

# System Requirements and Installation Information for Windows Server 2012 R2

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Applies To: Windows Server 2012 R2

This topic addresses the information you need to install Windows Server® 2012 R2. The process of moving to Windows Server 2012 R2 might vary greatly depending on which operating system you are starting with and the pathway you take. We use the following terms to distinguish among different actions, any of which could be involved in a new Windows Server 2012 R2 deployment.

- **Installation** is the basic concept of getting the new operating system on your hardware. Specifically, a **clean installation** requires deleting the previous operating system.
- **Upgrade** means moving from your existing operating system to Windows Server 2012 R2, while staying on the same hardware. You can upgrade from an evaluation version of Windows Server 2012 R2, a current retail version of certain editions of Windows Server 2012 R2 (an action known as “license conversion”), a previous retail version of certain editions of Windows Server, or from a volume-licensed edition of Windows Server 2012 R2. Even while staying on the same hardware, some server roles might require specific steps to ensure a smooth upgrade. For detailed information about upgrading by any of these methods to Windows Server 2012 R2, see upgrade options
- **Migration** means moving from your existing operating system to Windows Server 2012 R2 by transferring to a different set of hardware. Migration, which might vary considerably

depending on the server roles you have installed, is discussed in detail at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsserver/dn458795>.

## Clean installation

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Before you start a clean installation of Windows Server 2012 R2, you should perform the following steps.

1. Review the system requirements
2. Review preinstallation documentation
3. Obtain the product
4. Perform preinstallation tasks

## Review system requirements

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The following are estimated system requirements for the Windows Server 2012 R2. If your computer has less than the "minimum" requirements, you will not be able to install this product correctly. Actual requirements will vary based on your system configuration and the applications and features you install.

### **Important**

The highly diverse scope of potential deployments makes it unrealistic to state “recommended” system requirements that would be generally applicable. Consult documentation for each of the server roles you intend to deploy for more details about the resource needs of particular server roles. For the best results, conduct test deployments to determine appropriate system requirements for your particular deployment scenarios.

## Processor

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Processor performance depends not only on the clock frequency of the processor, but also on the number of processor cores and the size of the processor cache. The following are the processor requirements for this product:

- **Minimum:** 1.4 GHz 64-bit processor

## RAM

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The following are the estimated RAM requirements for this product:

- **Minimum:** 512 MB

### **Important**

If you create a virtual machine with the minimum supported hardware parameters (1 processor core and 512 MB RAM) and then attempt to install this release on the virtual machine, Setup will fail.

To avoid this, do one of the following:

- Allocate more than 800 MB RAM to the virtual machine you intend to install this release on. Once Setup has completed, you can change the allocation to as little as 512 MB RAM, depending on the actual server configuration.
- Interrupt the boot process of this release on the virtual machine with SHIFT+F10. In the command prompt that opens, use Diskpart.exe to create and format an installation partition. Run **Wpeutil createpagefile /path=C:\pf.sys** (assuming the installation partition you created was C:). Close the command prompt and proceed with Setup.

## Disk space requirements

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The following are the estimated **minimum** disk space requirements for the system partition.

- **Minimum:** 32 GB

### **Note**

Be aware that 32 GB should be considered an absolute minimum value for successful installation. This minimum should allow you to install Windows Server 2012 R2 in Server Core mode, with the Web Services (IIS) server role. A server in Server Core mode is about 4 GB smaller than the same server in Server with a GUI mode. For the smallest possible installation footprint, start with a Server Core installation and then completely remove any server roles or features you do not need by using Features on Demand. For more information about Server Core and Minimal Server Interface modes, see [Windows Server Installation Options](#).

The system partition will need extra space for any of the following circumstances:

- If you install the system over a network.
- Computers with more than 16 GB of RAM will require more disk space for paging, hibernation, and dump files.