

Begin the Installation

With your trusty USB/DVD in hand, create your VM or, if you're installing on dedicated hardware, slot in your media and power up the <u>PC</u>. I'll be installing Windows Server 2016 Essentials in a Virtualbox VM (so I can grab screenshots of the installation process). I simply created a VM (using the Other Windows 64-bit option) with 4 GB RAM and a 120 GB hard drive – more than sufficient for a quick installation. Obviously, you can vary your own configuration to your needs.

You'll see a brief loading status bar (that was too quick for me to capture) before a familiar looking panel appears. I left the defaults with US settings, but you can tailor language and other regional settings should you need to.

Windows Server 2016 Essentials [Running]
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1 Mindows Carrier 2010 Technical Davisor F
windows Server [®] 2016 Technical Preview 5
Language to install: English (United States)
Time and currency format: English (United States)
Keyboard or input method: US
Enter your language and other preferences and click "Next" to continue
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Just like in previous releases, you'll be presented with a large **Install now** button, alongside an option to **Repair your computer.**



Click **Install now** and you'll be greeted with a reassuring screen informing you that **Setup is starting**.

Setup is starting

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Your next job is to activate the <u>software</u>. On the Technet page you visited to download the software, you should have spotted an activation key for the evaluation release. If you didn't, at the time of writing, it's **NYK9H-Y2FDB-2XKGC-F2XHK-WTT88** but expect that to change at some point.

		X	
G	🕑 💰 Windows Setup		
	Activate Windows		
	If this is the first time you're installing \ you need to enter a valid Windows pro email you received after buying a digit Windows came in.	Nindows on this PC (or you're installing a differ duct key. Your product key should be in the cor al copy of Windows or on a label inside the box	ent edition), firmation that
	The product key looks like this: XXXXX	-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX	
	If you're reinstalling Windows, select I a automatically activated later.	don't have a product key. Your copy of Window	s will be
	1		
	<u>P</u> rivacy statement	I don't have a product key	Next
lecting information	2 Installing Windows		

You can choose to skip activation, but you will be required to enter a key at some point, so why not get the job done up front? Enter the key and hit **Next**.

MICROSOFT PRE-RELEASE SOFTWARE LICENSE TERMS MICROSOFT WINDOWS SERVER These license terms are an agreement between Microsoft Corporation (or based on where you live, or if a business, where your principal place of business is located, one of its affiliates) and you. If you are entering into this agreement on behalf of an entity, such as your employer, you represent that you have the legal authority to bind that entity. Please read them. They apply to the pre-release software named above, which includes the media on which you received it, if any. The terms also apply to any Microsoft: updates, supplements. 	Next

Carefully read and make notes on the <u>Windows</u> Server 2016 License terms (or just hit Next to skip them) and you'll be asked to select an installation type. As this is a clean install (<u>Microsoft</u> are recommending a clean installation of Windows Server 2016, although I'm sure IT Pros out there will be developing migration walkthroughs for older editions) we'll select **Custom.**



You'll be presented with a list of your <u>hard drives</u>. I'd always recommend installing the OS on a standalone hard drive, dedicating additional drives for data. Separating the OS from your data ensures that you can reinstall the OS (if you need to) without fear of impacting your data. <u>Note</u> that Windows Server 2016 does not allow ATA/PATA/IDE/EIDE connections for boot, page, or data drives as stated in the hardware requirements.

🕑 💰 Windows Setup Where do you	want to install Wi	ndows?	¢,	
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€ <u>R</u> efresh <u>L</u> oad driver	Delete	Eormat	<mark>∦</mark> N <u>e</u> w	
				<u>N</u>

The standard options are available here for creating/deleting partitions and formatting drives you wish to wipe. If your chosen drive hasn't been previously partitioned, use the **New** option to create the required configuration. <u>Windows</u> Server will reserve some space of the drive for who knows what, following which you're good to go.

Where do you want to install Windows?
Name Total size Fire space Type Orive 0 Unaflocated Space 128.0 GB 120.0 GB
Pe
≪g Extrack ∑Delets @Ecremat + Hew @ Load driver ⊇E Extrand Size 122000 ± M8 Apply General
Beat

Name Total s	e Free space Type	
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Windows Setup		
To ensure that all Windows features work of additional partitions for system files.	onectly, Windows might create	
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🕐 🍕 Windows Setup		
🚱 🎪 Windows Setup Where do you want to install Windows?		
Where do you want to install Windows?	a - Ess carp T	
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Where do you want to install Windows?	ie Freespace Type 8 4828 MB System 8 11935 GB Frierary	
Where do you want to install Windows? Where do you want to install Windows? Name Total S Dived Partition 1: System Reserved 500.0 A Dived Partition 2 1135 (e Freespace Type 8 4838 MB System 8 1195 GB Primery	
Windows Setup Where do you want to install Windows? Name Total System Reserved 500.00 Drive 0 Partition 1: System Reserved 500.00 Drive 0 Partition 2 11351	e Fise space Type 8 453 8 MB System 8 119 5 GB Primery # Nov	
Where do you want to install Windows? Where do you want to install Windows? Name Total & Drive 0 Particion 1: System Reserved 5000 A Drive 0 Particion 2 113 51 Drive 0 Particion 2 113 51	ie Freespace Type 8 483.8 MB System 8 1109.5 GB Primary # Nov	

Selecting **Next** kicks off the installation.



As usual, <u>Windows</u> Server should be happy enough to install from here without intervention. As I mentioned earlier, my attempts to install TP5 on physical hardware have been blocked by reasonably strange bluescreens and complaints of missing drivers. Fingers crossed those issued will be sorted out in the final release.

My VM installation was far better behaved. Installation completed in a few minutes and, following a couple of reboots, <u>Windows</u> Server 2016 Essentials is ready for configuration.

Customize settings

Type a password for the built-in administrator account that you can use to sign in to this computer.

User name	Administrator		
Password			
Reenter password			
Ċ /		X	Finish