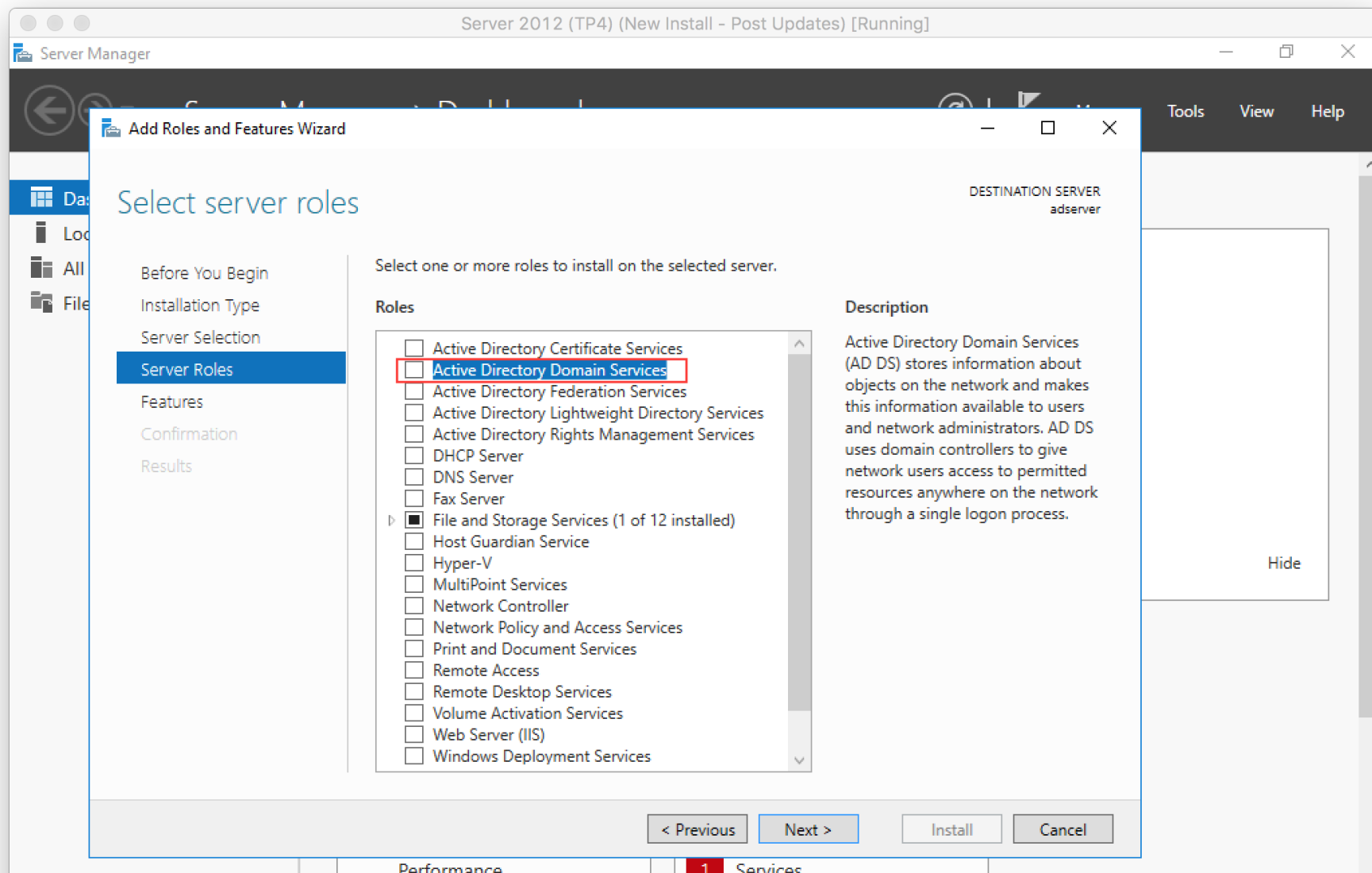


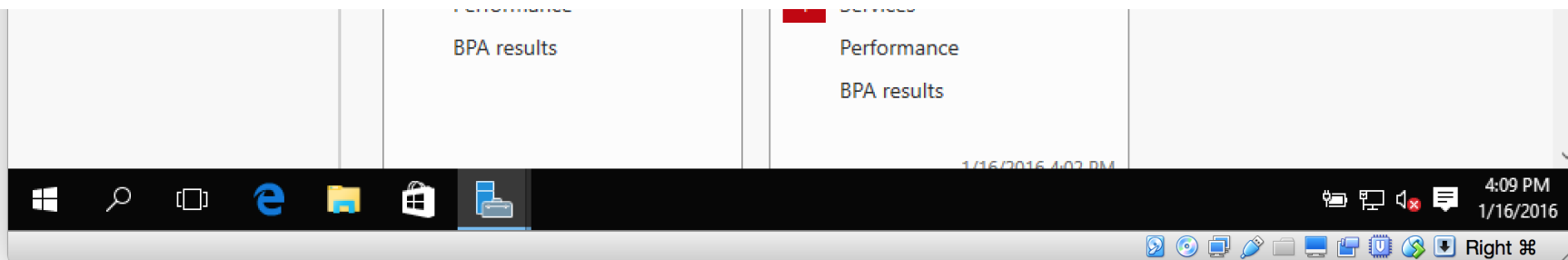


- Select the server by highlighting the row and select **Next**.

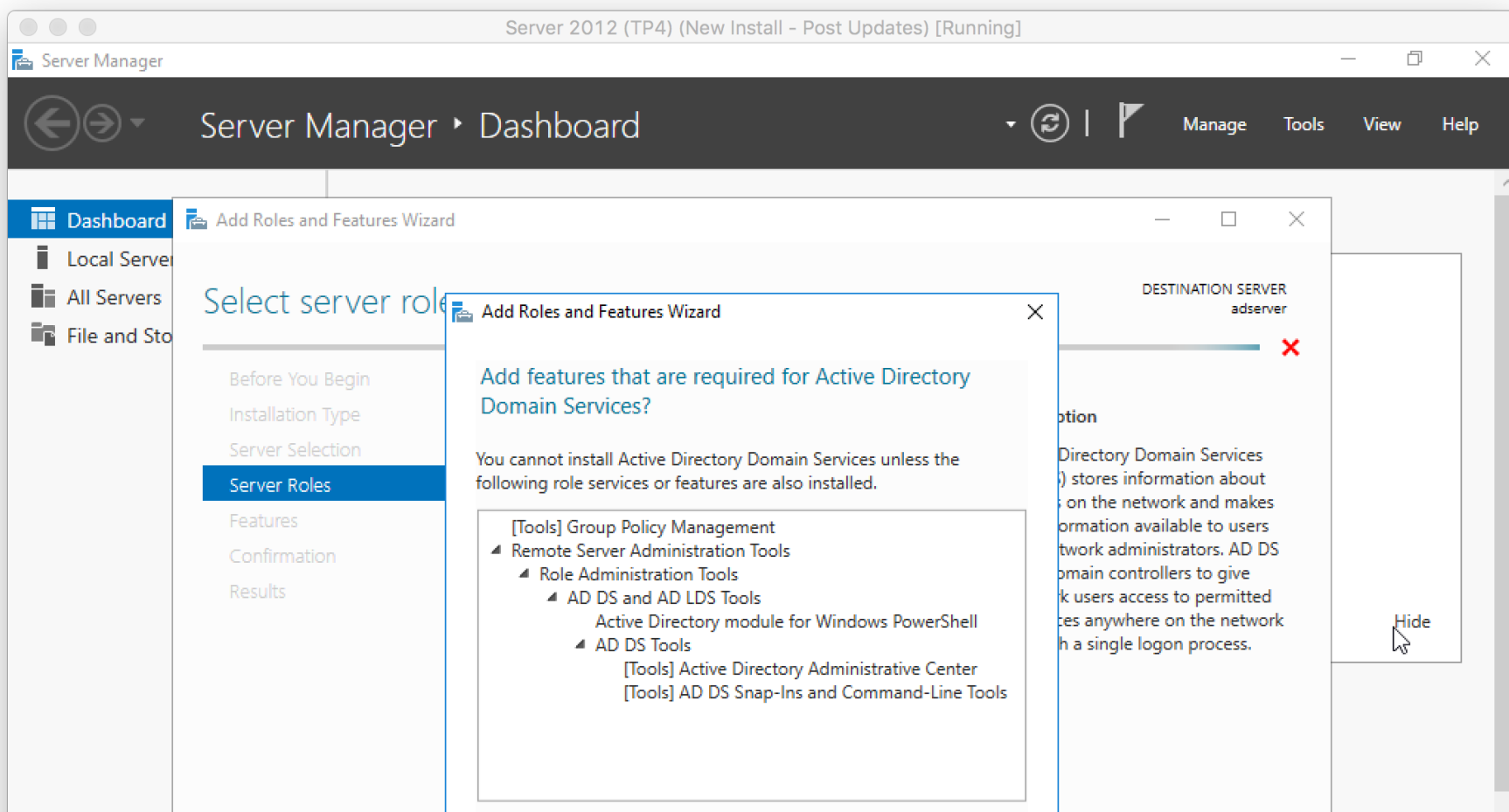


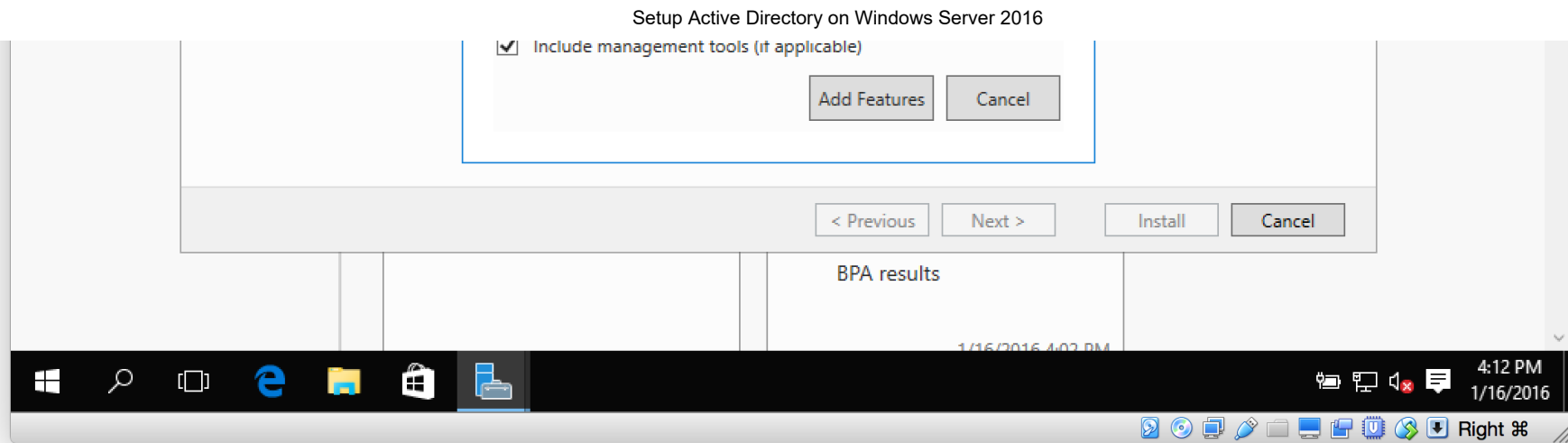
- Select **Active Directory Domain Services** and then select **Next**.



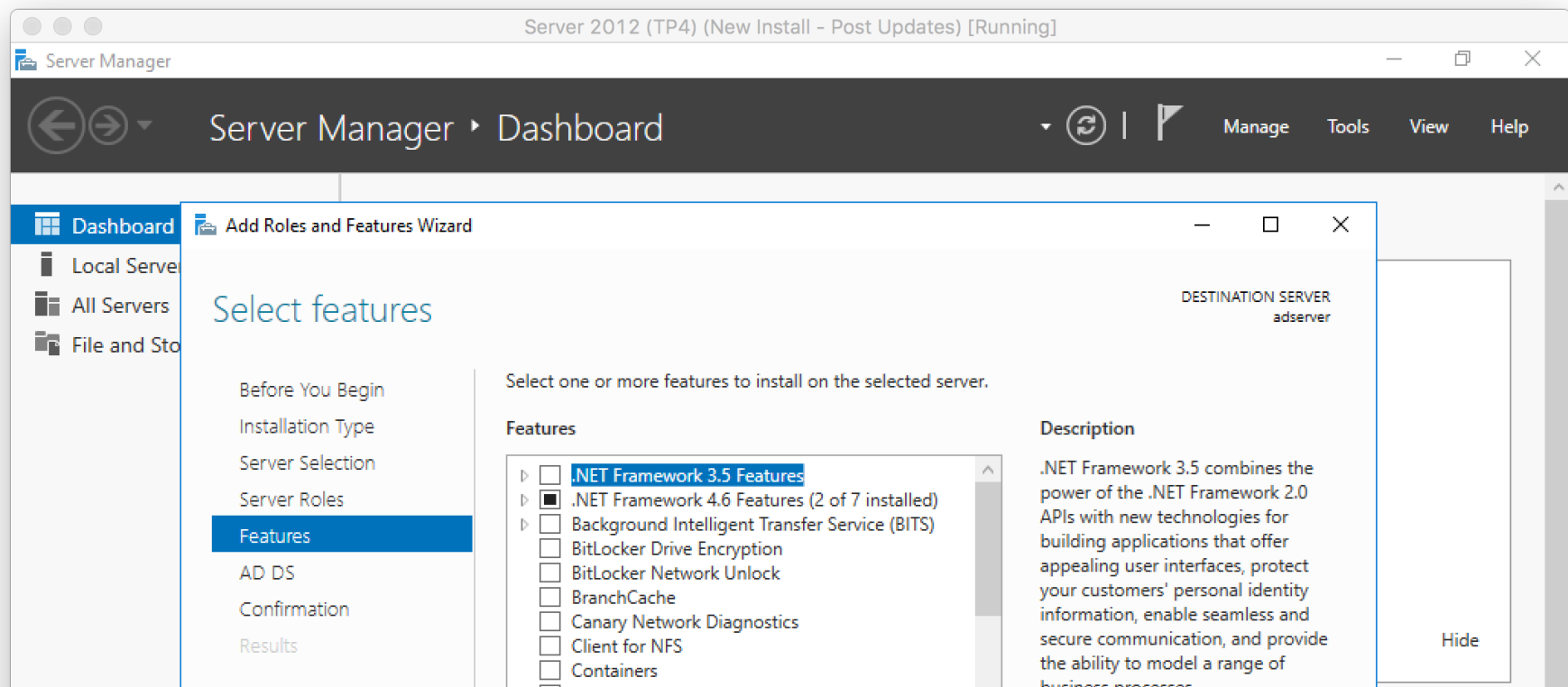


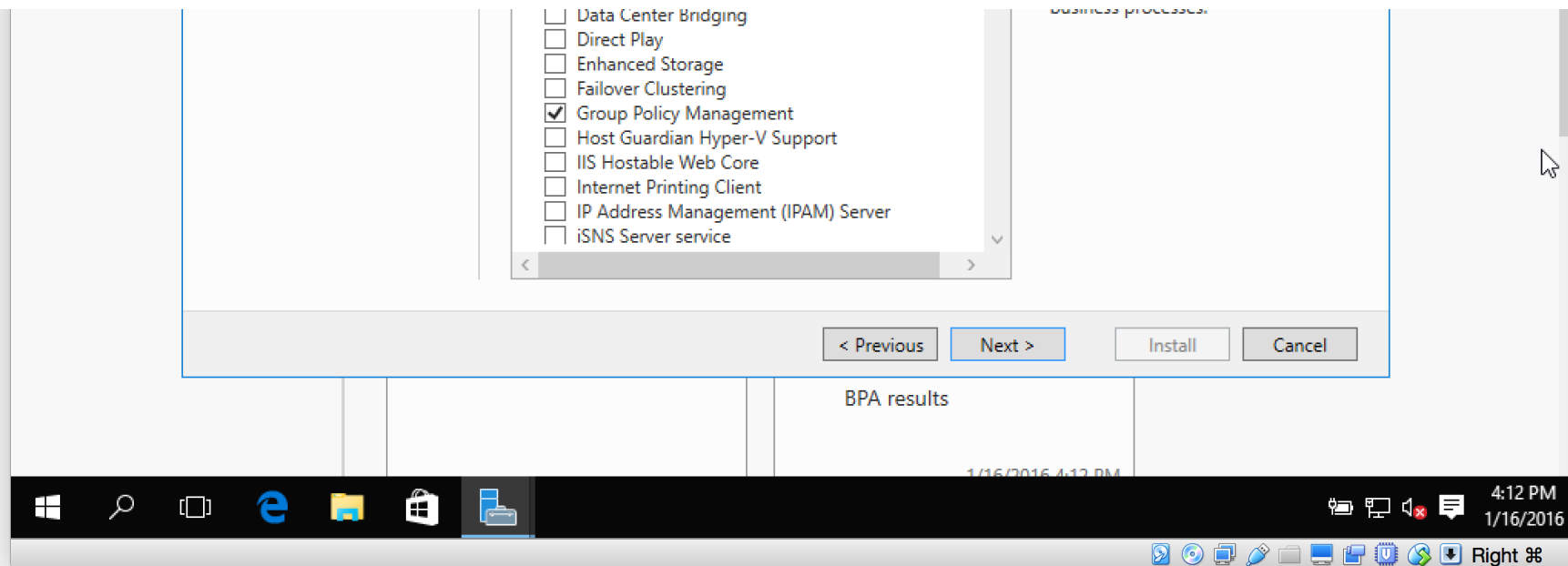
- Click **Add Features**.



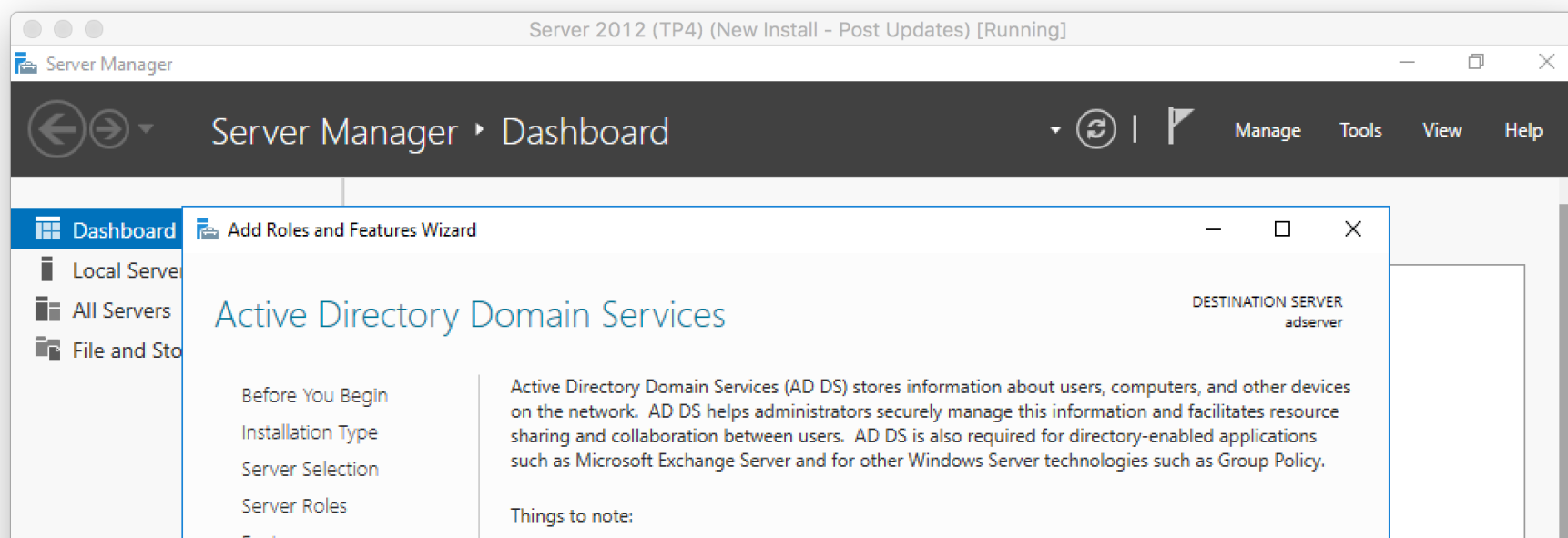


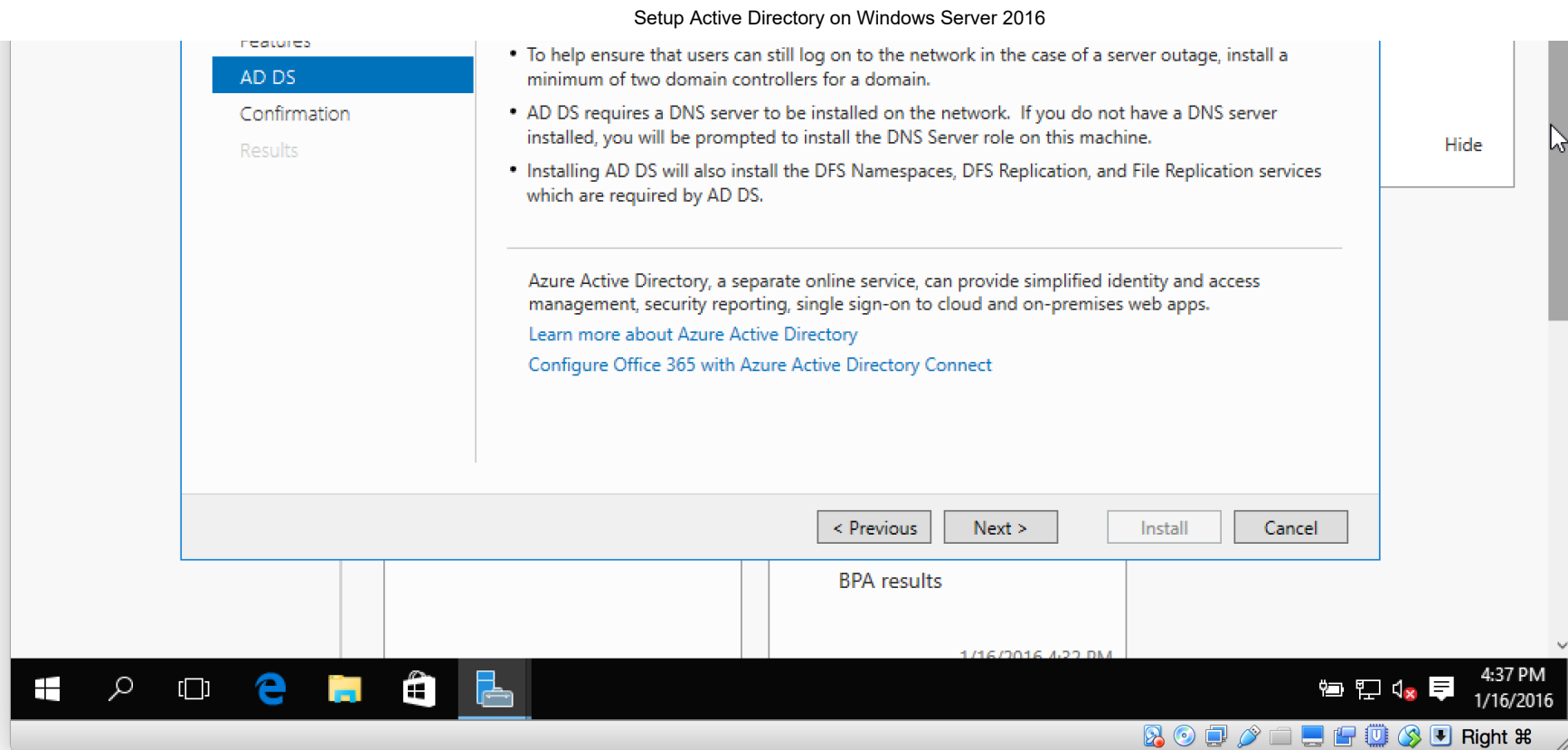
- You shouldn't have to select anything at the Select features, so just select **Next**.



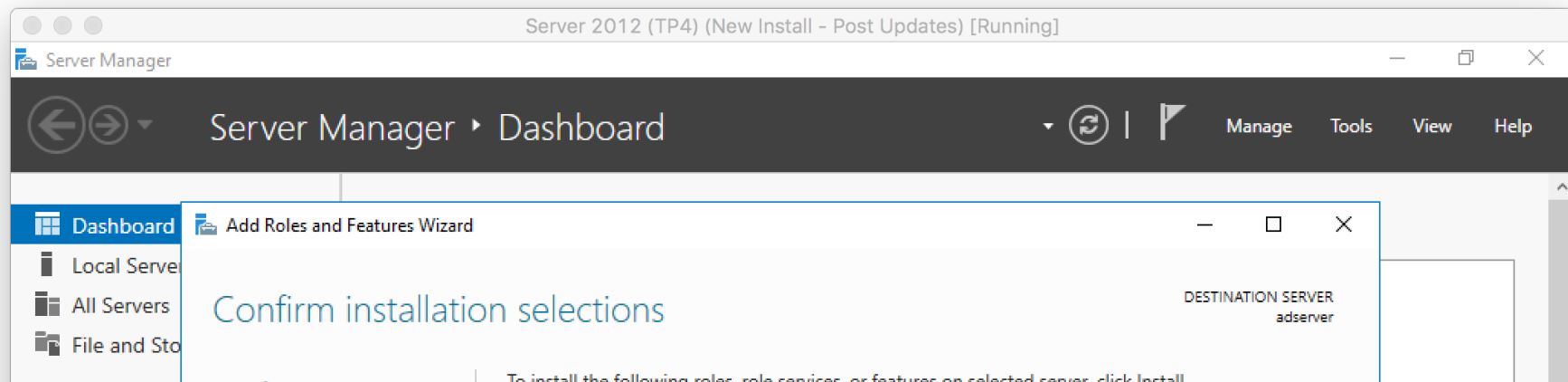


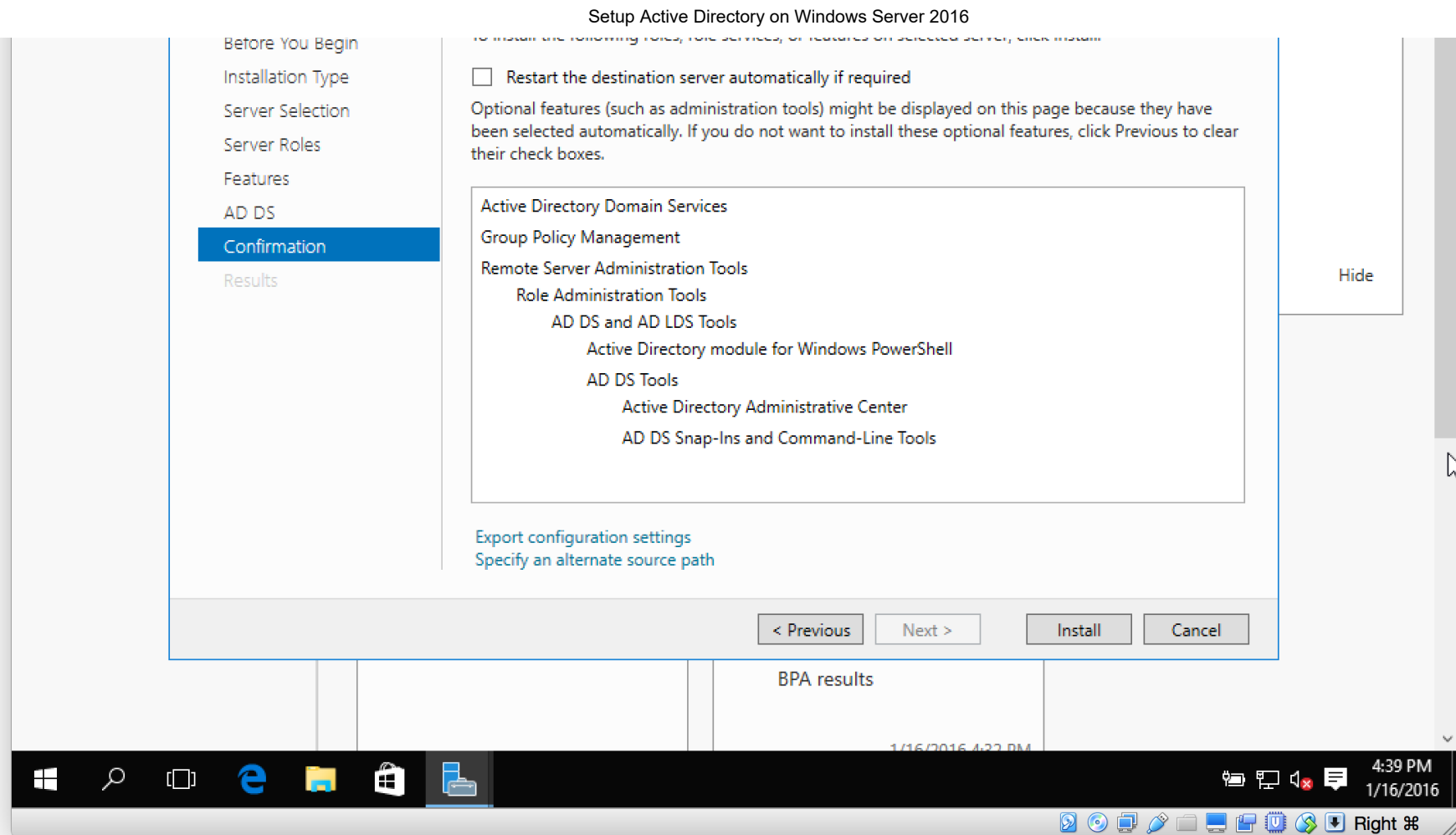
- Click **Next** in the **AD DS** section.



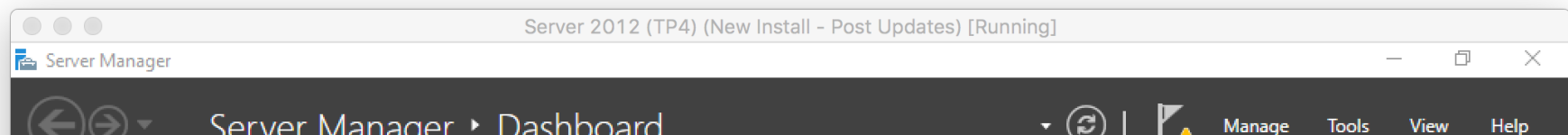


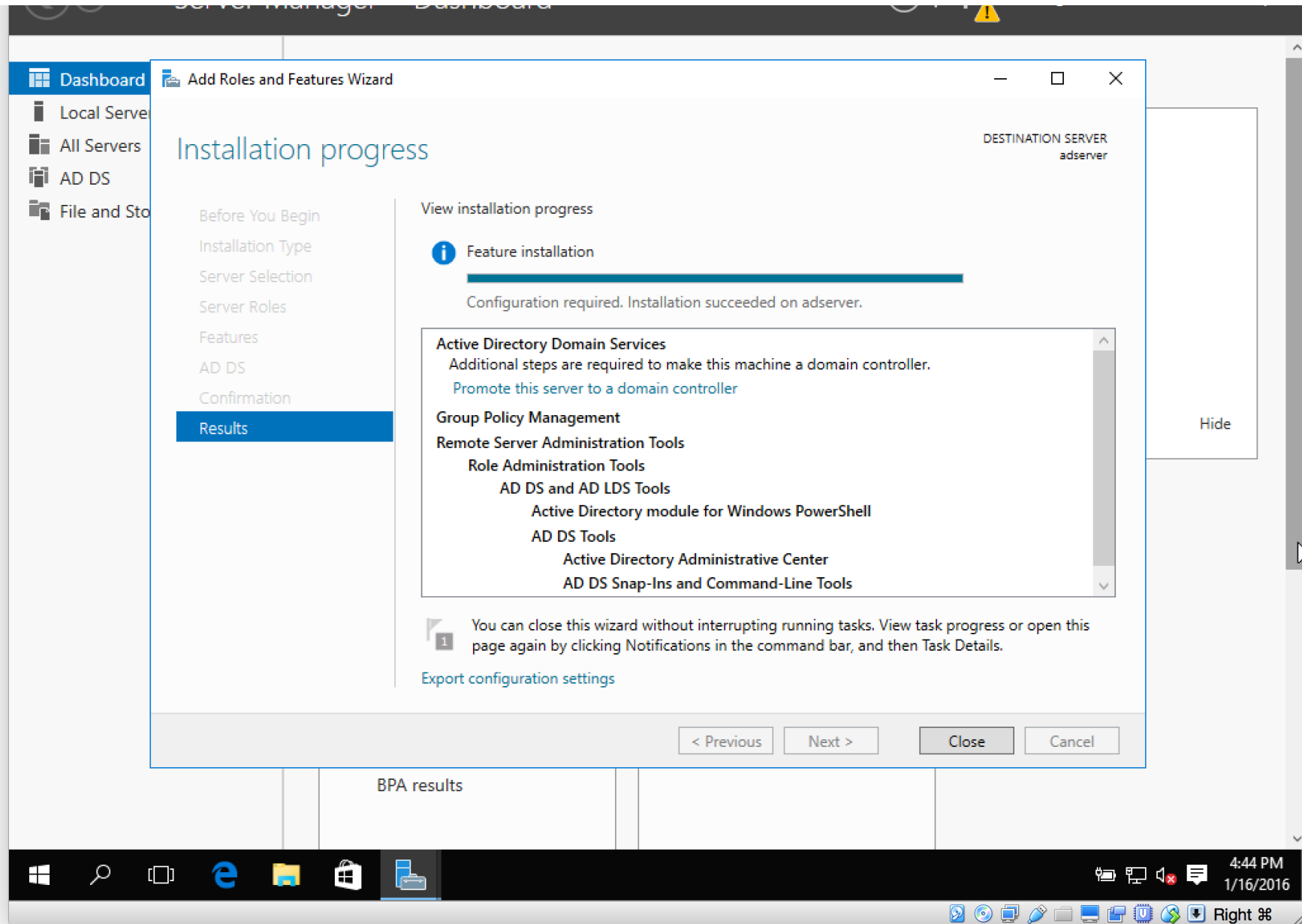
- On the **confirmation window**, review everything and then click **Install**.





- The installation will begin.
- When the installation is complete, you need to now promote the server to a domain controller.
- Click **Promote this server to a domain controller** (small hyperlink in the results window)





- Or, if you are like me and you clicked Close, **click on the yellow exclamation mark** in the upper-right section of the Server Manager Dashboard.

Server 2012 (TP4) (New Install - Post Updates) [Running]

Server Manager Dashboard

Manage Tools View Help

Dashboard

- Local Server
- All Servers
- AD DS
- File and Storage Services ▸

WELCOME TO SERVER MANAGER

1

QUICK START

WHAT'S NEW

LEARN MORE

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5 [Connect this server to cloud services](#)

Hide

Post-deployment Configuration

Configuration required for Active Directory Domain Services at ADSERVER

Promote this server to a domain controller

Feature installation

Configuration required. Installation succeeded on adserver.

[Add Roles and Features](#)

Task Details

ROLES AND SERVER GROUPS

Roles: 2 | Server groups: 1 | Servers total: 1

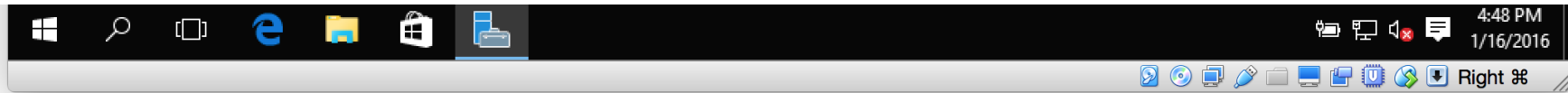
Role	Count
AD DS	1
File and Storage Services	1

AD DS

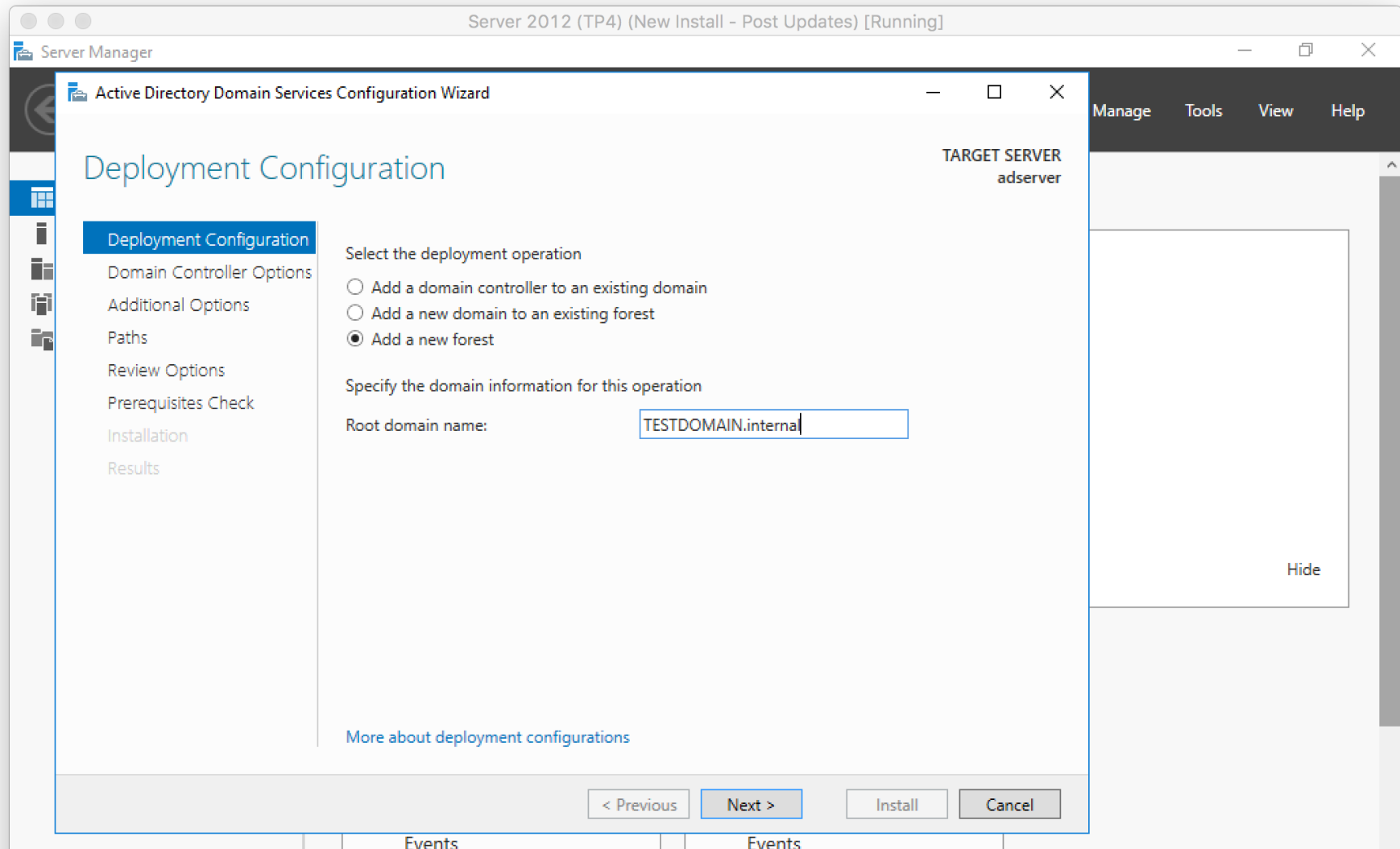
- Manageability
- Events
- Services
- Performance
- BPA results

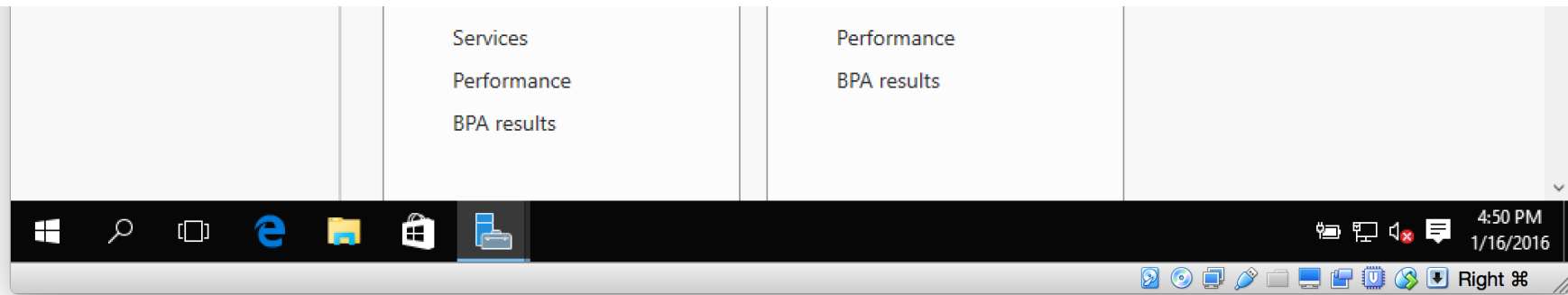
File and Storage Services

- Manageability
- Events
- Performance
- BPA results

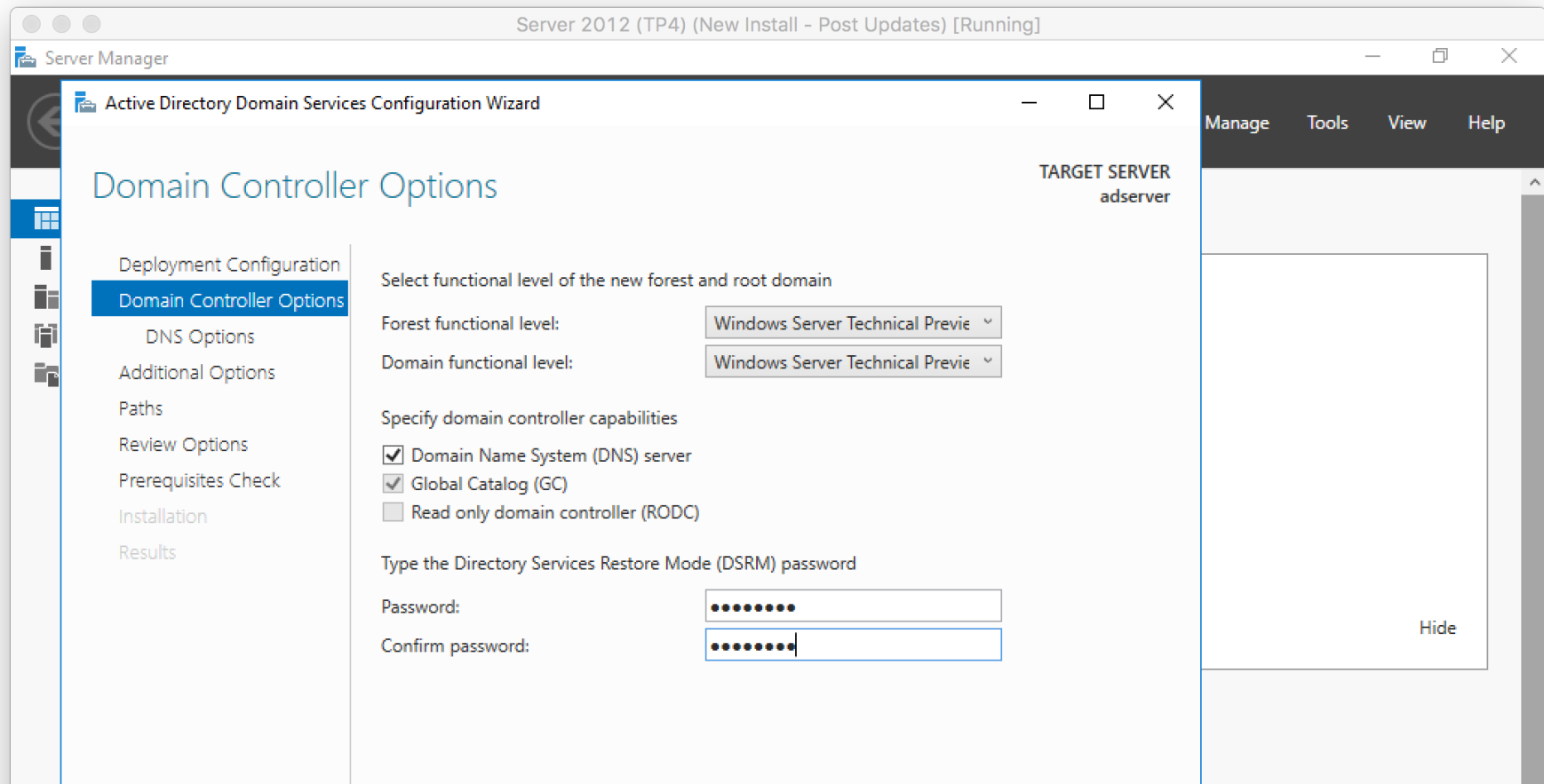


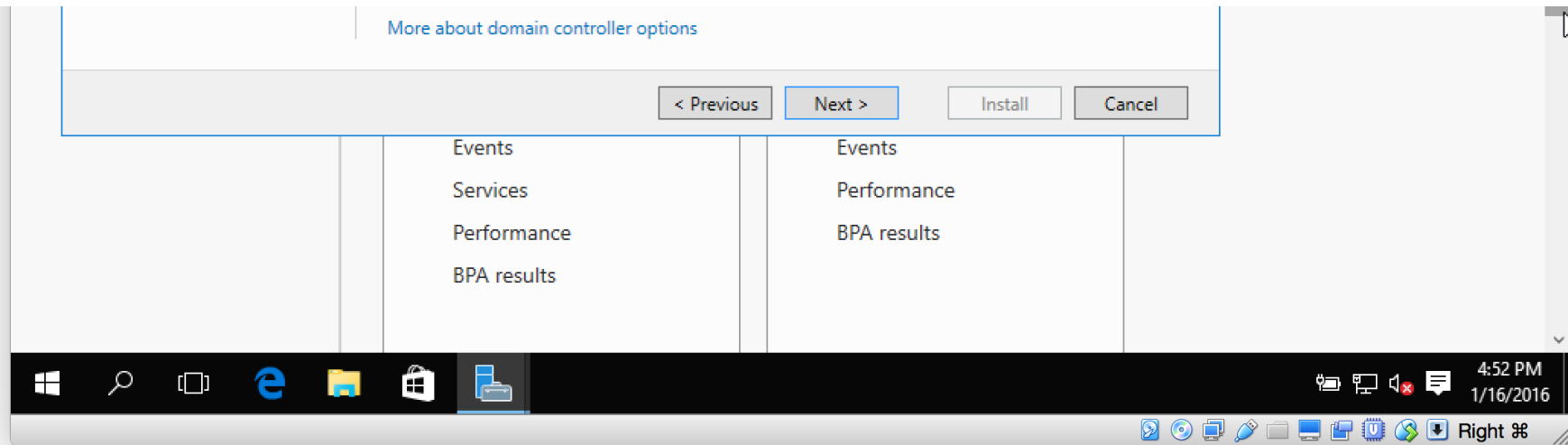
- Select **Add a new forest**, type in a domain name that you want to use (pro-tip: use something like <something>.internal), then click **Next**.



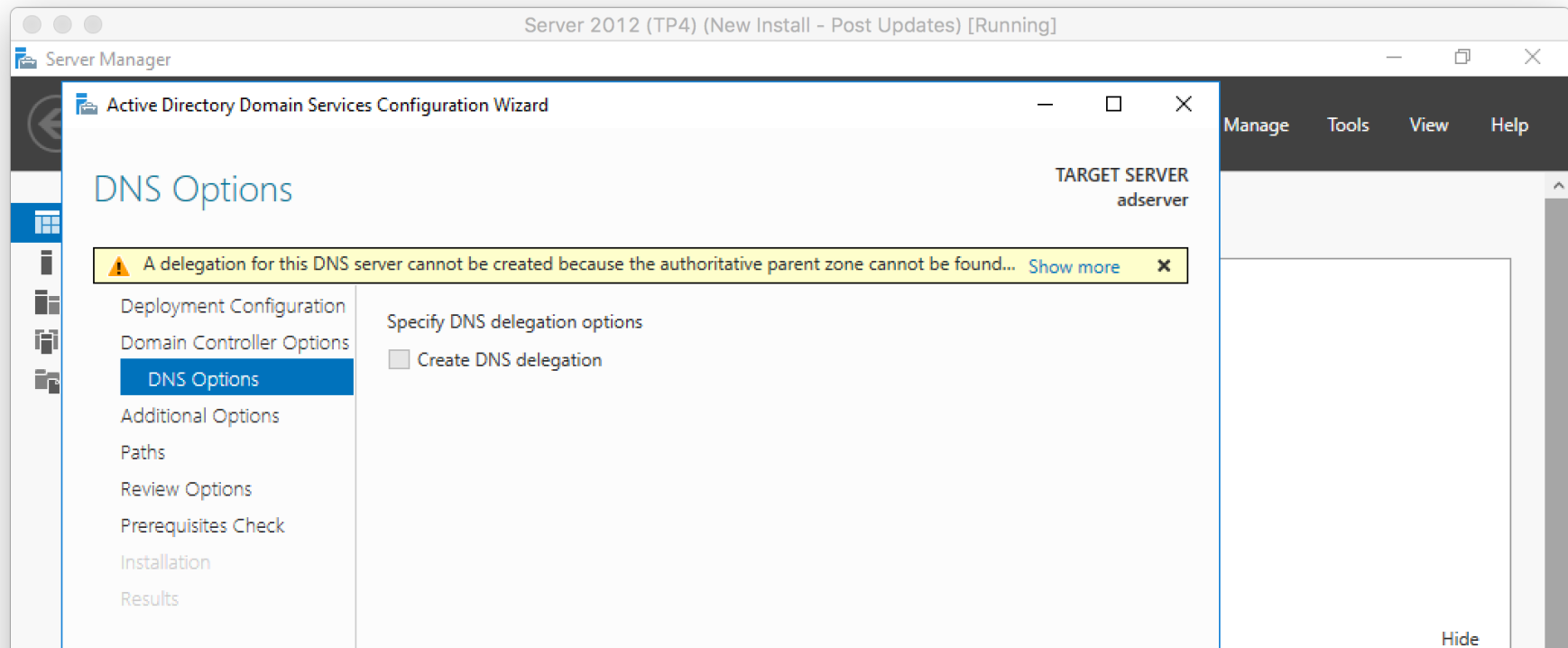


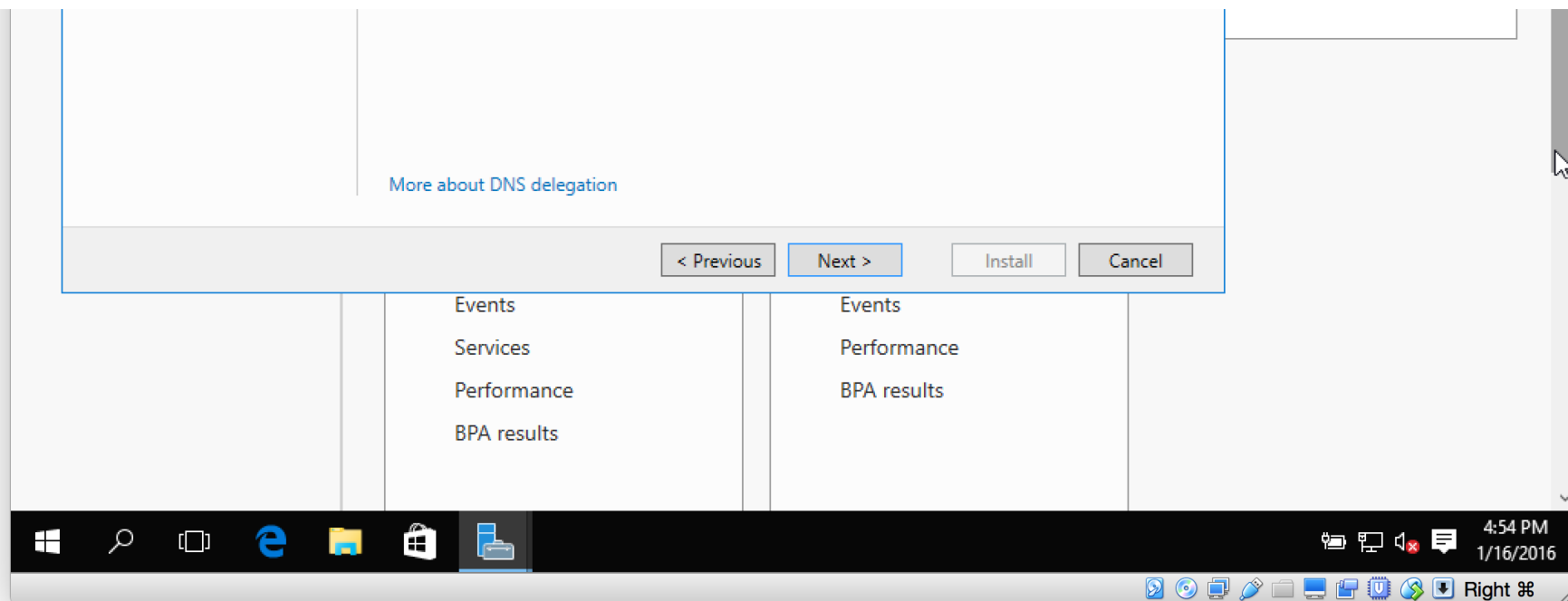
- Type in a password you want to use for DSRM, then click **Next**.





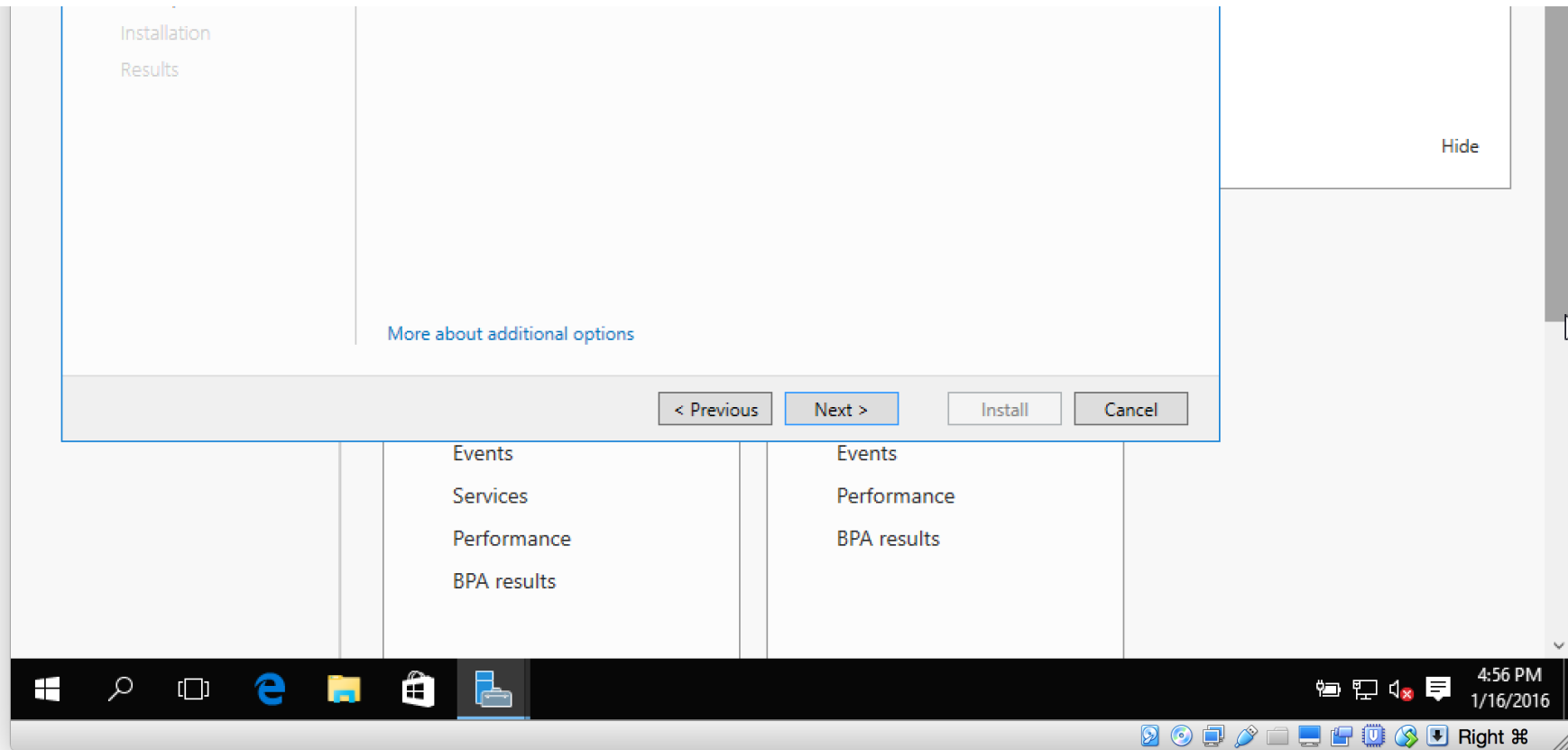
- Click **Next** on the **NDS Options** page.



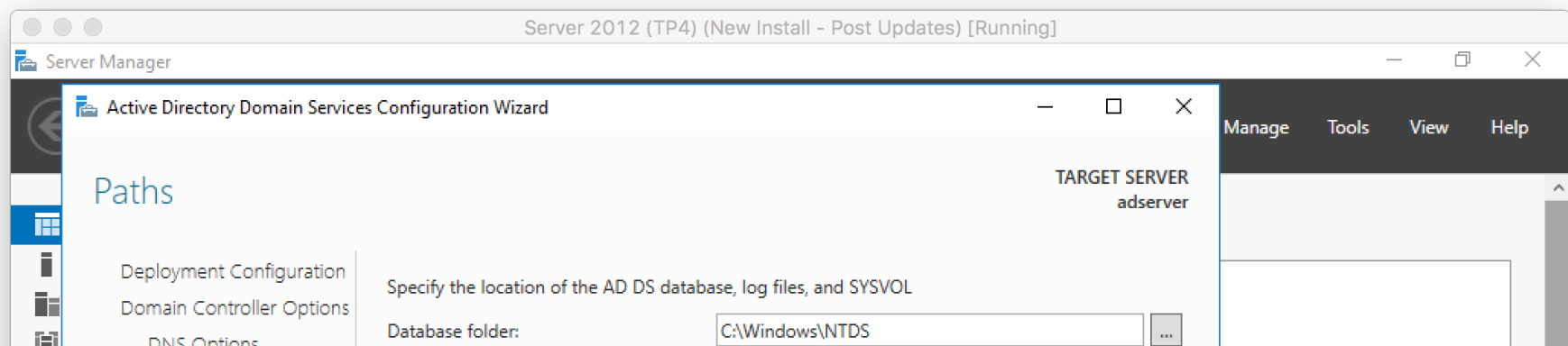


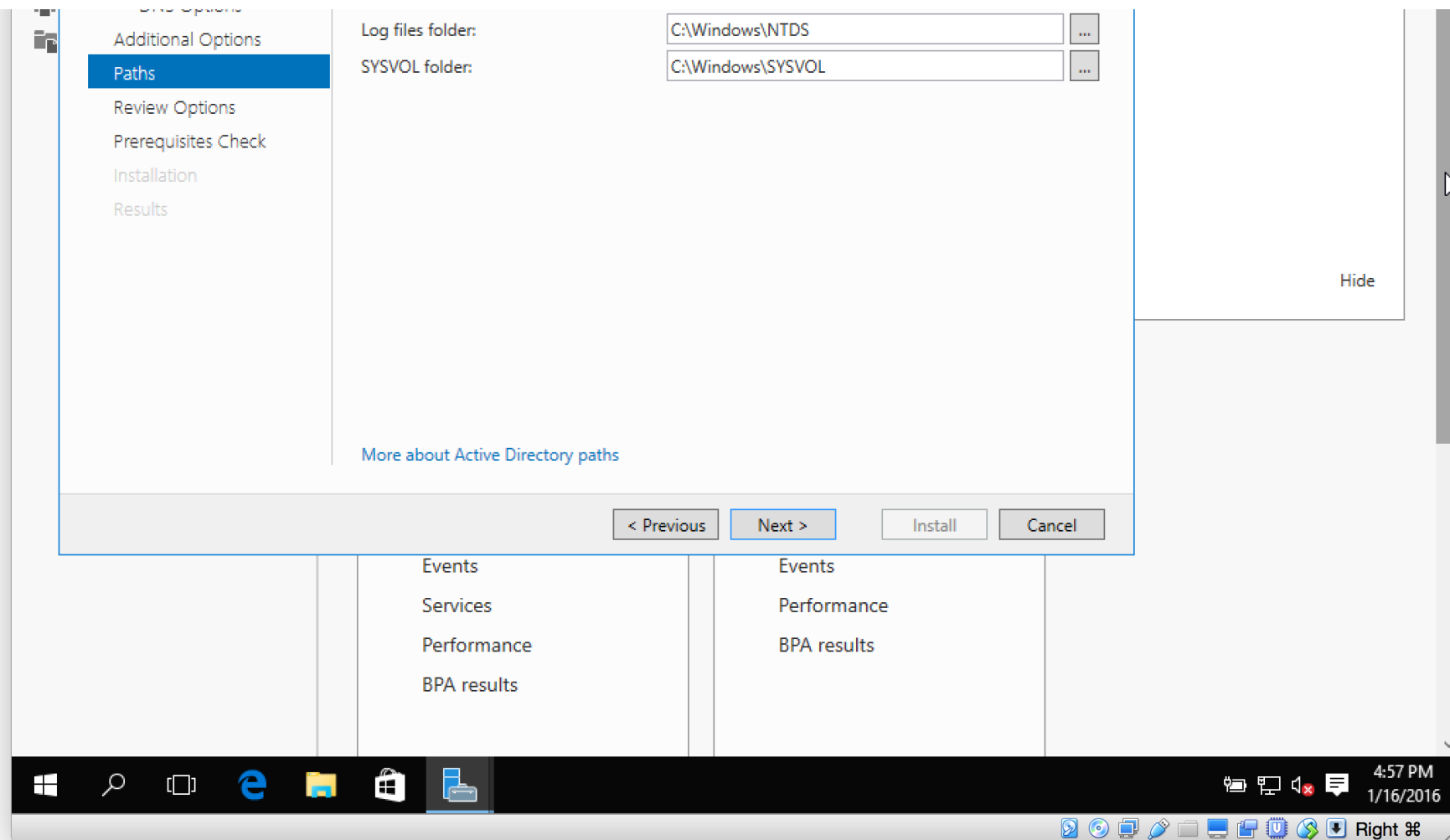
- Click **Next** in the **Additional Options** page.



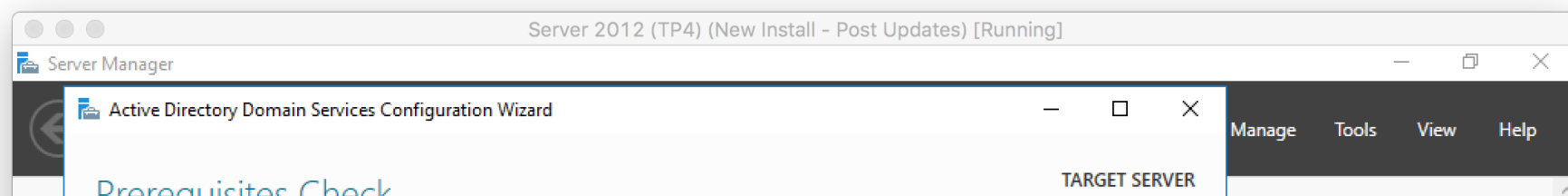


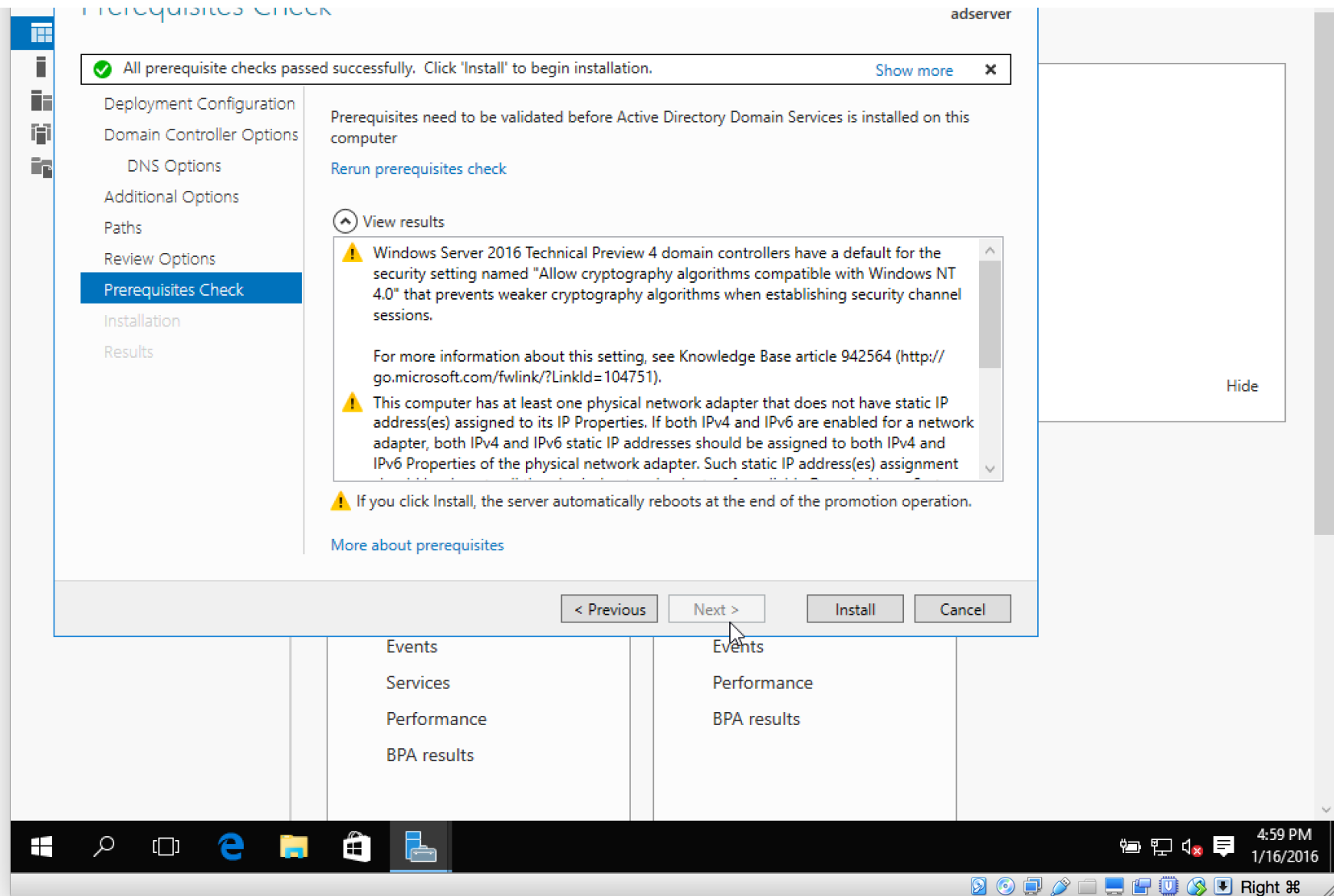
- Click **Next** on the **Paths** sections.





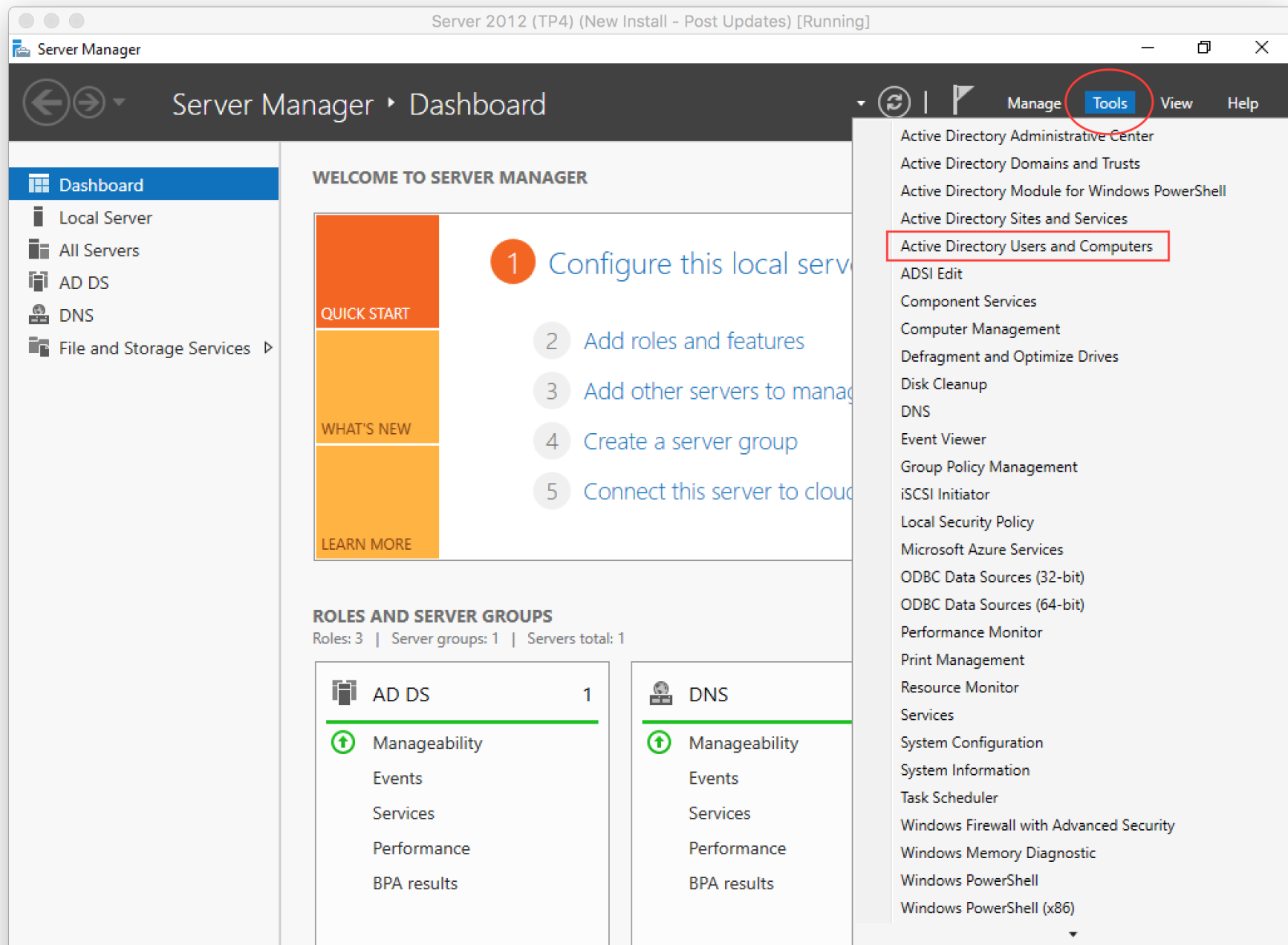
- Click **Next** on the **Review Options** screen, then click **Install** on the **Prerequisites Check** page.

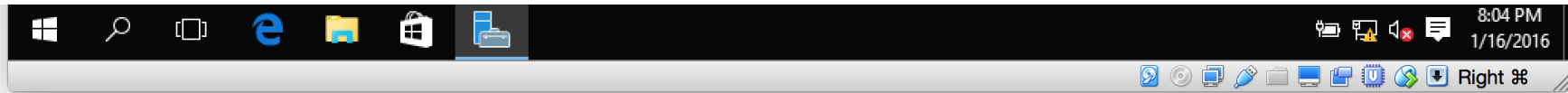




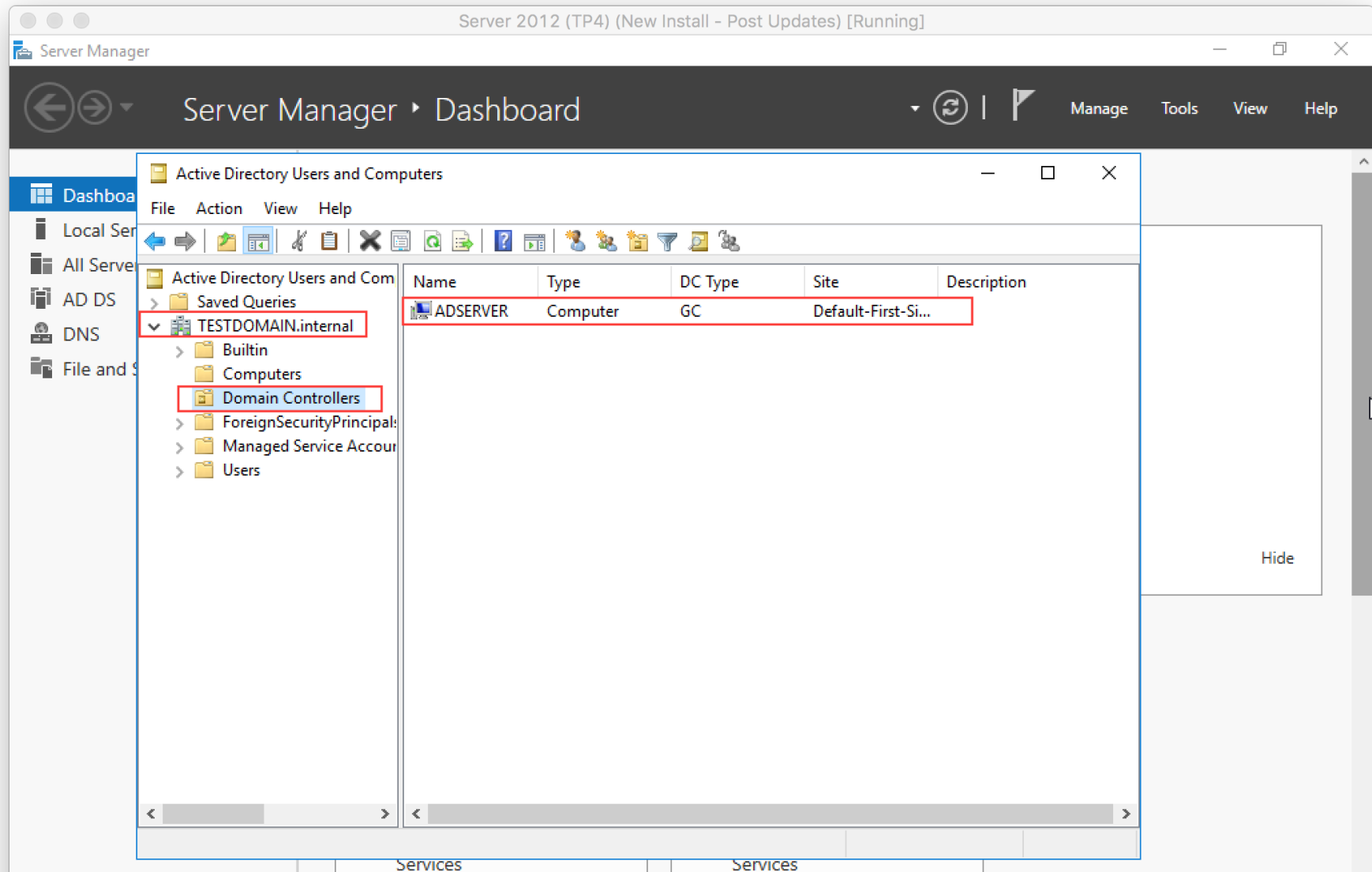
- The installation (promotion process) will begin. The server will reboot during this process.
- When the installation is complete, log back in (this time you will be logging into the server with domain credentials).

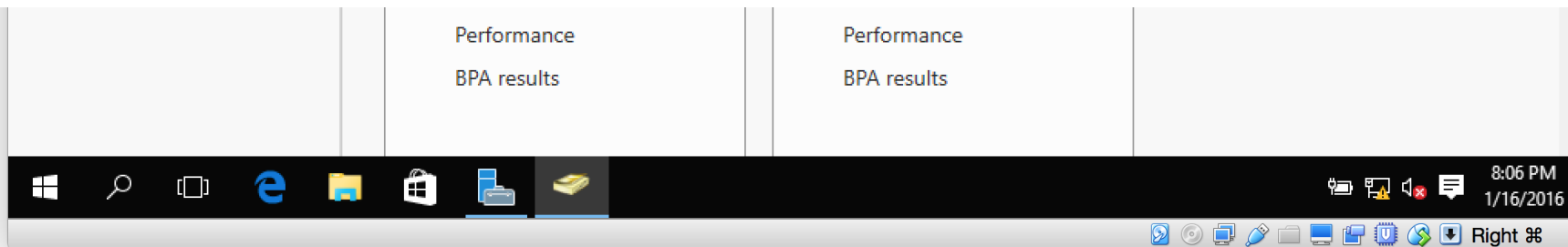
- Let's verify Active Directory is setup and our server is classified as a DC (domain controller).
- From within **Server Manager**, click **Tools** then **Active Directory Users and Computers**.



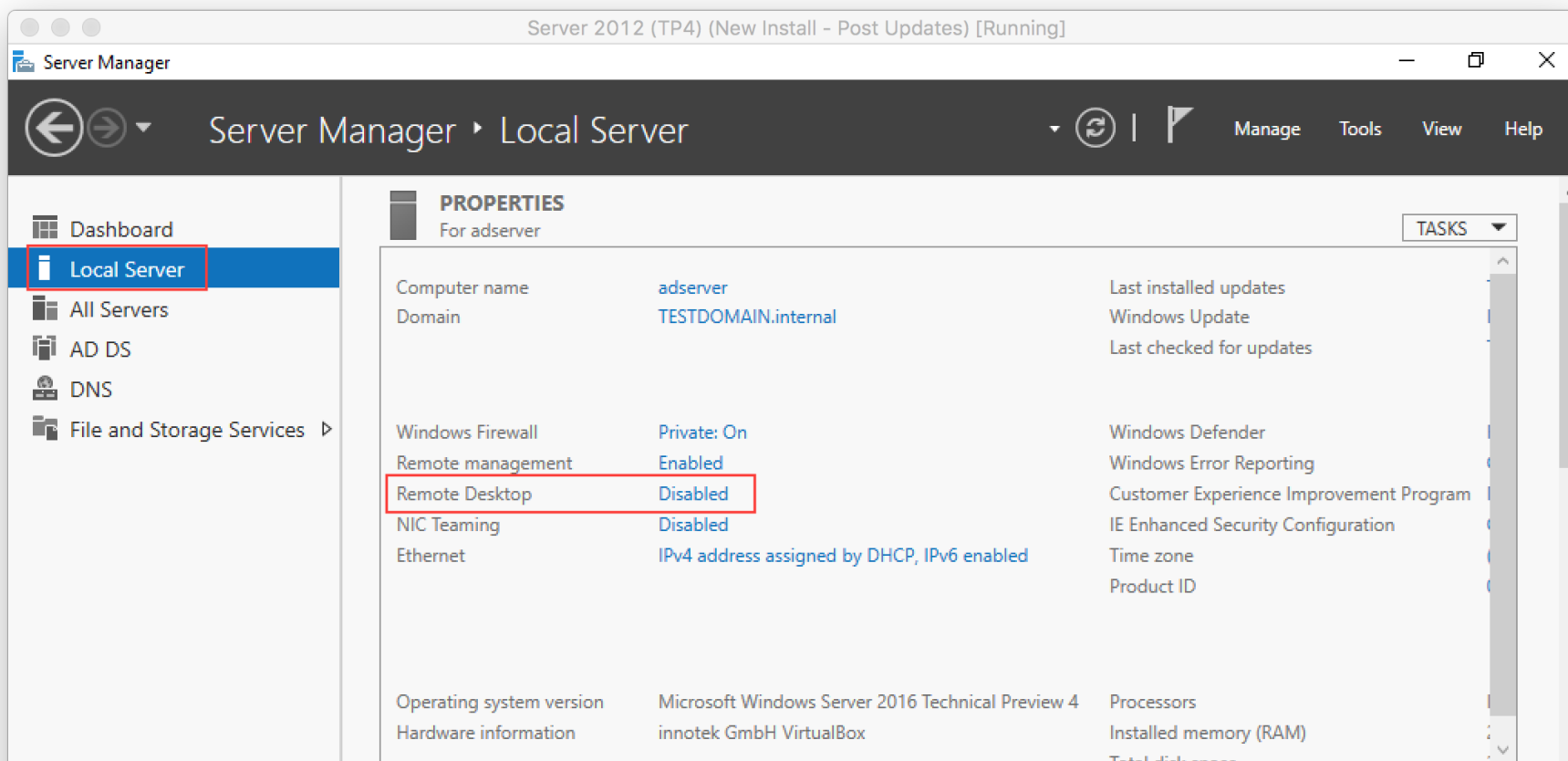


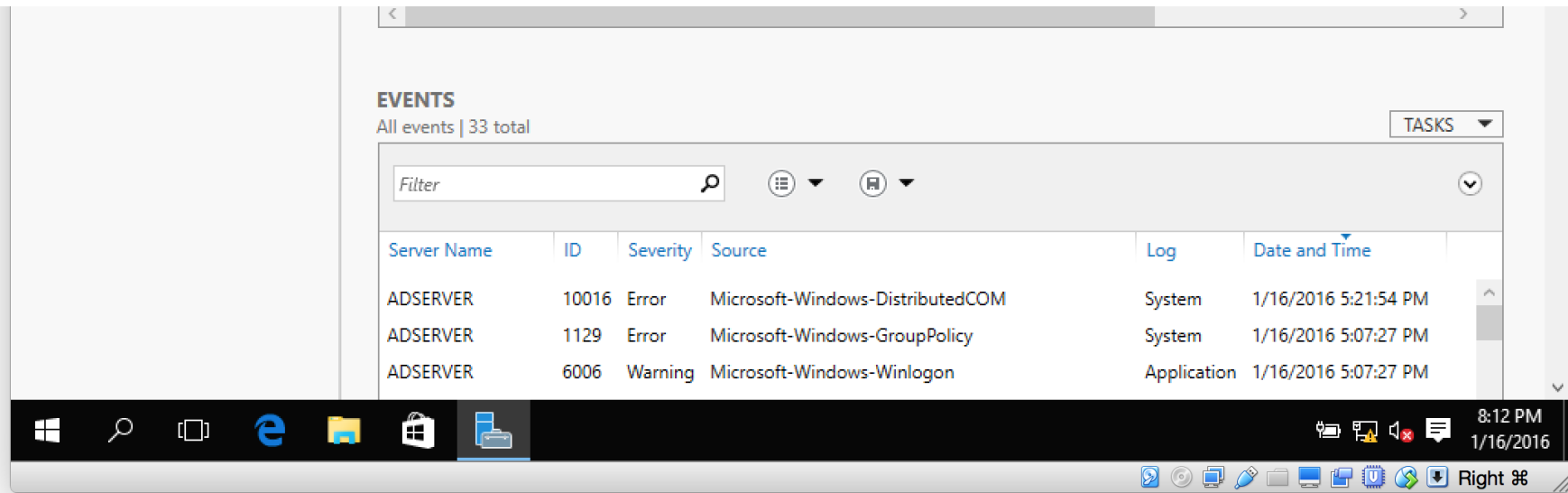
- **Expand the domain root** (in my case, it's TESTDOMAIN.internal), then click on **Domain Controllers**.



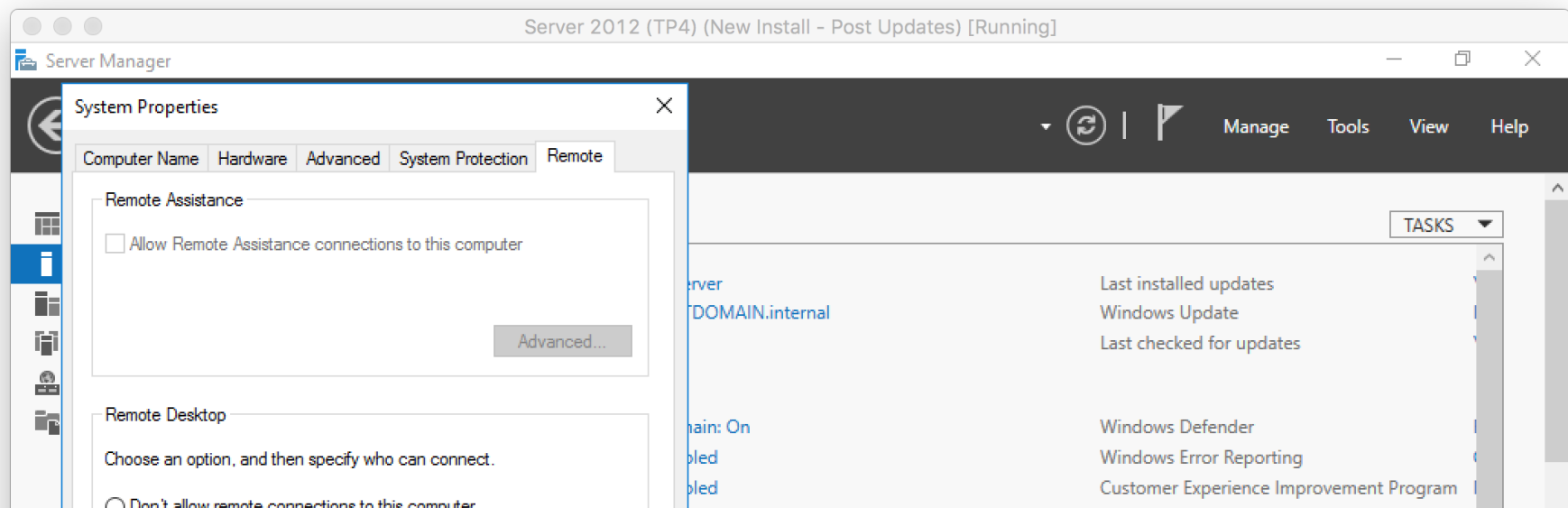


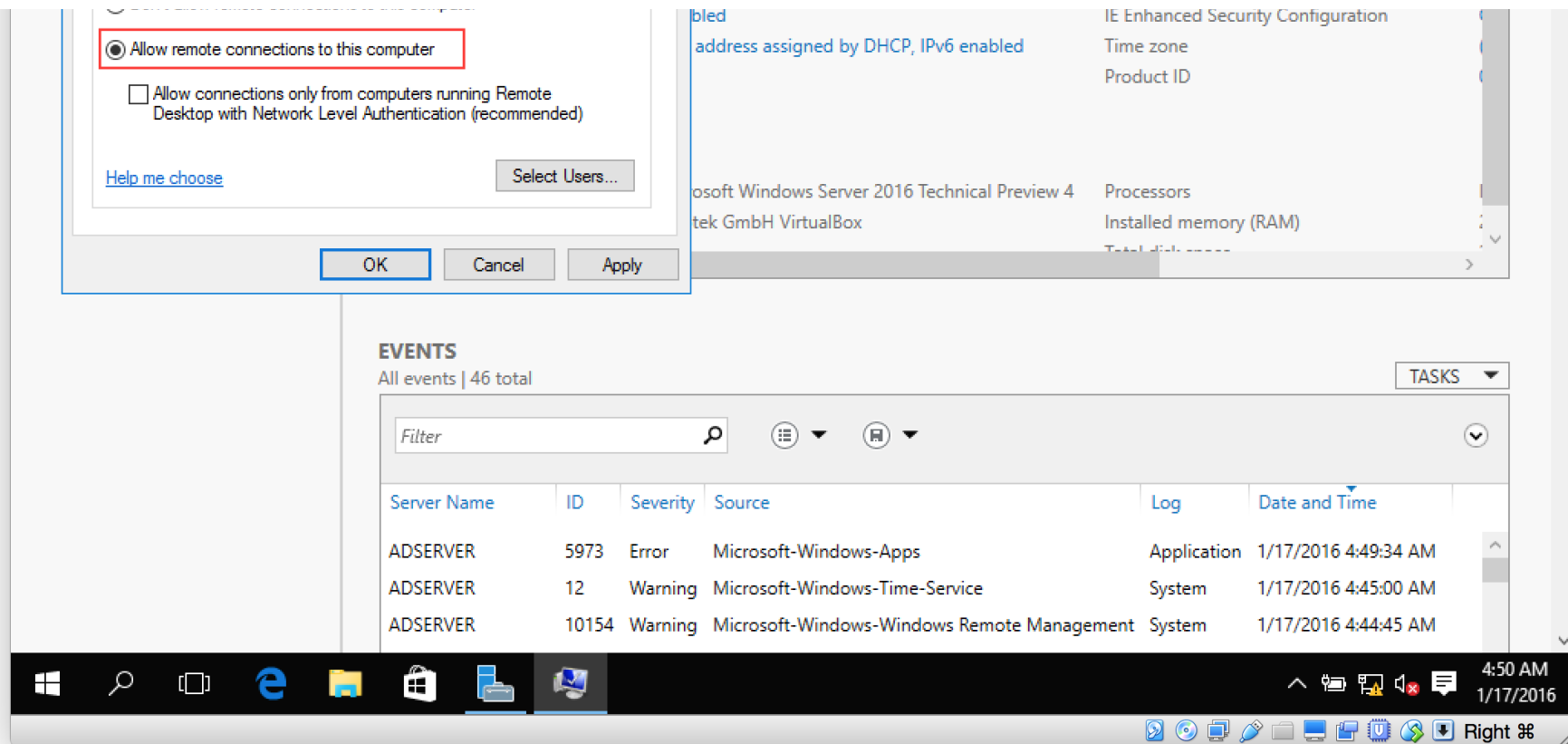
- You should see your new server being displayed.
- One last thing I want to do at this point is enable RDP (Remote Desktop Protocol).
- From **Server Manager Dashboard**, click **Local Server** then click **Disabled** next to Remote Desktop.





- Select **Allow remote connections to this computer**
- **Uncheck** the option **Allow connections only from computers running Remote Desktop with Network Level Authentication**, then click **OK**.





We are done with the basic Active Directory setup!

Next up: Configuring Active Directory OU (Organizational Unit) structure.

Server Basics 2016 Series Navigation

- Tutorial #1: [Downloading Windows Server 2016](#)
- Tutorial #2: [Installing Windows Server 2016](#)
- Tutorial #3: Setup Active Directory on Windows Server 2016 (this article)

- Tutorial #4: [OU Structure on Server 2016](#)
- Tutorial #5: [Create AD Users and Groups](#)
- Tutorial #6: [Setup DHCP Role on Server 2016](#)
- Tutorial #7: [Join Windows 10 to Domain – Server 2016](#)
- Tutorial #8: (coming soon)

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