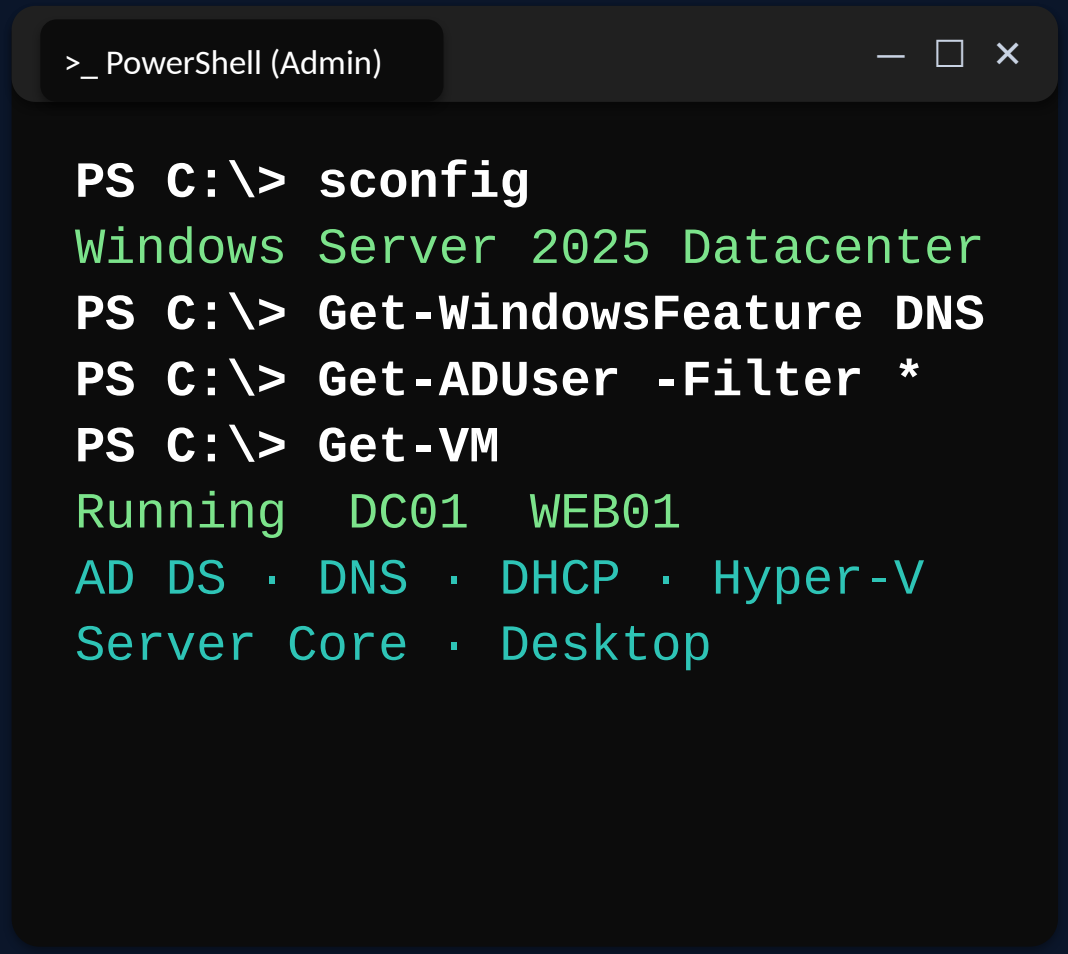


LESSON 2 OF 12

Windows Server 2025

Install · AD · Hyper-V · Admin

Installing and First Configuration: Desktop Experience & Server Core

Full Course · Windows Server 2025 (build 26100)

What You Will Learn in Lesson 2

- Installing Windows Server 2025 step by step
- Server Core: the sconfig menu
- First configuration with PowerShell: name, IP, DNS, time zone
- Updates, activation, and converting an evaluation
- Upgrading older servers in place
- Living with Server Core: what is (and is not) there
- Lab: configure DC01 and SRV01 on the LabNet network

Installing Windows Server, Step by Step

Step	What you do
1. Boot	From the ISO or USB (generation 2 VM: DVD first)
2. Language	Language, time and keyboard, then 'Install Windows Server'
3. Edition	Standard or Datacenter — with or without 'Desktop Experience'
4. License	Accept the terms; evaluation needs no key
5. Disk	Choose the disk; Setup creates the partitions
6. Password	Set a strong password for the local Administrator

Server Core: The sconfig Menu

```
===============================================================
            Welcome to Windows Server 2025 Datacenter
===============================================================
 1) Domain/workgroup:                  Workgroup: WORKGROUP
 2) Computer name:                     WIN-8K2L0A1B2C3
 3) Add local administrator
 4) Remote management:                 Enabled
 6) Update setting:                    Download only
 7) Install updates
 8) Remote desktop:                    Disabled
 9) Network settings
10) Date and time
13) Restart          14) Shut down          15) Exit to PowerShell
```

First Configuration with PowerShell

```
PS C:\> Get-NetAdapter                                  # note the adapter name
PS C:\> New-NetIPAddress -InterfaceAlias Ethernet -IPAddress 10.0.0.10 -PrefixLength 24
PS C:\> Set-DnsClientServerAddress -InterfaceAlias Ethernet -ServerAddresses 10.0.0.10
PS C:\> Set-TimeZone -Id 'Pacific Standard Time'        # Get-TimeZone -ListAvailable
PS C:\> Rename-Computer -NewName DC01 -Restart

PS C:\> Get-ComputerInfo -Property CsName, WindowsProductName, OsBuildNumber
CsName WindowsProductName                    OsBuildNumber
DC01   Windows Server 2025 Datacenter Evaluation 26100
```

The First-Configuration Checklist

Item	Why it matters
Meaningful name	DC01, FS01, WEB01 — never the random WIN-xxxx name
Static IP + correct DNS	Clients and other servers must always find it
Time zone and time sync	Kerberos fails if clocks differ by more than 5 minutes
All updates installed	Before it goes into production
Activation	Evaluation expires after 180 days
Remote management + firewall	Manage it without sitting at the console
Document it	Name, IP, roles, owner, purpose

Updates, Activation and Converting an Evaluation

```
# Updates: sconfig option 6 (setting) and 7 (install), or Settings > Windows Update (Desktop)
PS C:\> Get-HotFix | Sort-Object InstalledOn -Descending | Select-Object -First 3

C:\> slmgr /dlv                         # license status, evaluation days left
C:\> slmgr /ipk <your-product-key>      # install a key
C:\> slmgr /ato                         # activate

# Convert evaluation to a licensed edition (keeps your data):
C:\> DISM /Online /Get-CurrentEdition
C:\> DISM /Online /Get-TargetEditions
C:\> DISM /Online /Set-Edition:ServerStandard /ProductKey:<key> /AcceptEula
```

Upgrading Older Servers

Path	Notes
2012 R2, 2016, 2019, 2022 → 2025	In-place upgrade: up to four versions at once
Via Windows Update	Upgrade offer for eligible, managed servers
Via setup.exe	Mount the ISO, run setup.exe, choose 'Keep files, settings and apps'
Domain controllers	Best practice: add a NEW 2025 DC, move roles, retire the old one
Before any upgrade	Full backup, check app support, test in a lab, plan a rollback
Core vs Desktop	An upgrade keeps the same installation type

Living with Server Core

You still have	You do not have
PowerShell, cmd, sconfig	Start menu, File Explorer, Server Manager window
notepad, regedit, taskmgr, msinfo32	Most .msc consoles locally (use them remotely)
OpenSSH server (preinstalled)	Browser
Remote tools: Windows Admin Center, RSAT	A desktop to click around
App Compatibility FOD (optional)	— it adds Explorer, mmc and more tools

Handy Server Core Commands

```
PS C:\> sconfig                                      # back to the menu
PS C:\> Get-WindowsFeature | Where-Object Installed   # roles and features present
PS C:\> Get-NetIPConfiguration
PS C:\> Get-Service sshd ; Start-Service sshd ; Set-Service sshd -StartupType Automatic
PS C:\> Enable-NetFirewallRule -DisplayGroup 'Remote Event Log Management'
PS C:\> taskmgr ; notepad C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts
PS C:\> Restart-Computer ; Stop-Computer
PS C:\> logoff
```

Lab: Configure DC01 (Core) and SRV01 (Desktop)

```
# DC01 — install Datacenter (or Standard) WITHOUT Desktop Experience, then:
PS C:\> New-NetIPAddress -InterfaceAlias Ethernet -IPAddress 10.0.0.10 -PrefixLength 24
PS C:\> Set-DnsClientServerAddress -InterfaceAlias Ethernet -ServerAddresses 127.0.0.1
PS C:\> Set-TimeZone -Id 'Pacific Standard Time' ; Rename-Computer DC01 -Restart

# SRV01 — install WITH Desktop Experience, then:
PS C:\> New-NetIPAddress -InterfaceAlias Ethernet -IPAddress 10.0.0.20 -PrefixLength 24
PS C:\> Set-DnsClientServerAddress -InterfaceAlias Ethernet -ServerAddresses 10.0.0.10
PS C:\> Rename-Computer SRV01 -Restart
PS C:\> Test-Connection 10.0.0.10 -Count 2          # can SRV01 reach DC01?
```

Use your own time zone; DC01 points DNS to itself because it becomes the DNS server in Lesson 4.

Summary & Homework

- Choose the edition and installation type carefully — you cannot switch later
- sconfig or PowerShell: name, static IP, DNS, time zone, updates
- slmgr /dlv for license status; DISM /Set-Edition converts an evaluation
- In-place upgrade from 2012 R2+; new DCs instead of upgrading old ones
- Homework: install DC01 (Core) and SRV01 (Desktop) and configure both
- Homework: write your first-configuration steps as a .ps1 script

Thank You! 🙏

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YouTube: @MyWebUniversity · @MyWebUniversity-Dari

Wahidullah Lutfy — Founder and Director of IT of MyWebUniversity, and CS teacher

Book: The Direct Path to Linux Ubuntu (Amazon · Barnes & Noble)

Learn it, then pass it on.