

◆ Cybersecurity & Cloud Computing

PROJECT#2

ACTIVE DIRECTORY

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Microsoft

Active Directory

Submitted To :
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PowerShell

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Problem Definition

PART 1

1.1 Question

In this project, you deploy and configure Windows clients within an enterprise environment. It is worth 40% of your final grade. It consists of two main parts :

- Server configuration (here Windows 2025)
- Client configuration (here Windows 11)

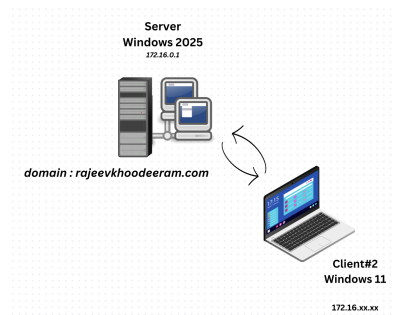


Figure 1.1: Current setup

1.2 Step 1. Optionally remove any existing virtual machines from the class within Hyper-V Manager on your Windows host .

Kindly note that with the exception of Windows 11 which is on VMFusion, the Windows 2025 server is on UTM. All these virtualization are on a MacBook Pro AppleM3 which acts as the host. Earlier versions of Windows could not be installed due to ARM architecture requirement of the MAC host.

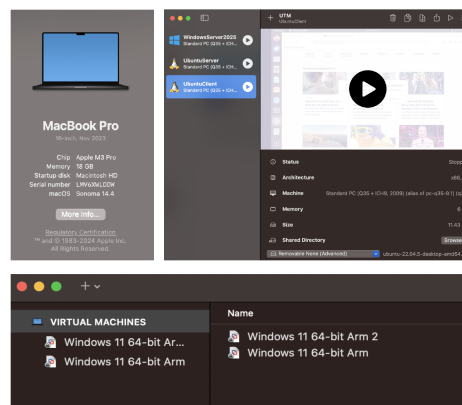


Figure 1.2: Configuration used in this project

Client and Server Configuration

PART 2

2.1 Target : This part will consist of configuring the server and as such covers Steps 2 to 6 as part of the Project.

2.2 Step 2 : Virtual Switches - External and Private

Ensure that you have the same two virtual switches within Hyper-V Manager that we used in class:

- An external virtual switch that is bound to the network interface on your host OS that provides Internet access

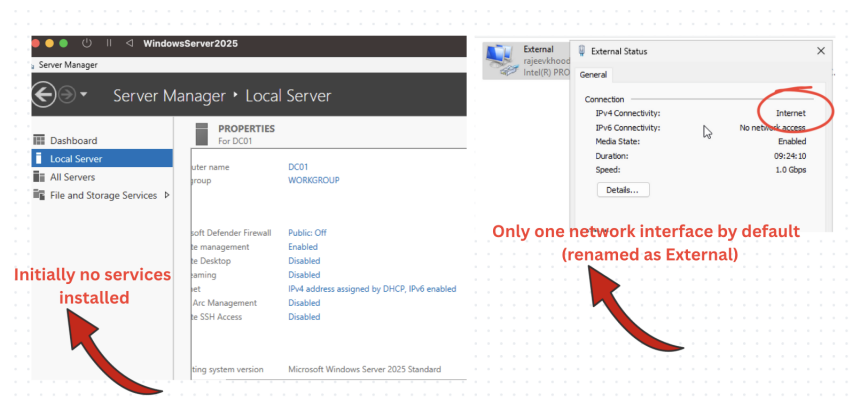


Figure 2.1: Initial setup with no Services and only one network interface - External

- A private virtual switch

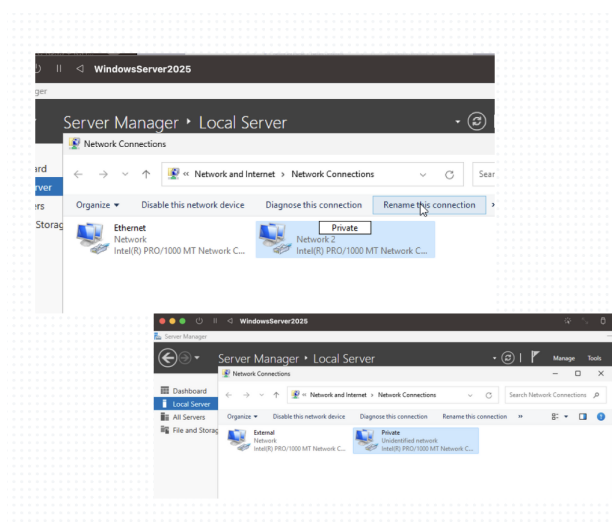


Figure 2.2: Adding a private switch or another network interface

2.3 Step 3 : Creating DC01 - Windows Server 2025 (*in my case !!*)

Create a Hyper-V virtual machine called DC01 (2GB of RAM minimum, connected to external virtual switch) and install Windows Server 2019 Standard Edition. In this section, the steps to install the Windows Server 2025 are listed.

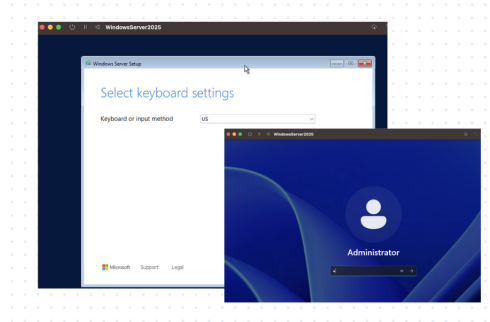


Figure 2.3: Installation of Windows Server 2025

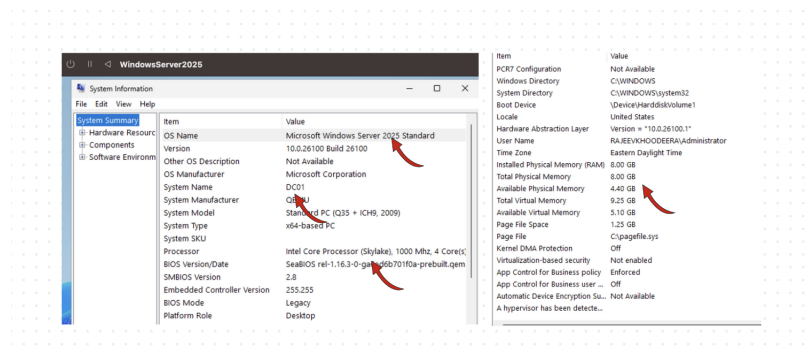


Figure 2.4: Properties of Windows Server 2025

2.4 Step 4 : Configuring Active Directory

On your DC virtual machine:

- Set the correct time/zone

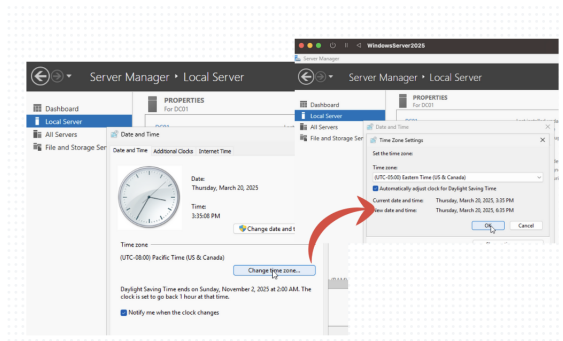


Figure 2.5: Changing Timezone

- **Disable Windows Firewall for all profiles**

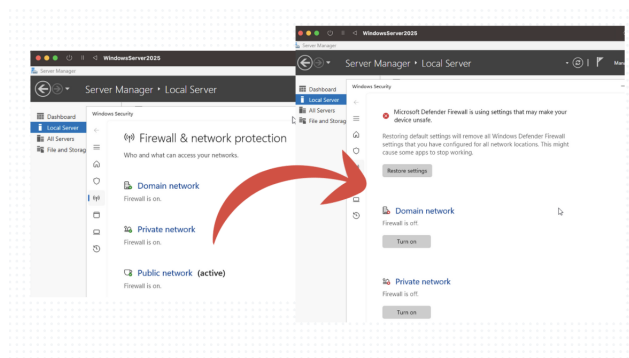


Figure 2.6: Disabling Windows Firewall

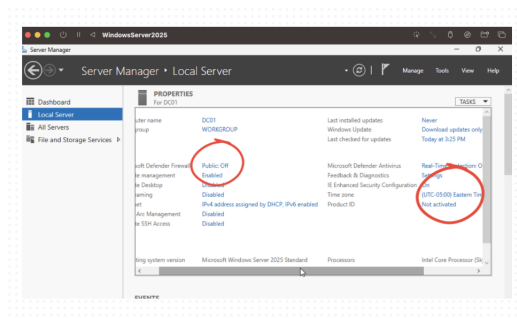


Figure 2.7: Checking timezone and firewall

- **Rename your network interface to External. Note the IP address obtained from DHCP on this External IP for a later step**

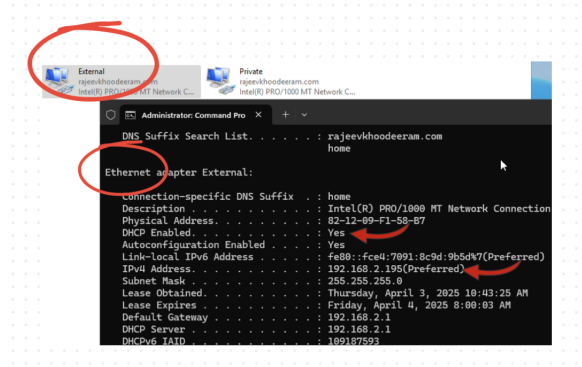


Figure 2.8: External interface and its DHCP address (here *192.168.2.195*) which will be used later for Wkstn01

- Change the computer name to DC01 (rebooting afterwards).

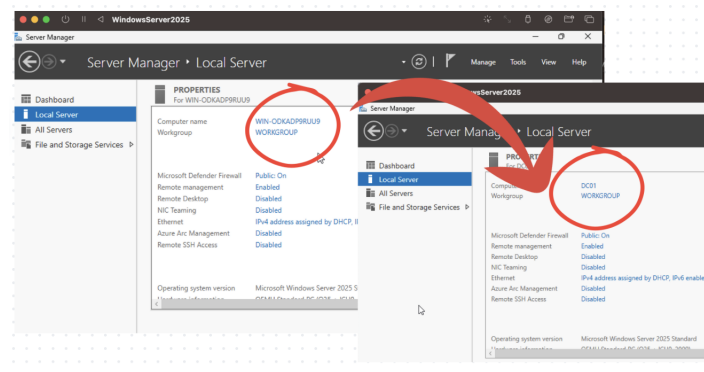


Figure 2.9: Renaming Windows Server to DC01

- Install AD DS and configure your system as a domain controller for a new forest and domain called yourname.com (where yourname is your full name).

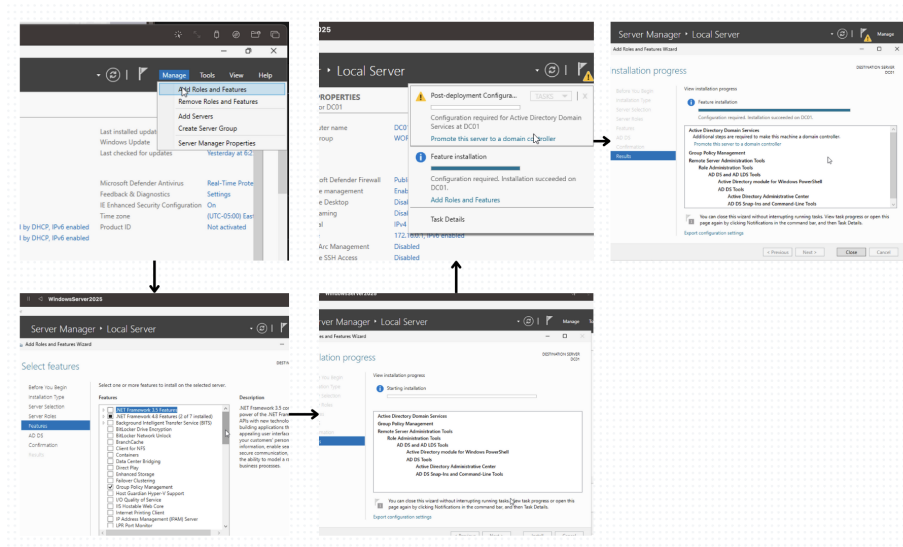


Figure 2.10: Installing Active Directory



Figure 2.11: Configuring domain name (*fullname.com*) → rajeevkhodeeram.com

2.5 Step 5 : Adding a second network interface

Within the virtual machine Settings for DC01 in Hyper-V Manager, add a second network interface that is connected to the private virtual switch.

2.6 Step 6 : Configuring DHCP server

Within your DC01 virtual machine:

- Rename your second network interface to Private and configure a static IP address of 172.16.0.1 (subnet mask 255.255.0.0).

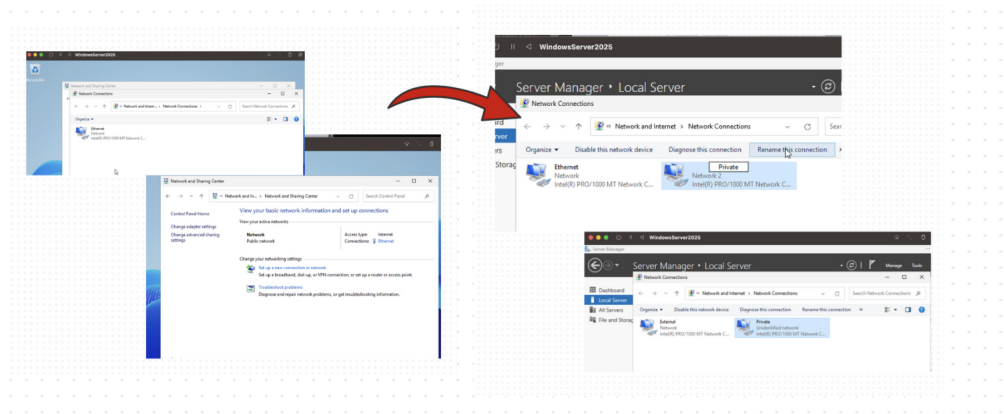


Figure 2.12: Adding a second network interface

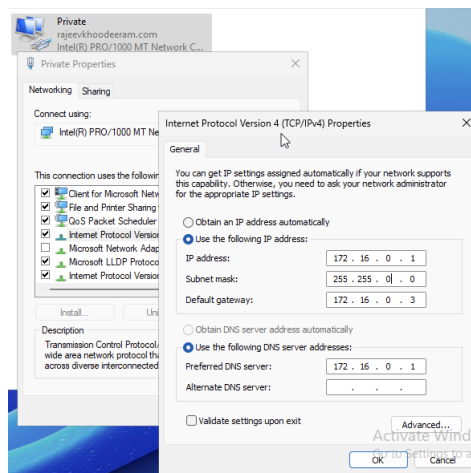


Figure 2.13: Configuring Private network interface

- Install the DHCP Server role, authorize it in AD, and configure a new scope that hands out the range 172.16.0.100-172.16.0.200 (subnet mask 255.255.255.0).

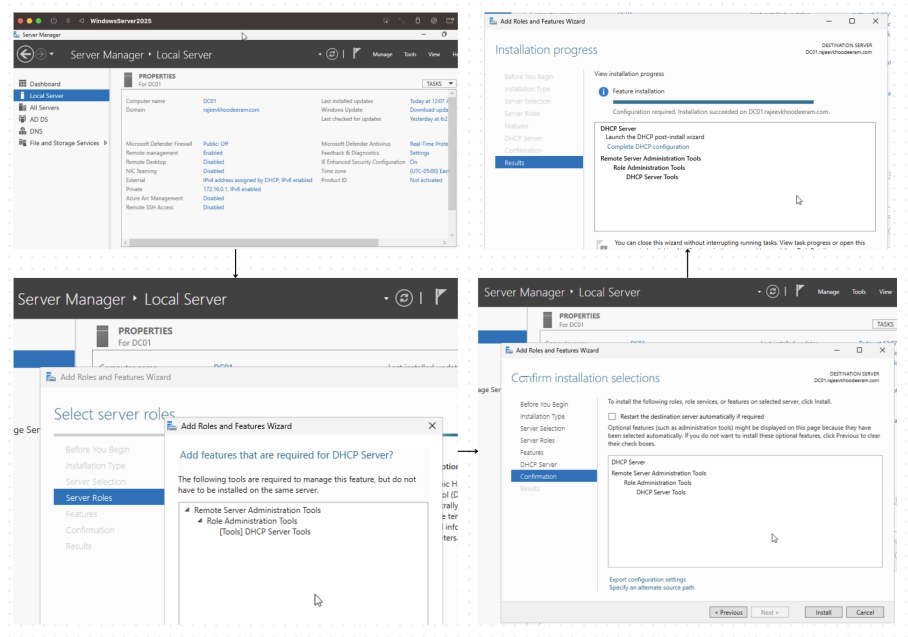


Figure 2.14: Installing the DHCP Server

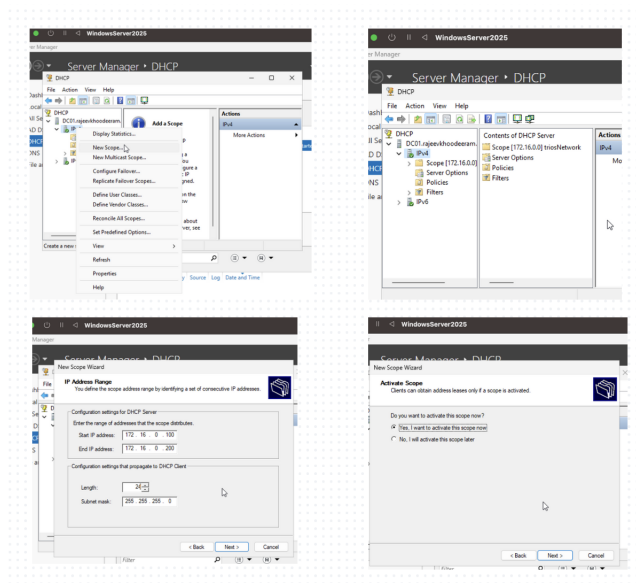


Figure 2.15: Configuring the DNS scope

- Install WDS and configure it to deploy the boot.wim and install.wim from your Windows 10 DVD ISO, ensuring that computers are not automatically joined to the domain following the imaging process.

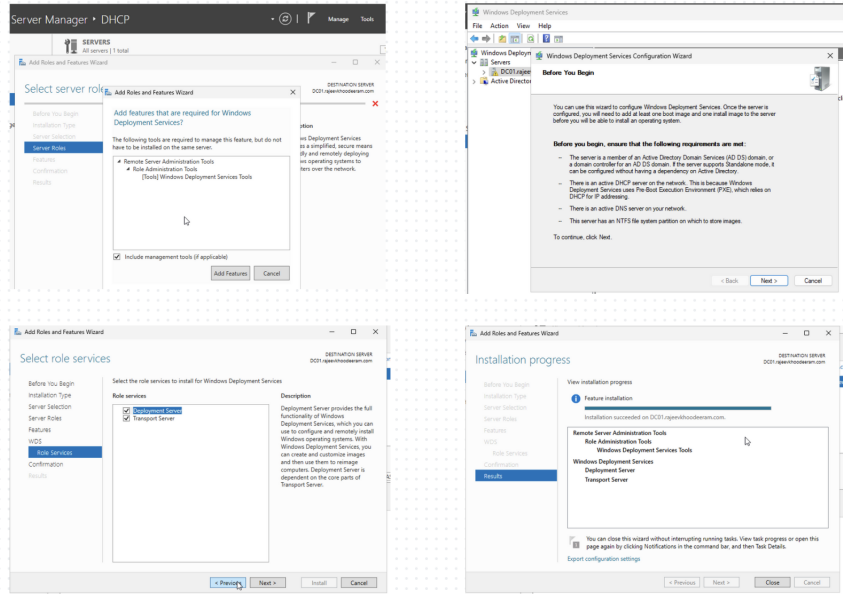


Figure 2.16: Configuring Windows Deployment Server

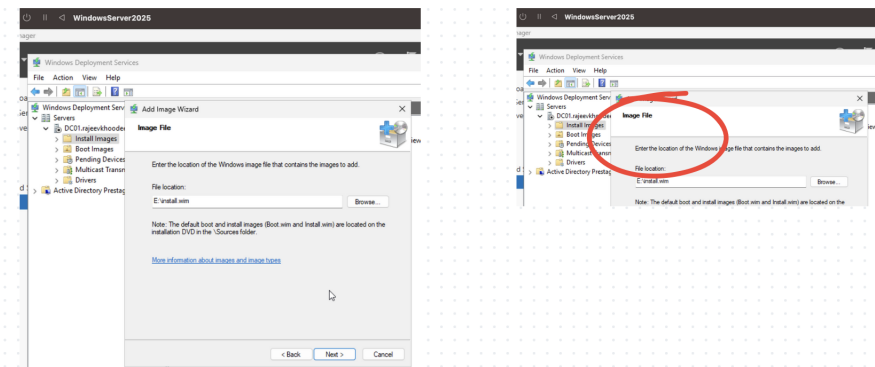


Figure 2.17: Configuring install images

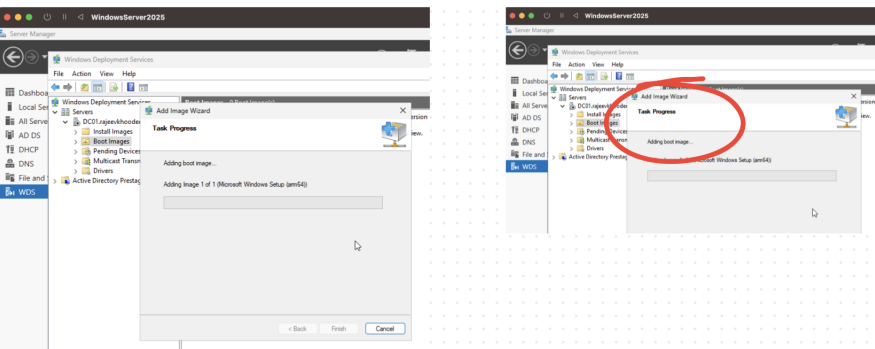


Figure 2.18: Configuring boot images

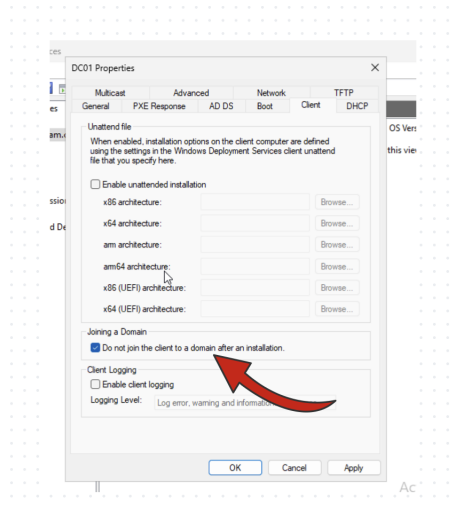


Figure 2.19: Ensuring computers are not automatically joined to the domain

2.7 Step 7. Create a virtual machine called Wkstn01

This step has been skipped but WDS has been installed on the server DC01.

2.8 Step 8 : Change the network interface within virtual machine Settings of Wkstn01 to use the external virtual switch

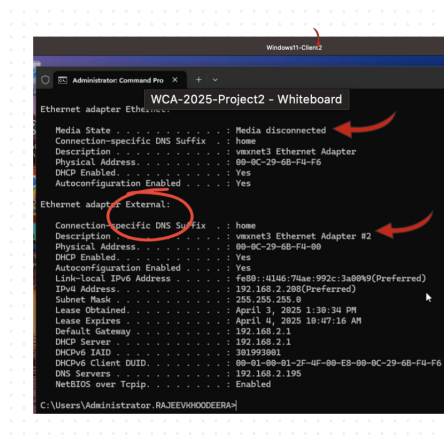


Figure 2.20: Disabling the private switch and enabling the External switch to be used by Wkstn01

2.9 Step 9 : Perform an upgrade of your Windows 10 system to Windows 11.

Unfortunately, this step could not be carried out due to the ARM architecture of the MAC host which require ARM-enabled operating system and as such only Windows 11 flavors are

available to install.

2.10 Step 10 : Windows Client configuration : Wkstn01

On your Wkstn01 virtual machine:

- Set the correct time/zone.

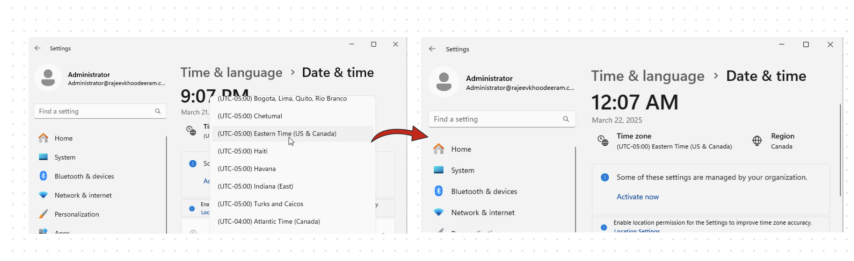


Figure 2.21: Changing timezone for Wkstn01

- Rename your network interface to External.

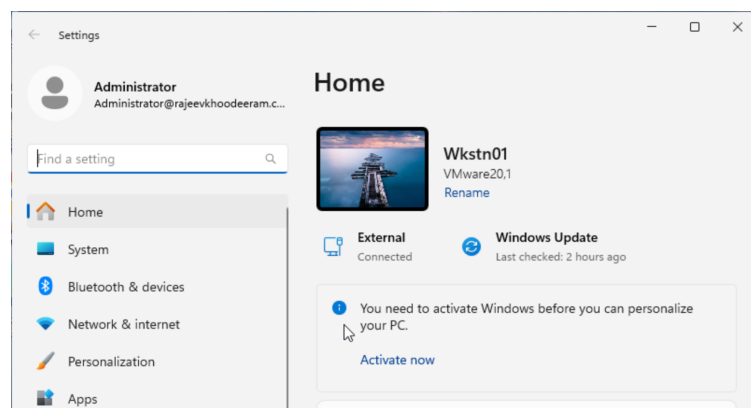


Figure 2.22: Renaming network interface to External

- Change the computer name to Wkstn01 (rebooting afterwards).

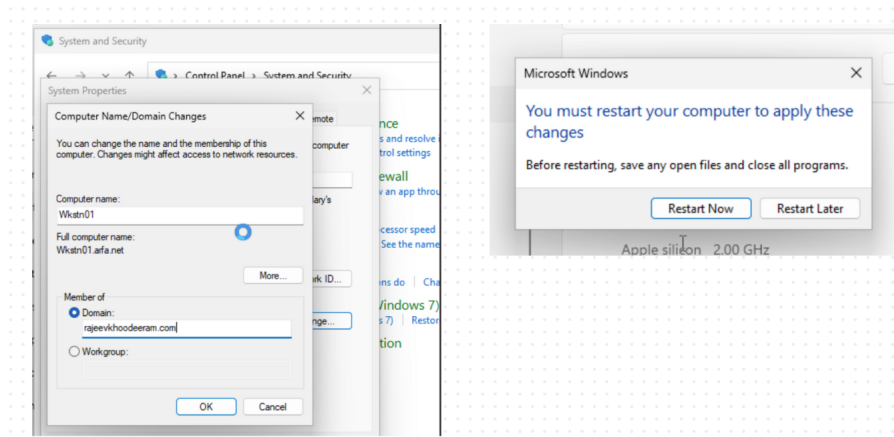


Figure 2.23: Renaming computer name

- In the properties of your External network interface, configure a static DNS server address of IPofDC (where IPofDC is the IP address on the External interface on DC01 that you recorded earlier in Step 4).

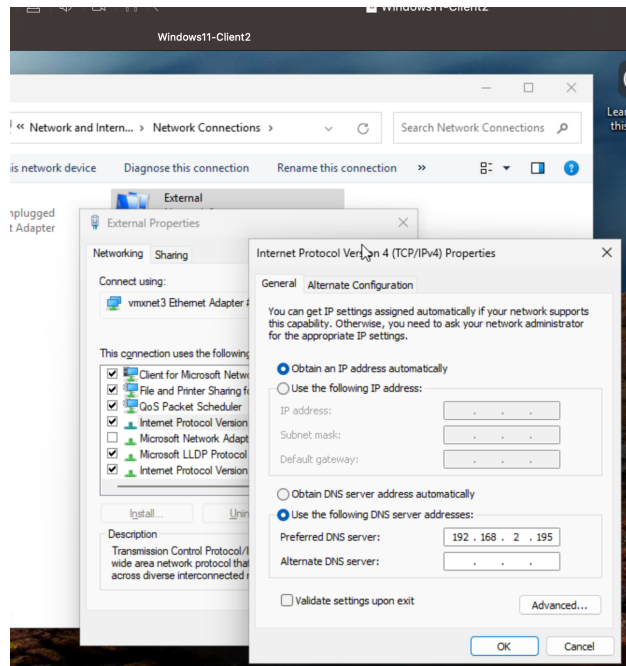


Figure 2.24: Configuring static DNS server address of Wkstn01

- Join your Windows system to the yourname.com domain (where yourname is your full name: FirstnameLastname).

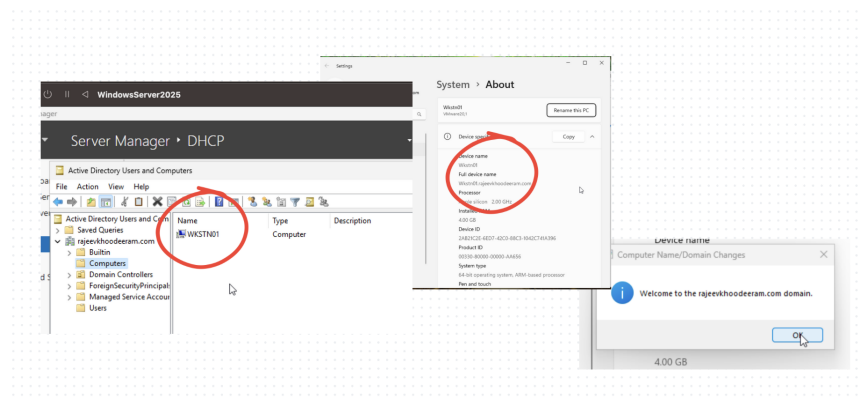


Figure 2.25: Connecting Wkstn01 on domain *rajeevkhodeeram.com*

- Log in to the domain using the domain Administrator account and install the Remote Server Administration Tools (RSAT).

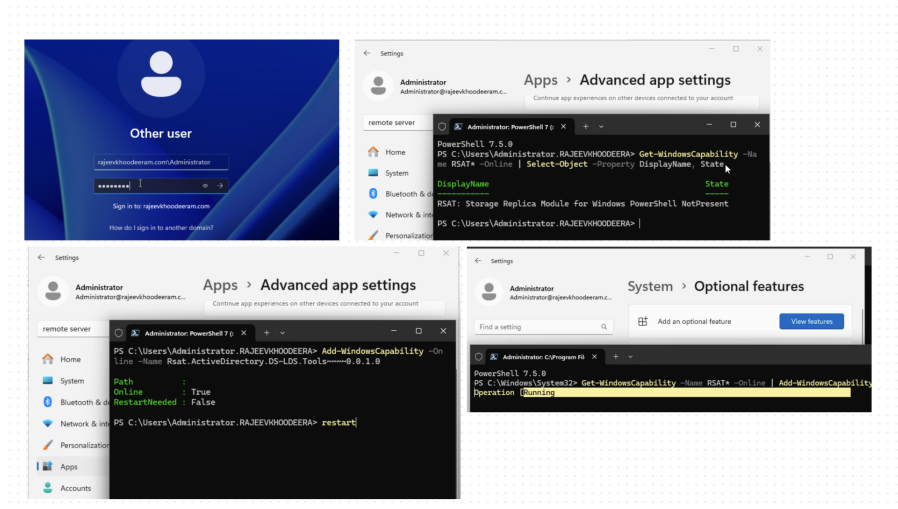


Figure 2.26: Installing RSAT on Wkstn01 using Powershell

2.11 Step 11 : Within Active Directory Users and Computers (either on DC01 or within RSAT)

- Create a Marketing OU under your domain.

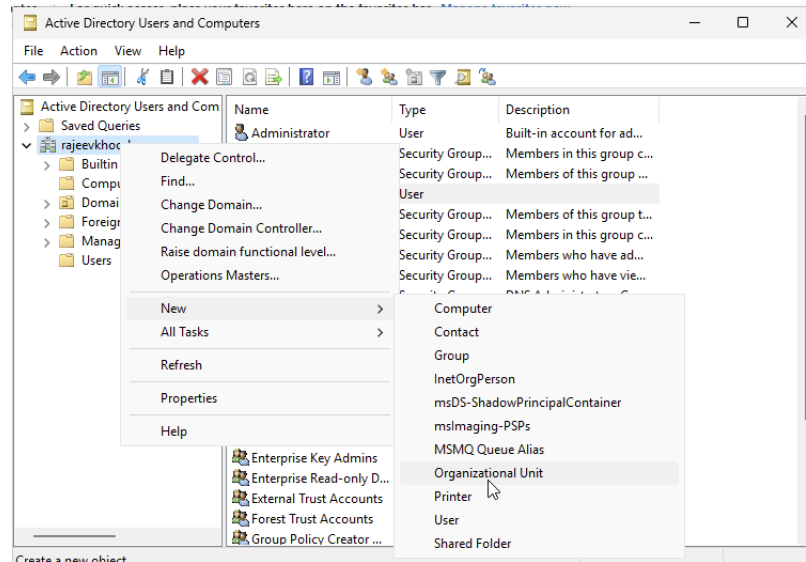


Figure 2.27: Creating the Marketing OU

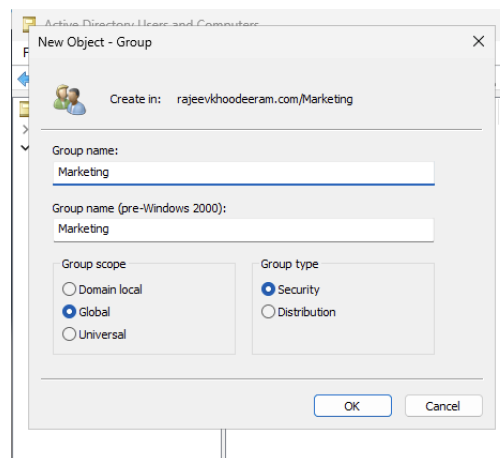


Figure 2.28: Creating the Marketing Global group with Rajeev.Khoodeeram (1)

- Create a user for yourself (Firstname.Lastname) within the Marketing OU that has a password of your choice.

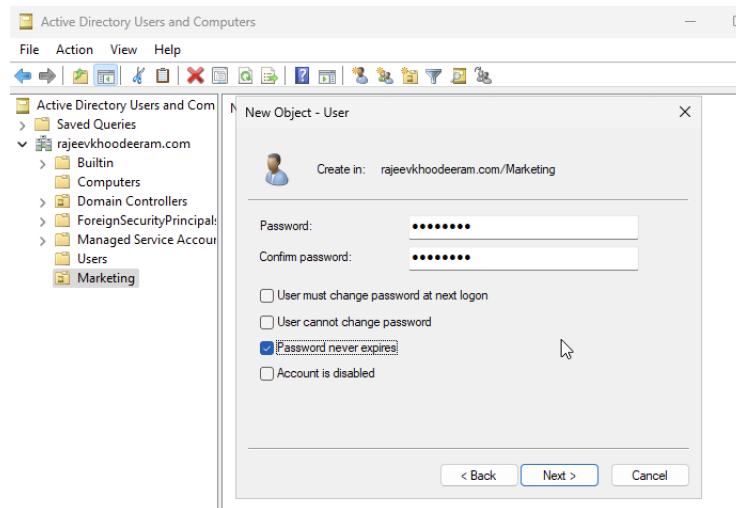


Figure 2.29: Creating the user Rajeev.Khoodeeram in Marketing OU

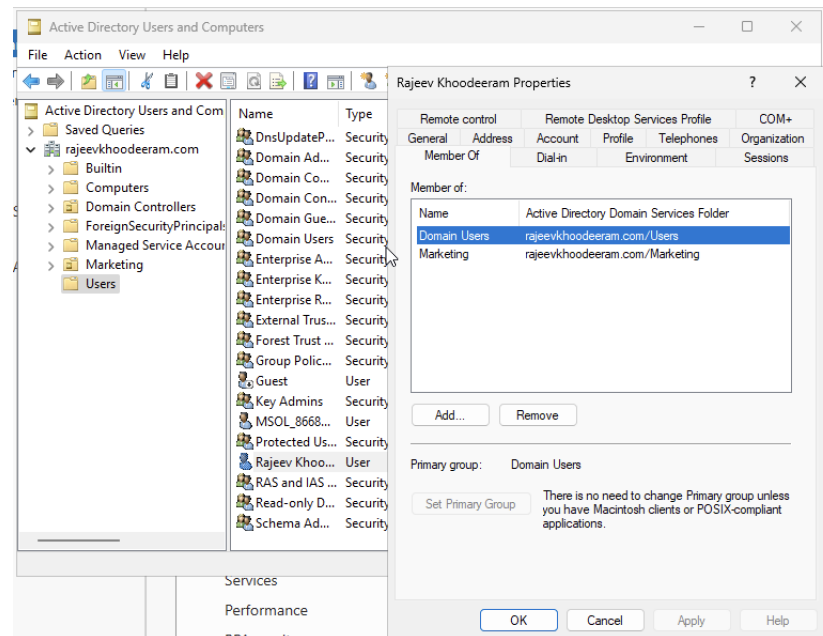


Figure 2.30: Verification of user Rajeev.khoodeeram (see Member of) in Marketing OU

- Create a Marketing Global group that includes your user account.

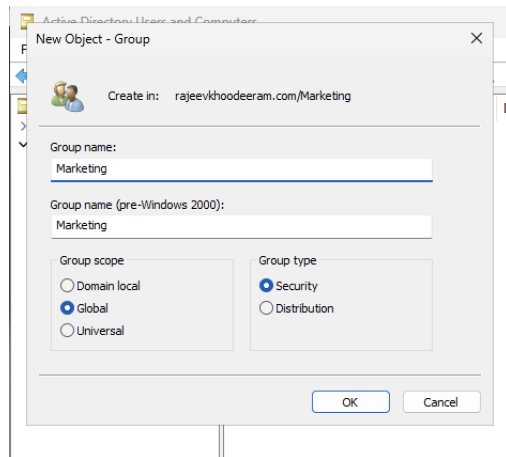


Figure 2.31: Creating the Marketing Global group with Rajeev.Khoodeeram (2)

- Move the Wkstn01 computer account into the Marketing OU

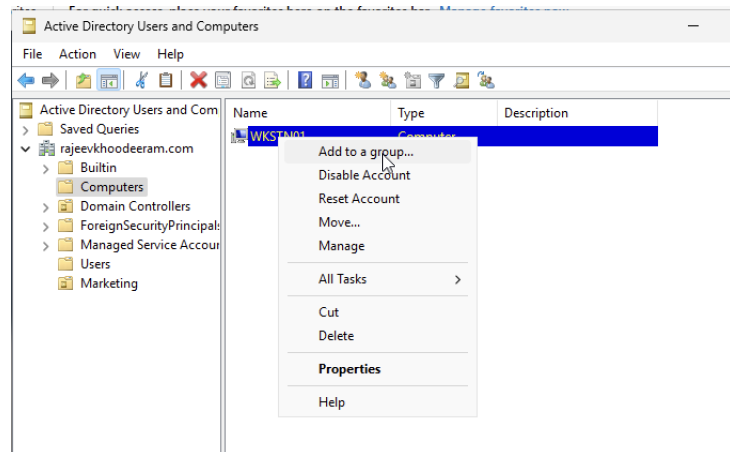


Figure 2.32: Adding Wkstn01 in Marketing OU (1)

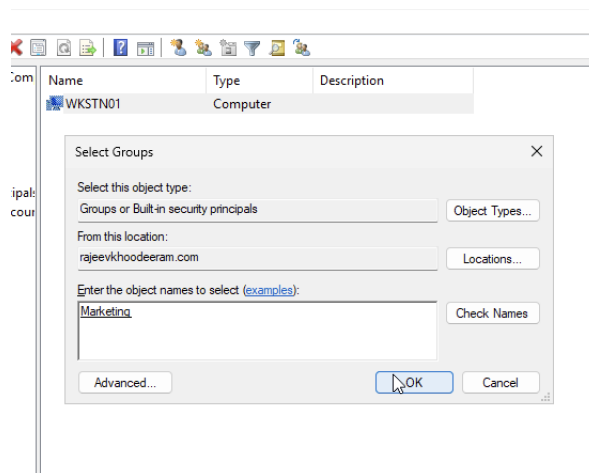


Figure 2.33: Adding Wkstn01 in Marketing OU (2)

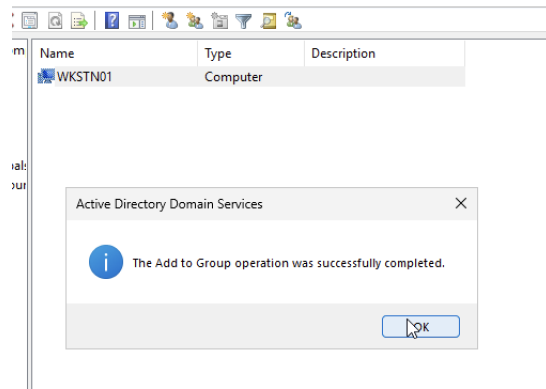


Figure 2.34: Confirmation of Wkstn01 in Marketing OU

2.12 Step 12 : Within Group Policy Management (either on DC01 or within RSAT)

- Create a GPO called Marketing Lockdown.

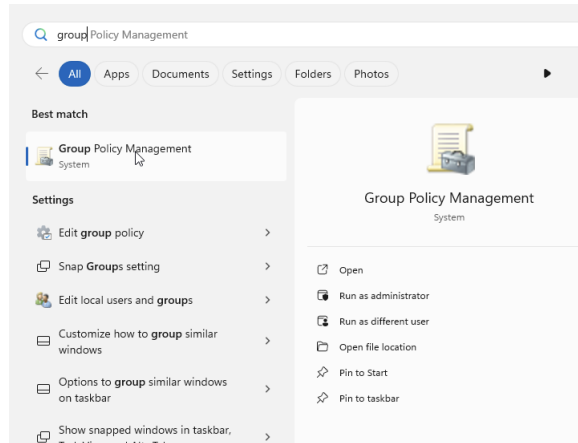


Figure 2.35: Launching the Group Policy Management window

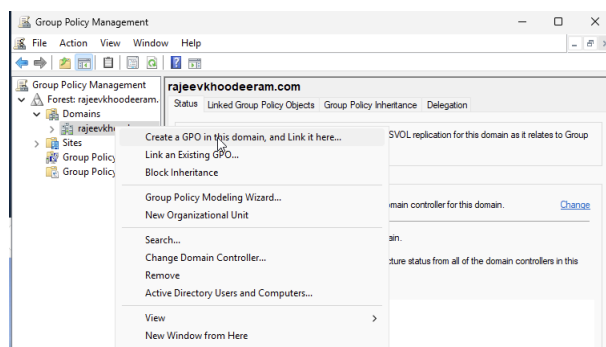


Figure 2.36: Creation of GPO "Marketing Lockdown" (1)

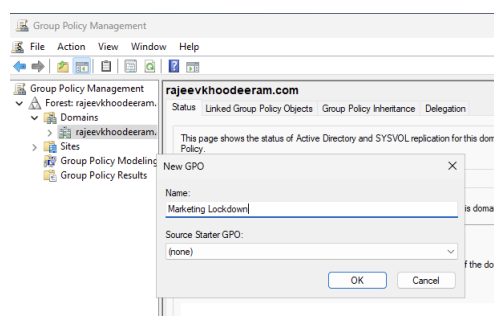


Figure 2.37: Creation of GPO "Marketing Lockdown" (2)

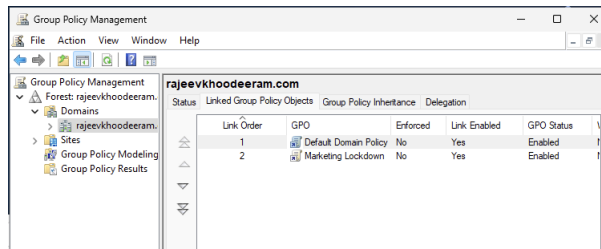


Figure 2.38: Creation of GPO "Marketing Lockdown" (3)

- Configure the Marketing Lockdown GPO to restrict users from accessing Settings and Control Panel.

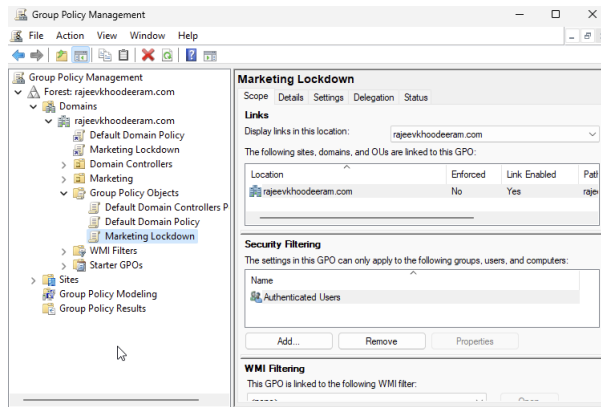


Figure 2.39: Adding restriction to the Marketing Lockdown GPO

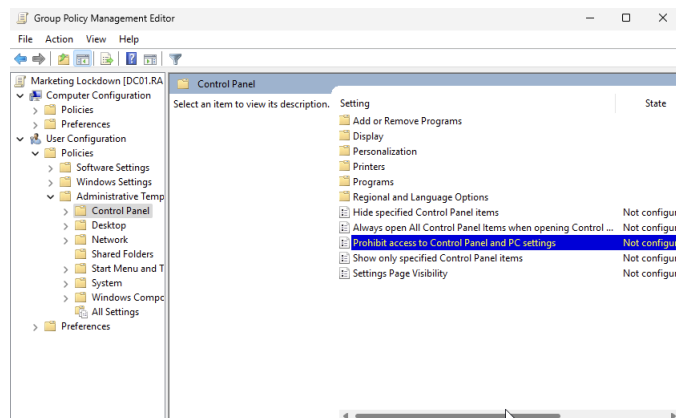


Figure 2.40: Prohibiting access to control Panel and Settings (1)

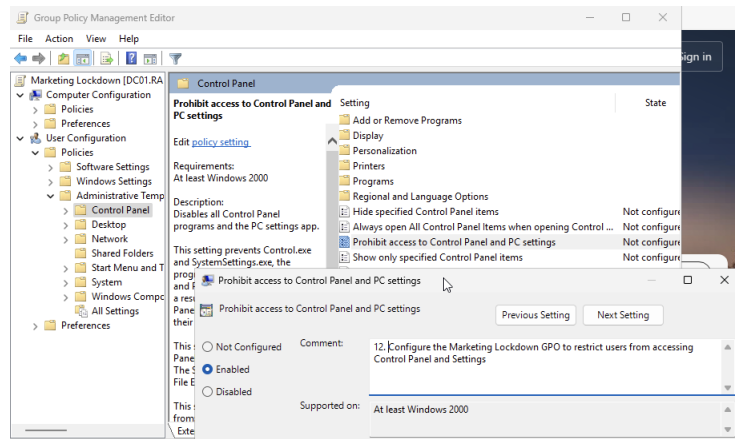


Figure 2.41: Prohibiting access to control Panel and Settings (2)

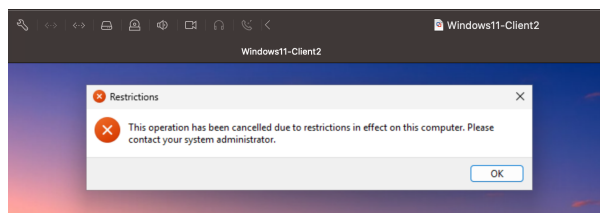


Figure 2.42: Verification of the restriction to control Panel and Settings

- Link the Marketing Lockdown GPO to the Marketing OU.

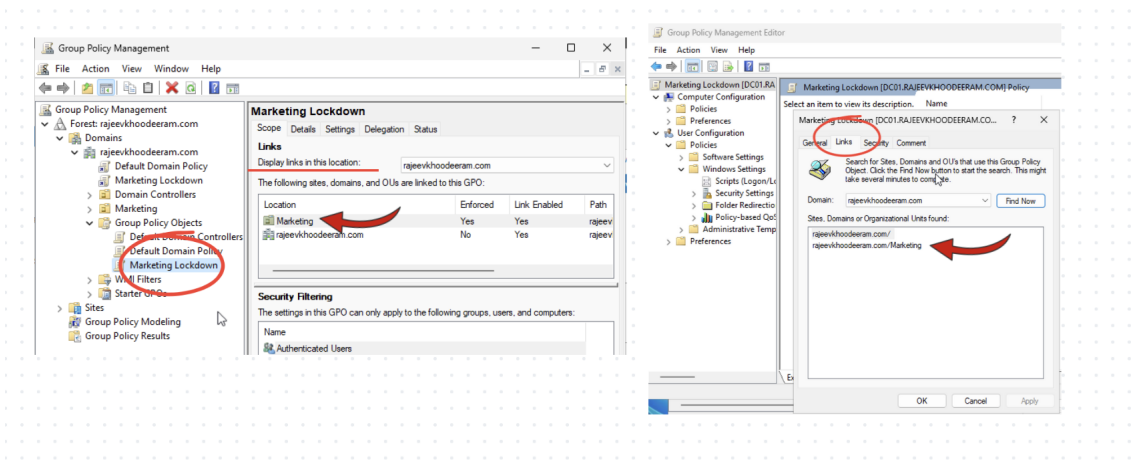


Figure 2.43: Linking Marketing Lockdown to Marketing OU

- Modify the Default Domain Policy GPO to ensure that users in the domain must have complex passwords that are a minimum of 10 characters in length, and must be changed every 30 days.

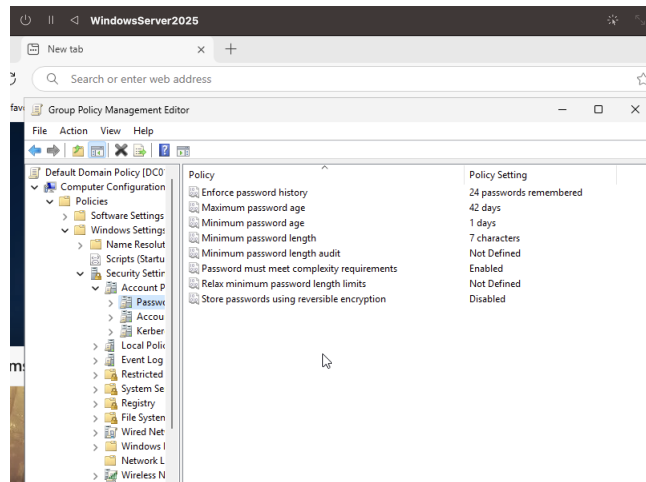


Figure 2.44: Modifying Default domain policy

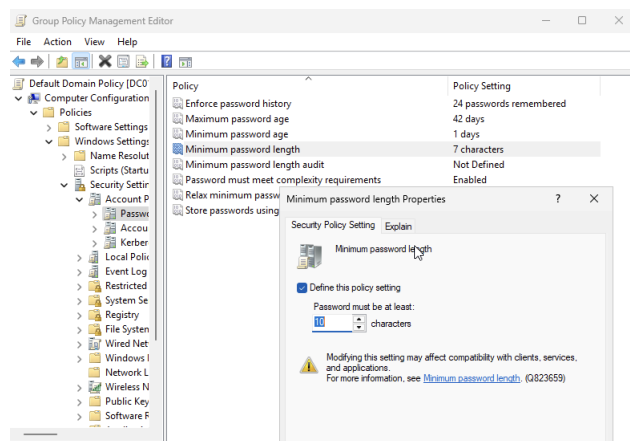


Figure 2.45: Implementing minimum of 10 characters in length for password

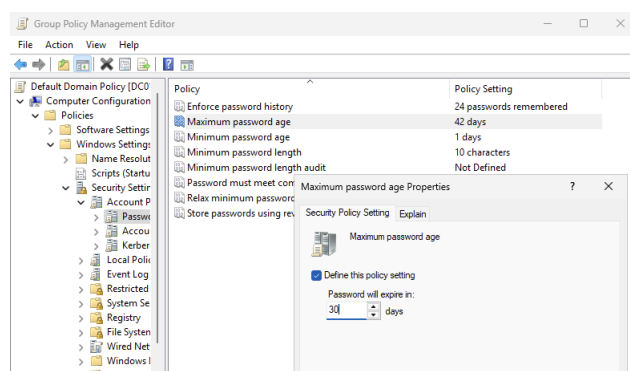


Figure 2.46: Implementing password policy to be changed every 30 days

Let us do a final check to see if the password policy has been correctly implemented.

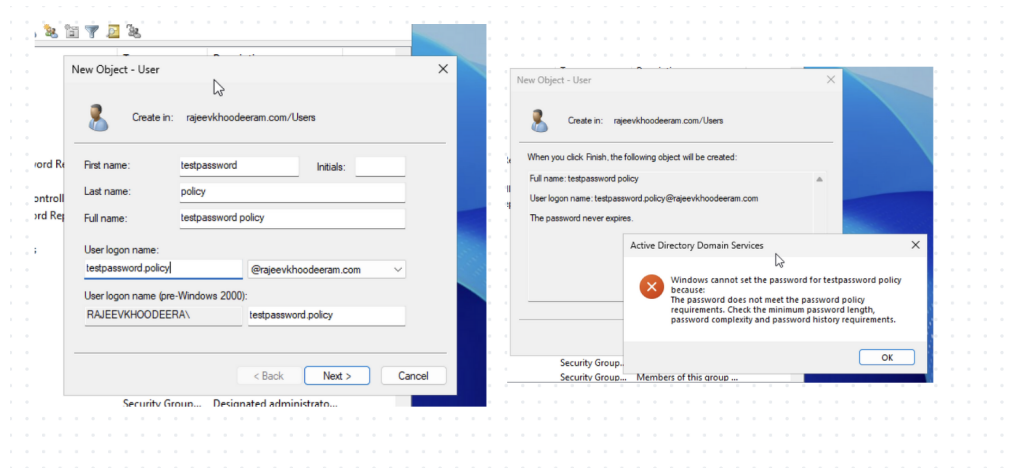


Figure 2.47: Testing of password policy of 10 characters minimum

2.13 Step 13 : Accessing Settings / Control Panel

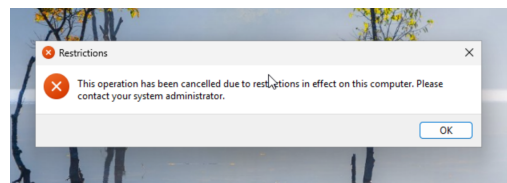


Figure 2.48: Verifying access to Control Panel - Access is denied

2.14 Step 14 : Permissions and System Restore

Log off Wkstn01, and log in again as the domain Administrator.

- Add your domain user account (Firstname.Lastname) to the local Administrators group.
- Create a folder called C:\FirstnameShare on your computer and share it, ensuring that only your domain user account has Full Control share permission.

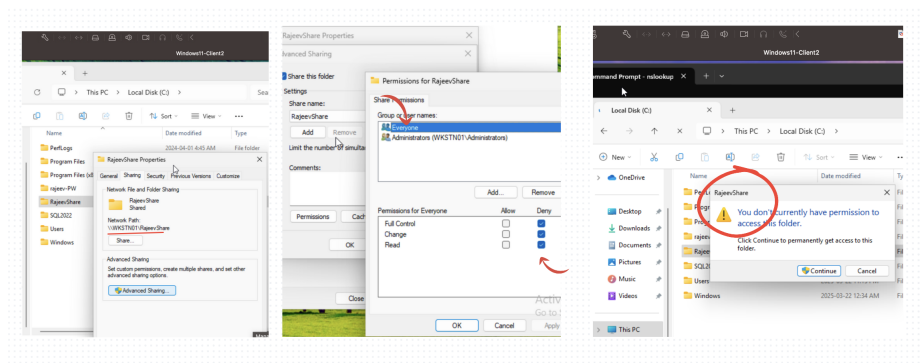


Figure 2.49: Other users are denied access to the shared folder

- Set the NTFS permissions on the C:\FirstnameShare folder to ensure that your domain user account (Firstname.Lastname) has Full Control (leaving existing permissions in place).

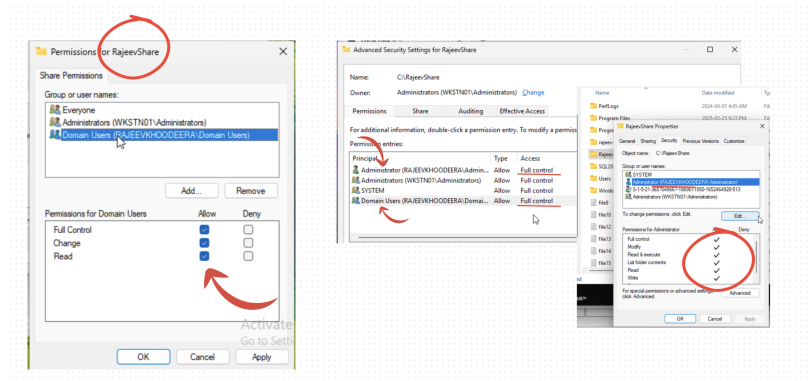


Figure 2.50: Setting NTFS permission on the shared folder (Domain users only)

- Create a System Restore checkpoint.

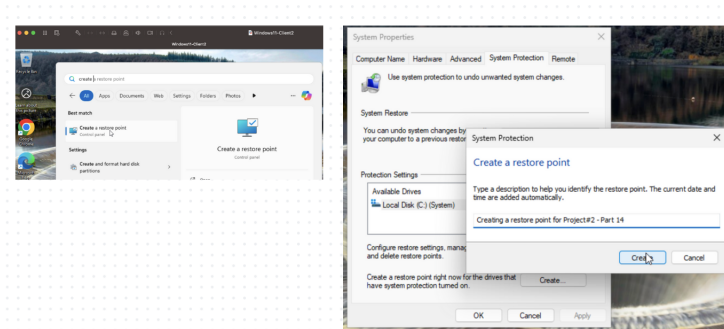


Figure 2.51: System restore (1)

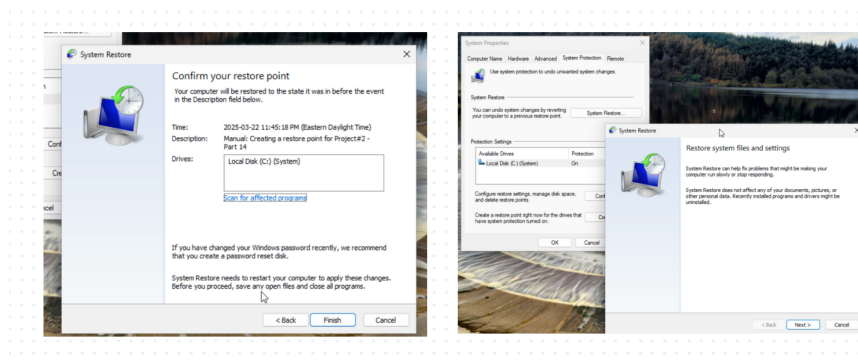


Figure 2.52: System restore (2)

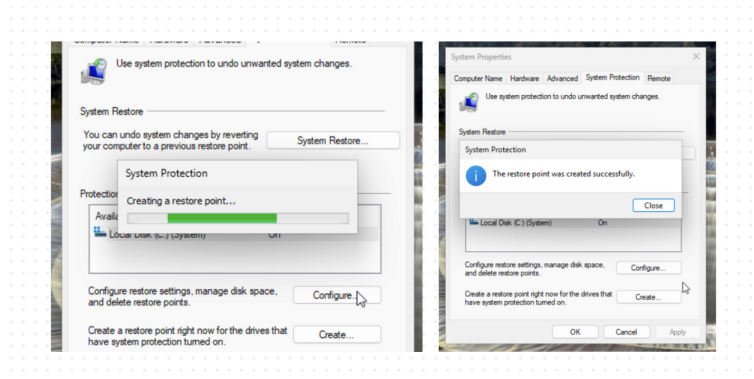


Figure 2.53: System restore (3)

- Create an exception in Windows Firewall for DOOM traffic (TCP port 666).

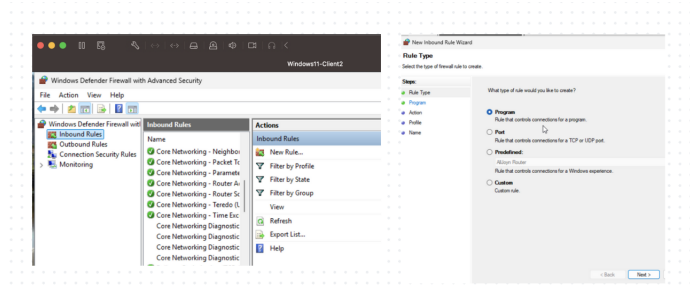


Figure 2.54: Exception in Windows Firewall for DOOM traffic (1)

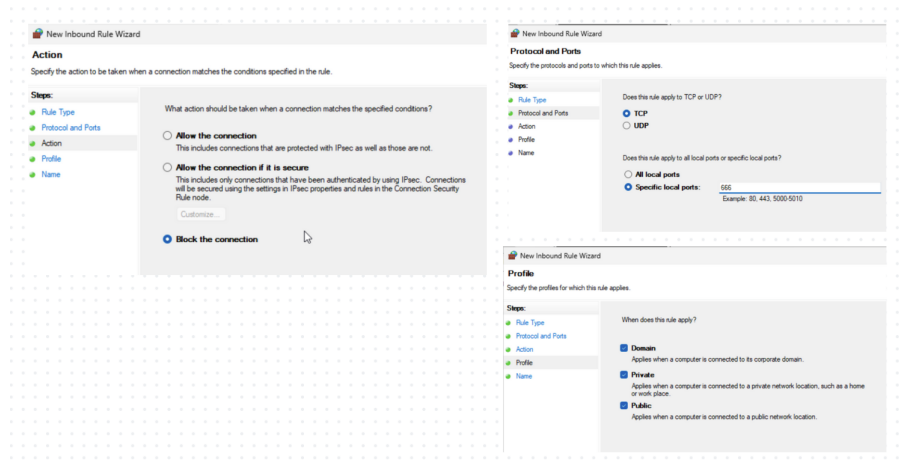


Figure 2.55: Exception in Windows Firewall for DOOM traffic (2)

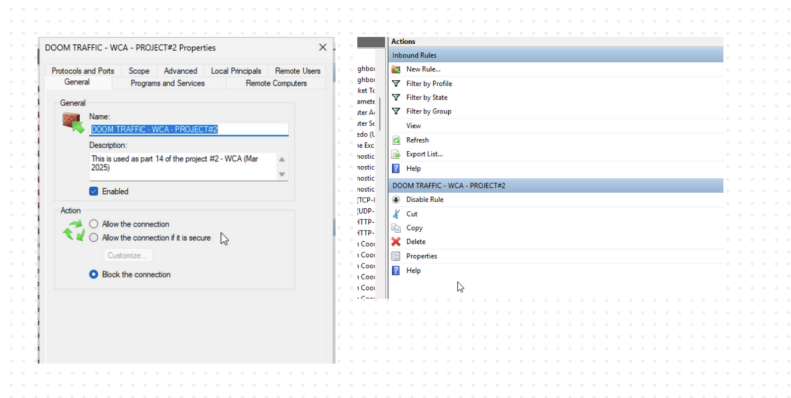


Figure 2.56: Exception in Windows Firewall for DOOM traffic (3)

- Enable WinRM (test remote PowerShell access using Enter-PSSession from DC01).

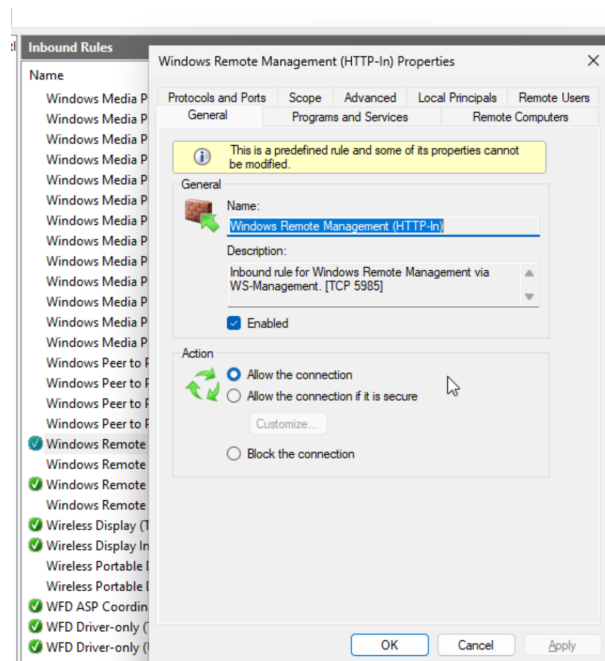


Figure 2.57: WinRM activation

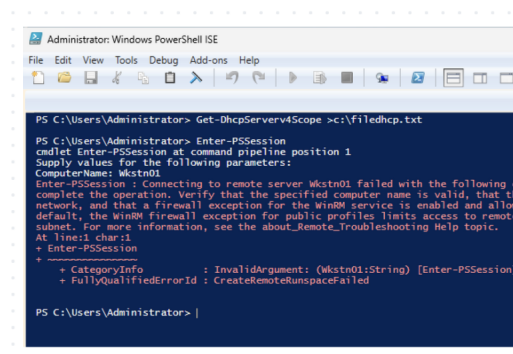


Figure 2.58: Testing remote PowerShell - In case Firewall or any other issue

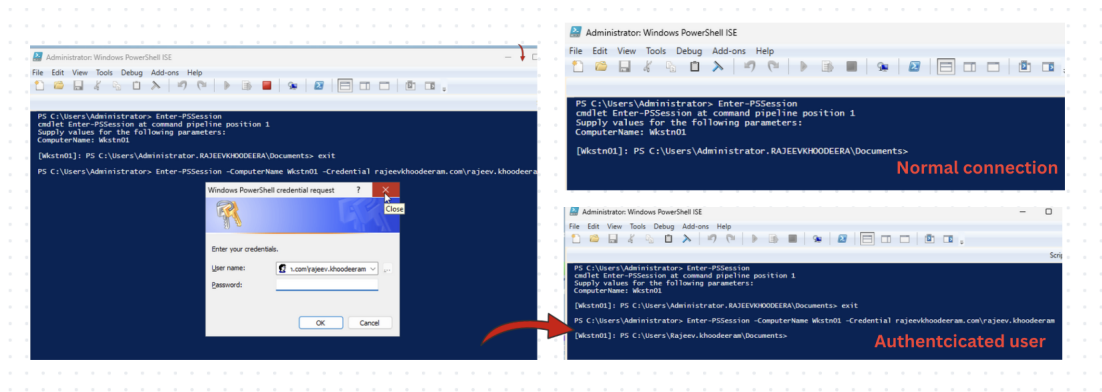


Figure 2.59: Remote Powershell is working either as administrator or any authenticated user on the domain

Step 15 : Powershell - Client (Wkstn01)

PART 3

3.1 Target : Log off Wkstn01, and log in again as your user (Fname.Lname)

- Access your shared folder and create a new file within it called SecretData.txt that contains a line of your choice. Next, encrypt the SecretData.txt file using EFS.

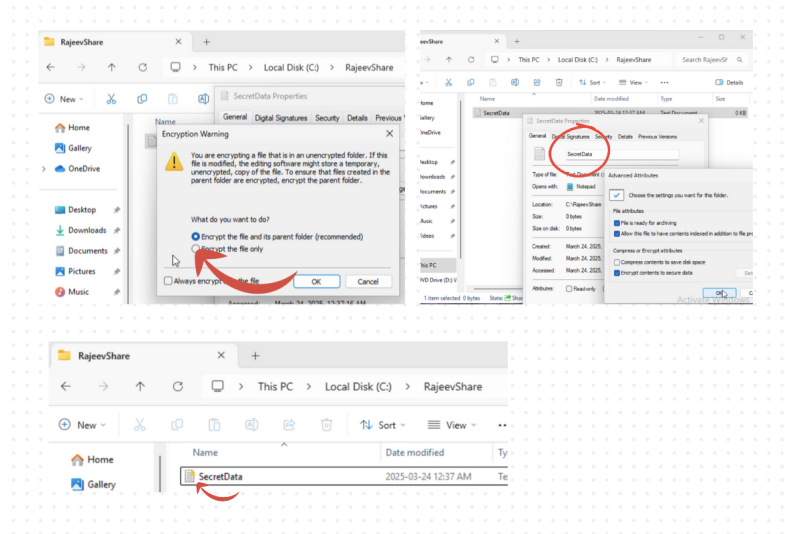


Figure 3.1: File SecretData.txt is encrypted - see Yellow lock on the file icon

- Open PowerShell as Administrator and run the following commands

1. `gprresult /r /z >c:\file9.txt`
2. `Get-TimeZone >c:\file10.txt`
3. `Get-NetIPConfiguration >c:\file11.txt`
4. `Gwmi win32_product >c:\file12.txt`
5. `net share firstnameshare >c:\file13.txt`
6. `icacls c:\firstnameshare >c:\file14.txt`
7. `Get-ComputerRestorePoint >c:\file15.txt`
8. `Get-NetFirewallRule >c:\file16.txt.`
9. `test-wsman >c:\file17.txt`
10. `cipher c:\firstnameshare\SecretData.txt >c:\file18.txt`
11. `tar -a -c -f c:\yournameWkstn01.zip c:\file*.txt`

3.2 gpresult /r /z >c:\file9.txt

The gpresult command in Windows is used to display Group Policy information for a system or a user. It helps to diagnose and view the Group Policy settings applied to a computer or user, and it can be useful for troubleshooting Group Policy issues.

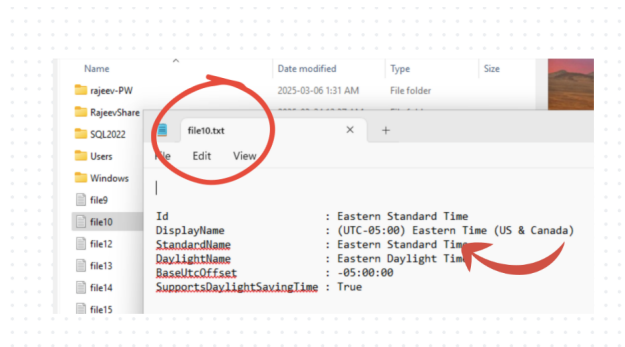


Figure 3.2: Showing group and group policy set earlier for Wkstn01

3.3 Get-TimeZone >c:\file10.txt

The Get-TimeZone cmdlet in PowerShell retrieves the current time zone of your system (here *Wkstn01*).

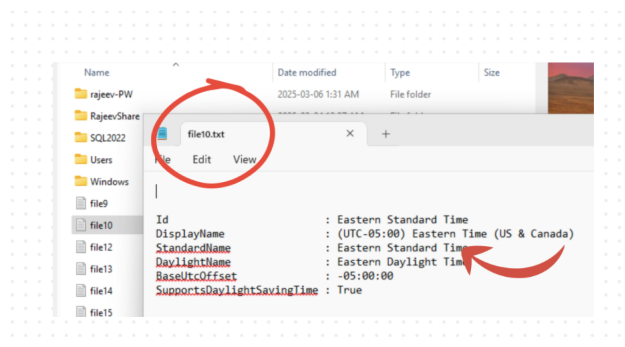


Figure 3.3: Verification of the correct time zone (EST) in Wkstn01

3.4 Get-NetIPConfiguration >c:\file11.txt

The Get-NetIPConfiguration cmdlet retrieves detailed network adapter configuration information, including IP addresses, DNS settings, and default gateways. Here, the server 192.168.2.195 (DC01) is also acting as the DNS server and they are both on the same "external" switch.

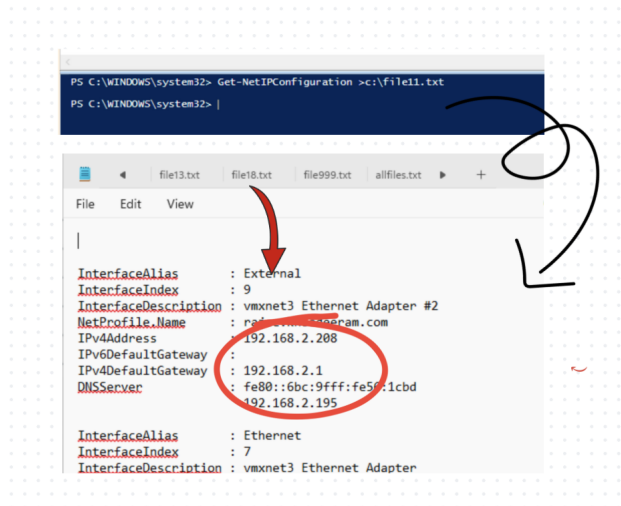


Figure 3.4: Getting the network configuration of Wkstn01 which is configured to access the server on the same subnet (192.168.2.xx)

3.5 Gwmi win32_product >c:\file12.txt

The command gwmi Win32_Product retrieves a list of installed applications on a Windows system using Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI).

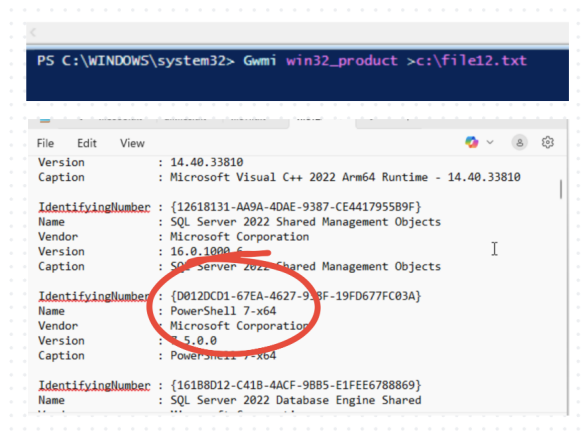


Figure 3.5: Example of installed applications - see PowerShell

3.6 net share firstnameshare >c:\file13.txt

The net share command is used to manage shared folders on a Windows computer. By default, everyone gets read-only access to a share. Here, the domain users have been granted Full access to RajeevShare, everyone else has READ-ONLY access.

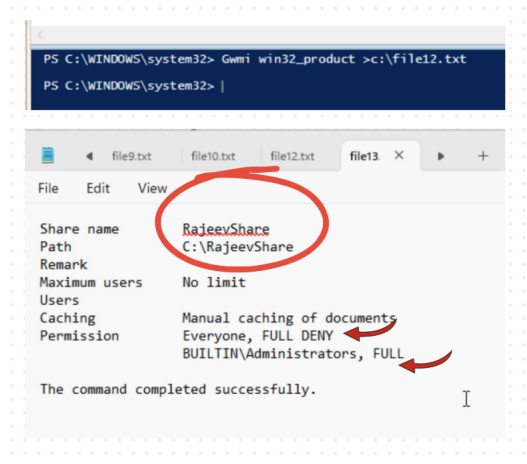


Figure 3.6: Showing network share in Wkstn01

3.7 icacs c:\firstnameshare >c:\file14.txt

The icacs command is used to view, modify, backup, and restore file and folder permissions (Access Control Lists, or ACLs) on Windows systems. Kindly note the flags OI (Object inherit), CI (Container Inherit), and F (full) which are used to define inheritance and permissions settings. for example F is for Full Access and OI allows files to inherit the permissions from the parent folder.

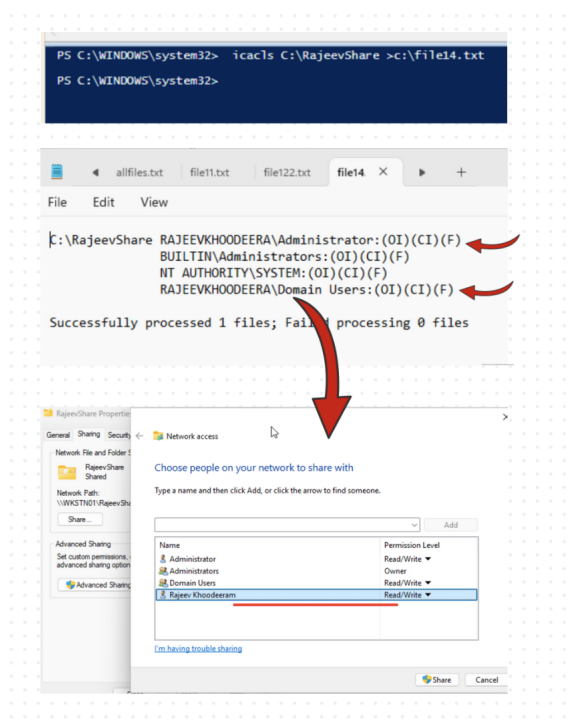


Figure 3.7: Kindly note that the shared folder RajeevShare is expected to be accessible to local administrators and domain users

3.8 Get-ComputerRestorePoint >c:\file15.txt

The Get-ComputerRestorePoint cmdlet is a PowerShell command that is specifically used to retrieve information about restore points on a computer.

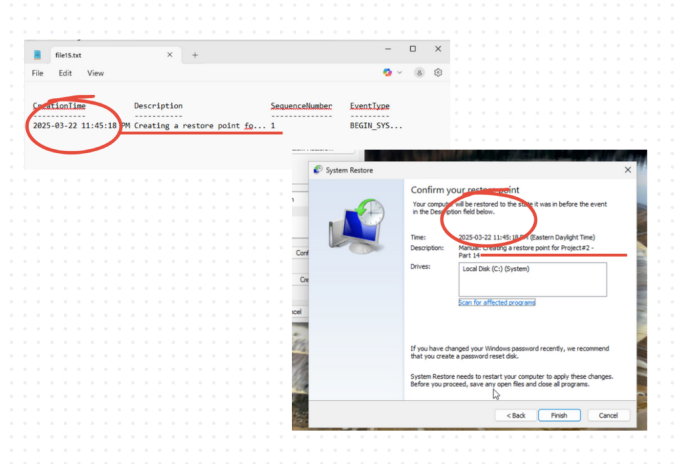


Figure 3.8: Cross checking of the restore point created earlier (see matching date/time and Description)

3.9 Get-NetFirewallRule >c:\file16.txt.

The Get-NetFirewallRule cmdlet is used to retrieve Windows Firewall rules on a system. It allows you to view all configured inbound and outbound rules, along with their properties like action, direction, and protocol.

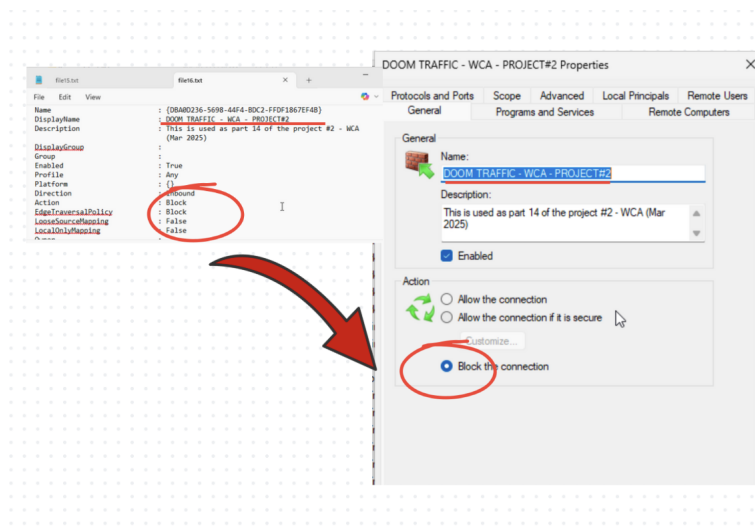


Figure 3.9: Verification of the DOOM rule created earlier (see matching name and description)

3.10 test-wsman >c:\file17.txt

The Test-WsMan cmdlet is used to test Windows Remote Management (WinRM) connectivity on a local or remote computer. It checks whether the WinRM service is running and properly configured on the target machine.

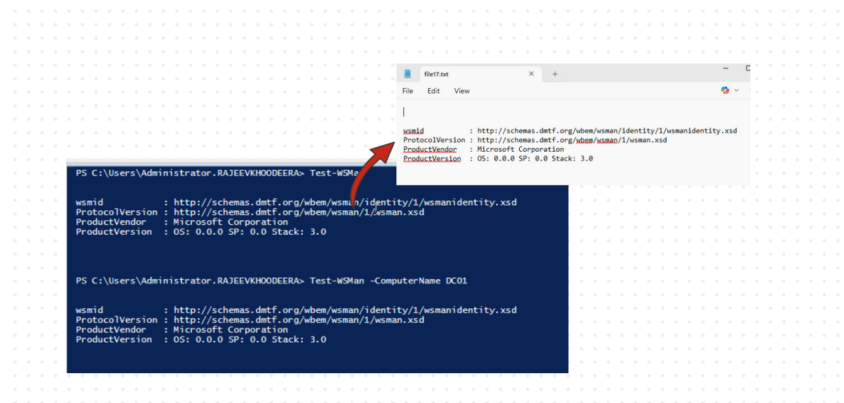


Figure 3.10: Testing Remote Management Connectivity

3.11 cipher c:\firstnameshare\SecretData.txt >c:\file18.txt

The cipher command is used in Windows to manage encryption on files and directories, particularly with the Encrypting File System (EFS).

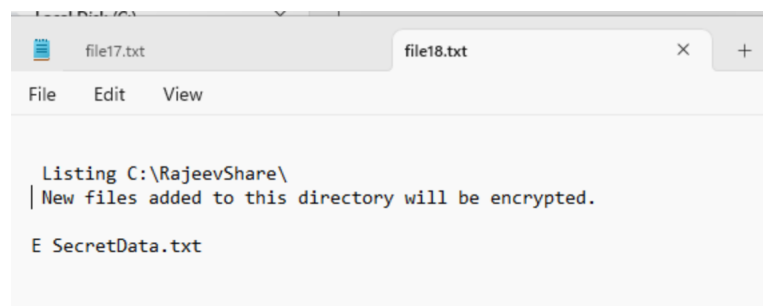


Figure 3.11: Checking encryption status of SecretData.txt ('E' prefixing the filename means Encrypted)

3.12 tar -a -c -f c:\yournameWkstn01.zip c:\file*.txt

The tar command is typically used for archiving files and directories in Unix-based operating systems but has been integrated also in Windows. It stands for "tape archive" and is used to create, extract, and manage compressed archives.

In this case, we are compressing all the files (*) into rajeevWkstn01.zip (which is bundled as part of the project submission).

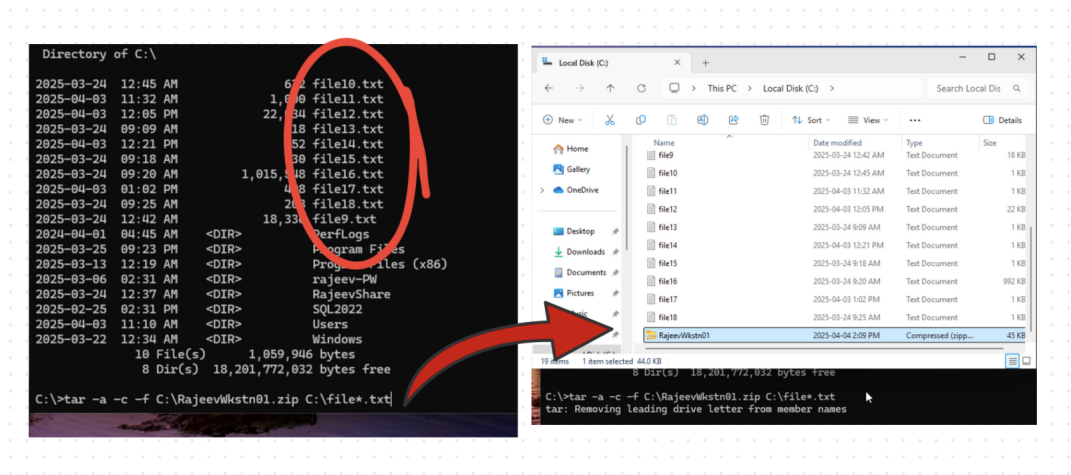


Figure 3.12: Compressing all files which starts with file* into the zipped file RajeevWkstn01.zip

Step 16 : PowerShell - Server (DC01)

PART 4

4.1 Target : Log in to your DC01 virtual machine, open PowerShell as Administrator and run the following commands:

1. `gpreresult /r /z >c:\file1.txt`
2. `Get-TimeZone >c:\file2.txt`
3. `Get-NetFirewallProfile >c:\file3.txt`
4. `Get-NetIPConfiguration >c:\file4.txt`
5. `Get-DhcpServerv4Scope >c:\file5.txt`
6. `Get-WdsBootImage >c:\file6.txt`
7. `Get-WdsInstallImage >c:\file7.txt`
8. `Get-ADOrganizationalUnit >c:\file8.txt`
9. `tar -a -c -f c:\yournameDC01.zip c:\file*.txt`

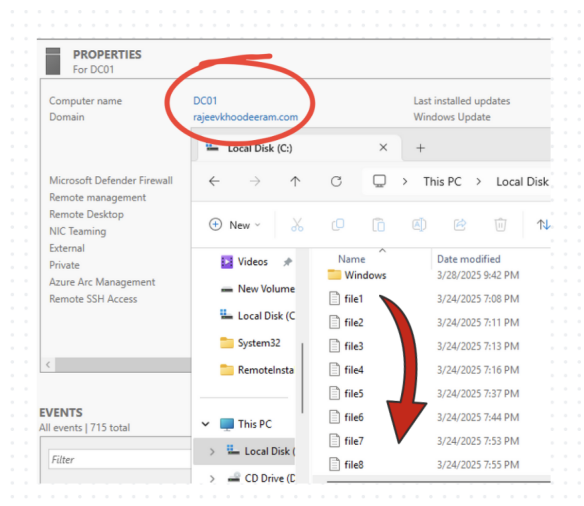


Figure 4.1: All files generated for this section

4.2 gresult /r /z >c:\file1.txt

The gresult command in Windows is used to display Group Policy information for a system or a user. It helps to diagnose and view the Group Policy settings applied to a computer or user, and it can be useful for troubleshooting Group Policy issues.

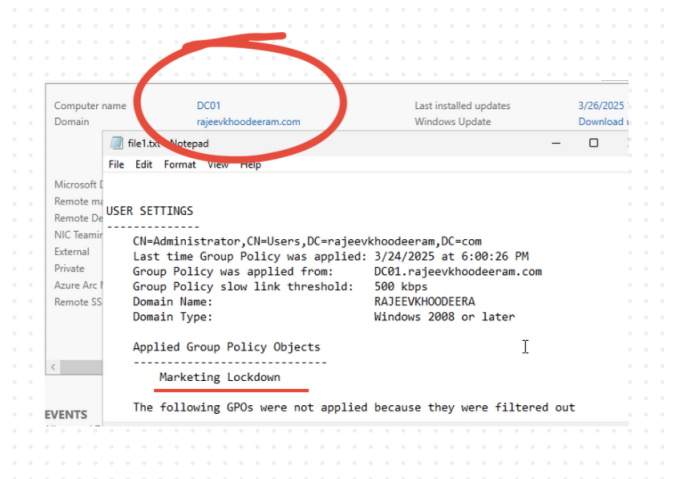


Figure 4.2: Getting the group policy of the server or PDC (see extract for the Marketing Lockdown policy)

4.3 Get-TimeZone >c:\file2.txt

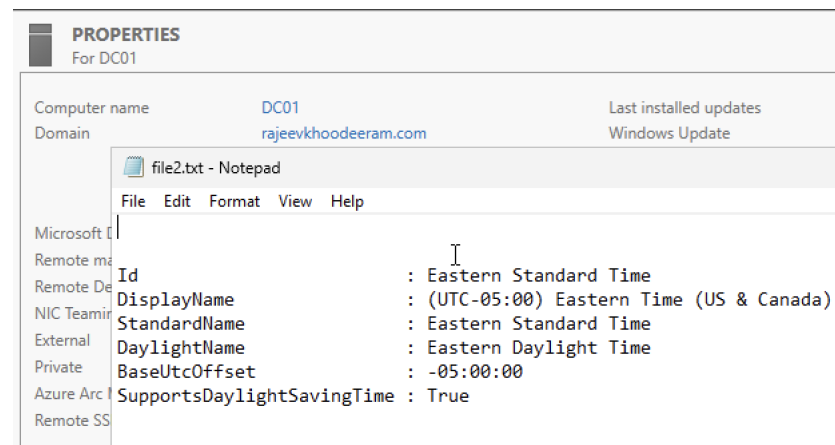


Figure 4.3: Checking Time/Zone Settings for the server DC01

4.4 Get-NetFirewallProfile >c:\file3.txt

The Get-NetFirewallProfile command in PowerShell is used to retrieve the Firewall profile settings in Windows. It allows you to view the current configuration of the Windows Firewall on your computer, including whether the firewall is enabled or disabled for the different network profiles: Domain, Private, and Public.

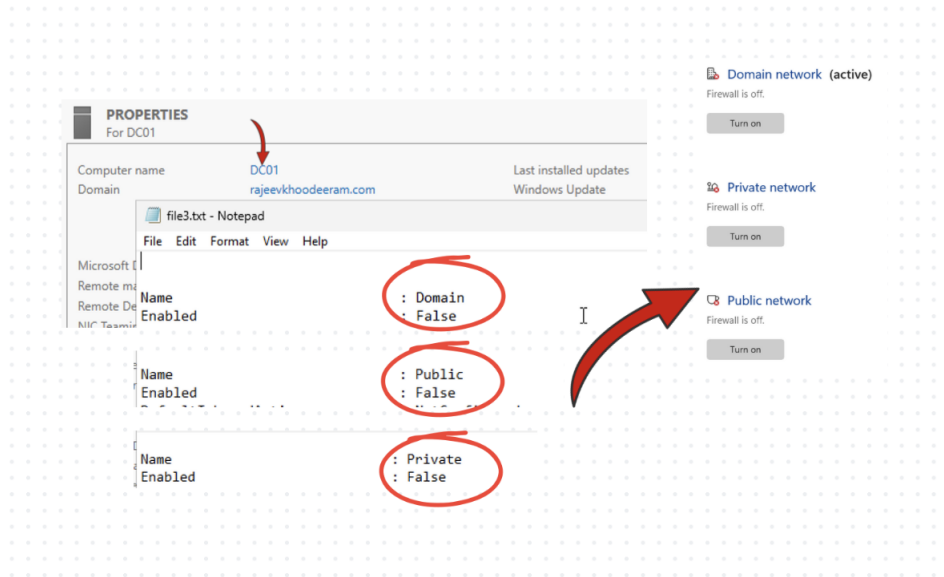


Figure 4.4: Firewall settings for network profiles : Domain, Private and Public

4.5 Get-NetIPConfiguration >c:\file4.txt

This cmdlet is used to get information about the IP configuration of network adapters on the local machine. It displays details such as the IPv4 and IPv6 addresses, subnet masks, default gateways, and DNS servers for each network interface.

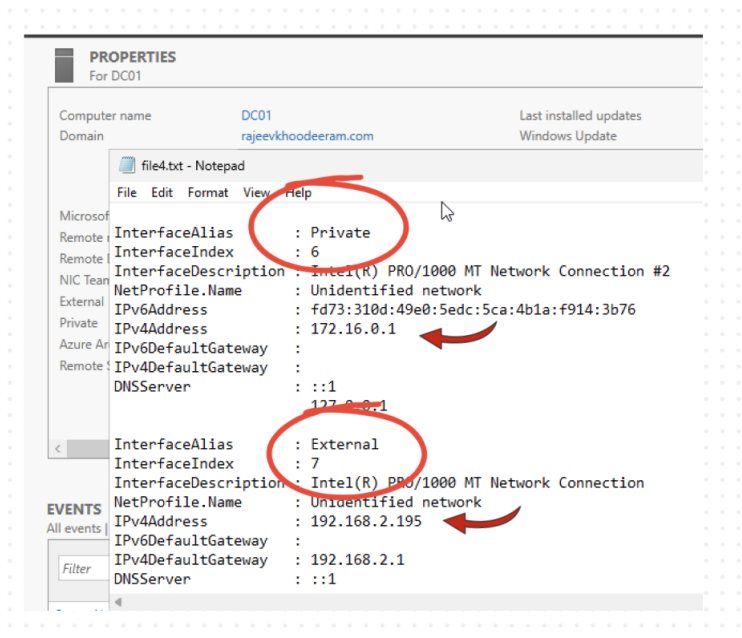


Figure 4.5: Getting details of the network interfaces on the server, DC01

4.6 Get-DhcpServerv4Scope >c:\file5.txt

The Get-DhcpServerv4Scope PowerShell cmdlet is used to retrieve information about IPv4 DHCP scopes on a Windows DHCP Server. It helps administrators manage DHCP configurations by displaying details such as the scope ID, subnet mask, name, lease duration, and address range.

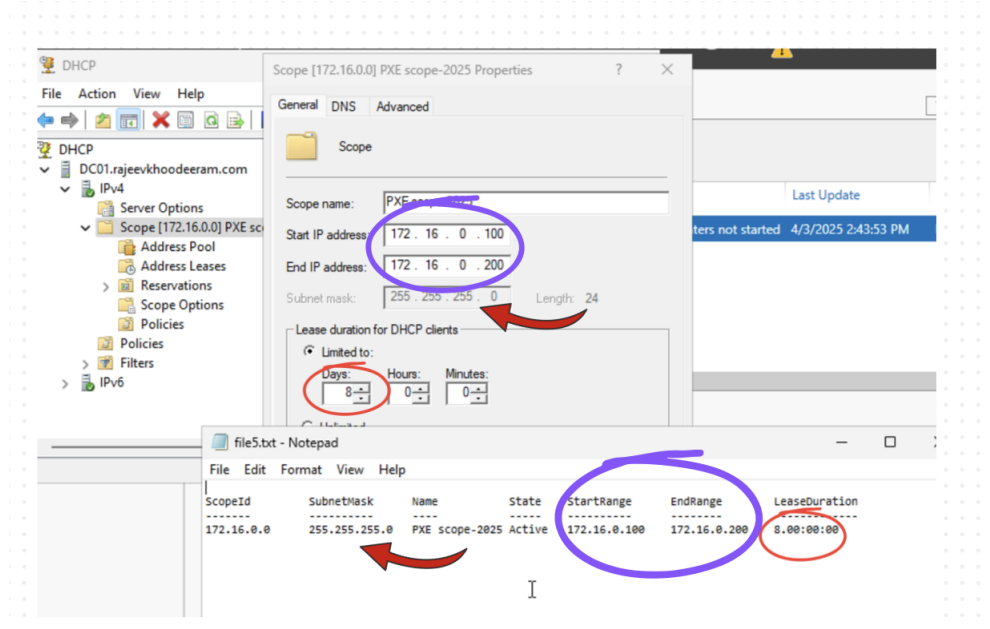


Figure 4.6: Listing some details of the DNS and its scope

4.7 Get-WdsBootImage >c:\file6.txt

The Get-WdsBootImage cmdlet is used in Windows Deployment Services (WDS) to retrieve information about the boot images that have been added to the WDS server.

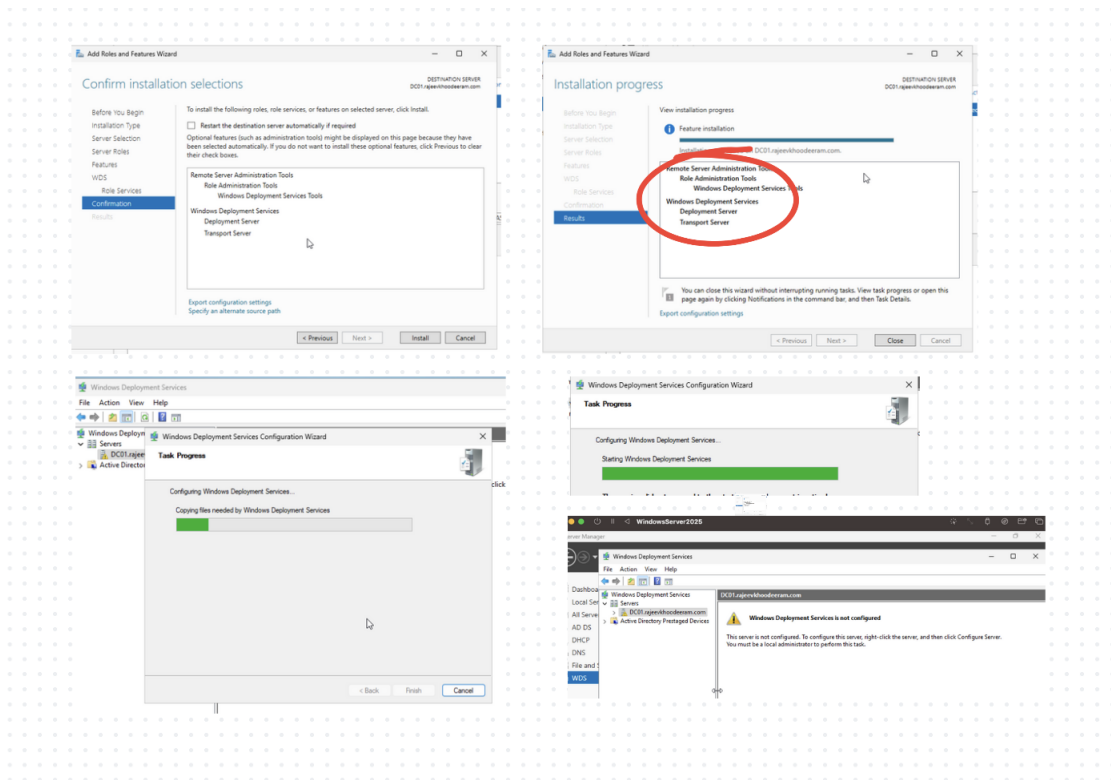


Figure 4.7: Installing Windows Deployment Services

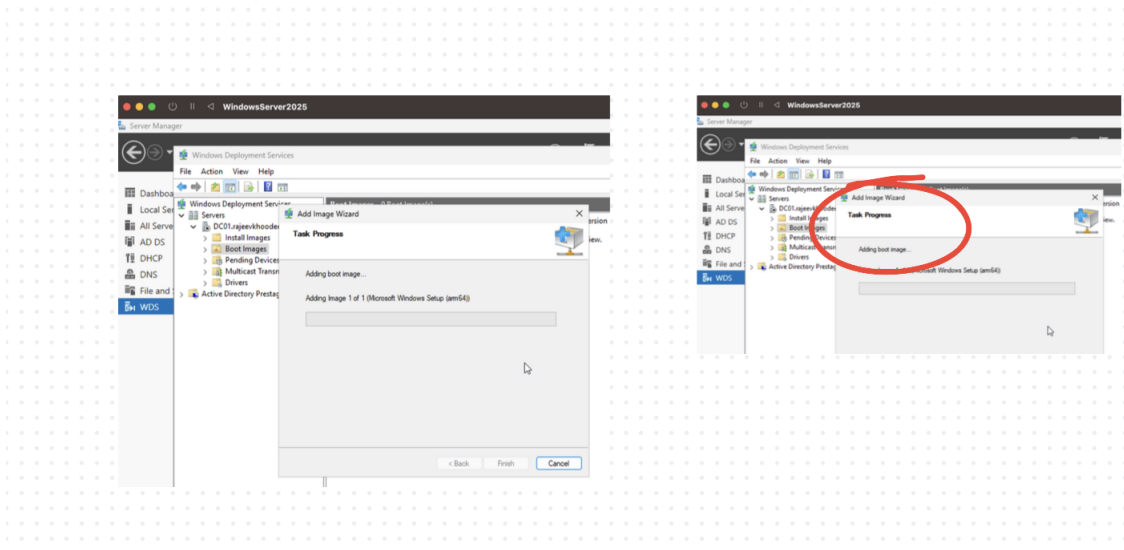


Figure 4.8: Configuring the boot image (RemoteInstall/boot.wim)

4.8 Get-WdsInstallImage >c:\file7.txt

The Get-WdsInstallImage cmdlet is part of the Windows Deployment Services (WDS) PowerShell module, and it retrieves information about the install images (the OS images used for installation) available on a WDS server.

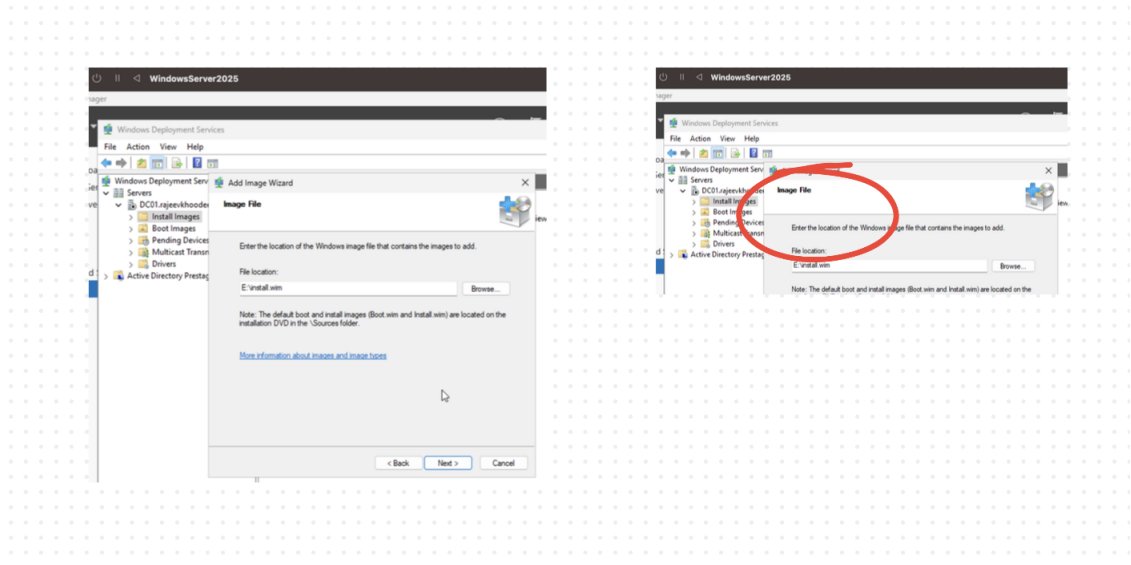


Figure 4.9: Configuring the boot image (RemoteInstall/image.wim)

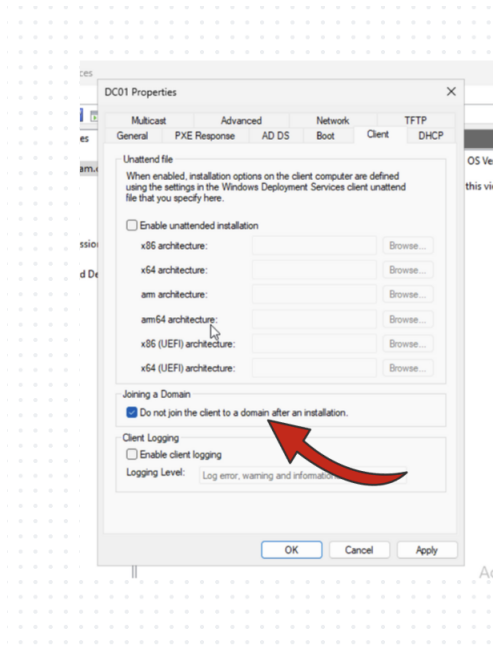


Figure 4.10: Client must not be installed by default on the domain

4.9 Get-ADOrganizationalUnit >c:\file8.txt

The Get-ADOrganizationalUnit cmdlet is used in PowerShell to retrieve Organizational Units (OUs) from Active Directory. OUs are containers within Active Directory used to organize and manage objects like users, groups, and computers.

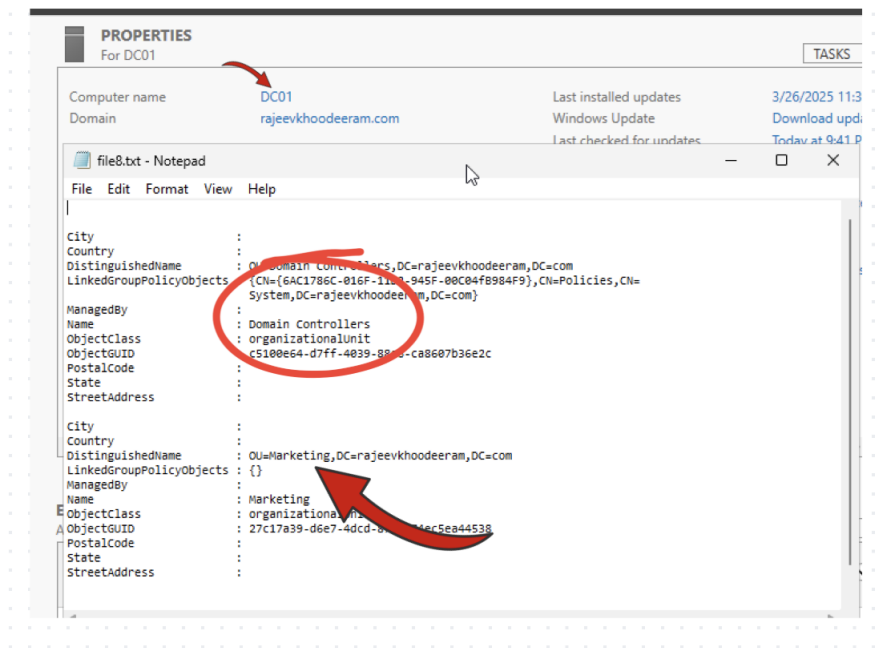


Figure 4.11: Checking the OU "Marketing" has been correctly created on DC01

4.10 tar -a -c -f c:\yournameDC01.zip c:\file*.txt

The tar command is typically used for archiving files and directories in Unix-based operating systems but has been integrated also in Windows. It stands for "tape archive" and is used to create, extract, and manage compressed archives.

In this case, we are compressing all the files (*) into rajeedc01.zip (which is bundled as part of the project submission).

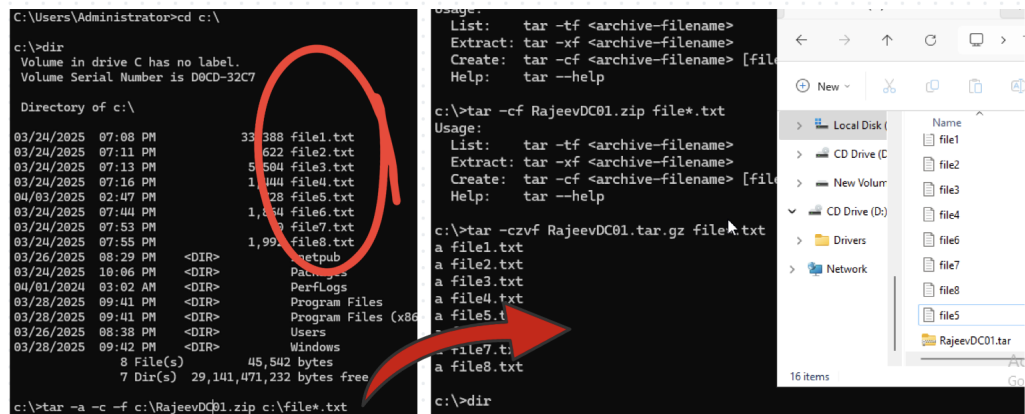


Figure 4.12: Compressing all files which starts with file* into the zipped file Rajeedc01.tar

Conclusion

PART 5

5.1 Final takeaways

Completing a Windows client-server deployment requires strong planning, configuration, and automation skills, and be able to do it is a great achievement. PowerShell scripting, combined with best security practices, have allowed me to be more efficient. According to my experience from this project, regular backups, monitoring, and policy enforcement will ensure Active Directory, networking, DHCP, and DNS services run smoothly (which is critical for a network administrator).

In this project, many networking services have been successfully installed and configured which have allowed me to get a solid understanding of 3 main concepts : *networking* (IP addressing, subnets and some networking commands like ping, nslookup, etc), *client-server configuration* on domain and last, *security enforcement* through firewall and group policies. Example of services installed for this project are :

- Active Directory
- Dynamic Host Configuration (server - DHCP)
- Domain Name Server (DNS)
- Remote Server Administration Tools (RSAT)
- Windows Deployment Server (WDS)

This project has demonstrated how virtualization plays a critical role in deploying and simulating client-server administration. Whether it is for the setting up of Active Directory, DHCP, DNS, networking, or PowerShell automation, virtualization provides an efficient, cost-effective, and scalable environment for learning, testing, and deploying IT infrastructures, and prepares future IT professionals (*like us !!!*) for real-world enterprise environments. I am thankful to all friends in the group who have contributed to some way or another to the increased knowledge during this Windows Client Administration course at **tRIOS college**, and I am grateful to Mr Mohammed Ghori for his valuable guidance.

*For years, I was primarily focused on software development, but now I'm expanding my expertise into networking (**is this called getting out of your comfort zone ?**). This Diploma in CyberSecurity and Cloud Computing provides another layer of skills - I am just starting loving it, and it seems that the journey is going to be fun...*