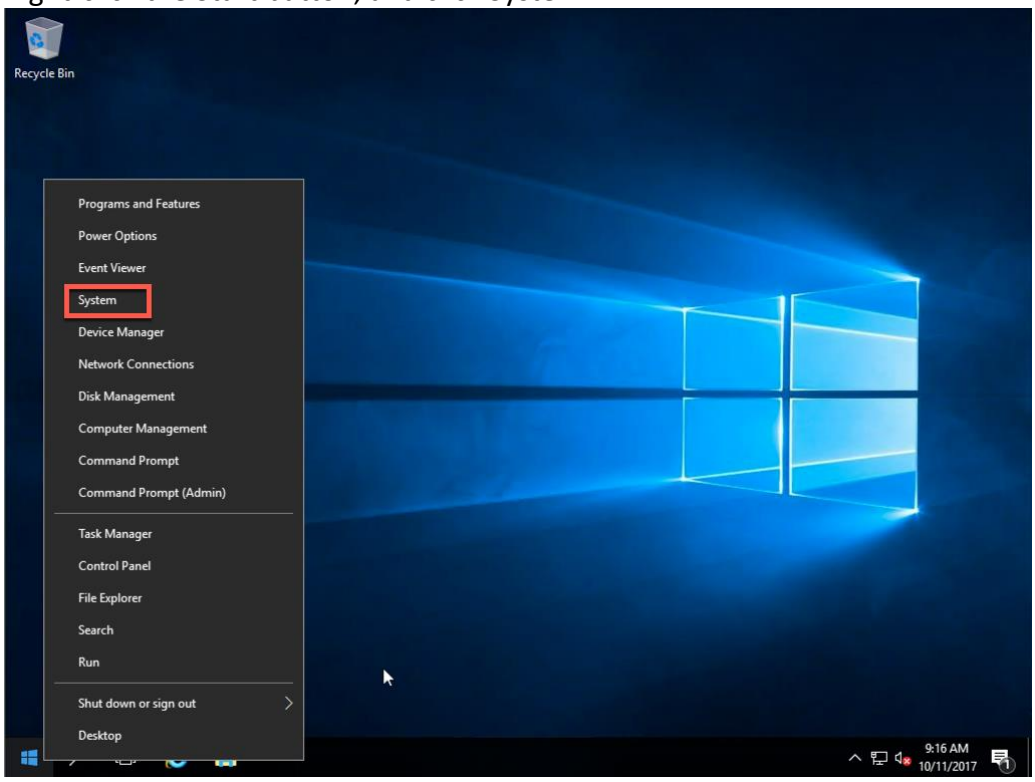
How To: Windows Server 2016 – Add Additional Domain Controllers to a Domain

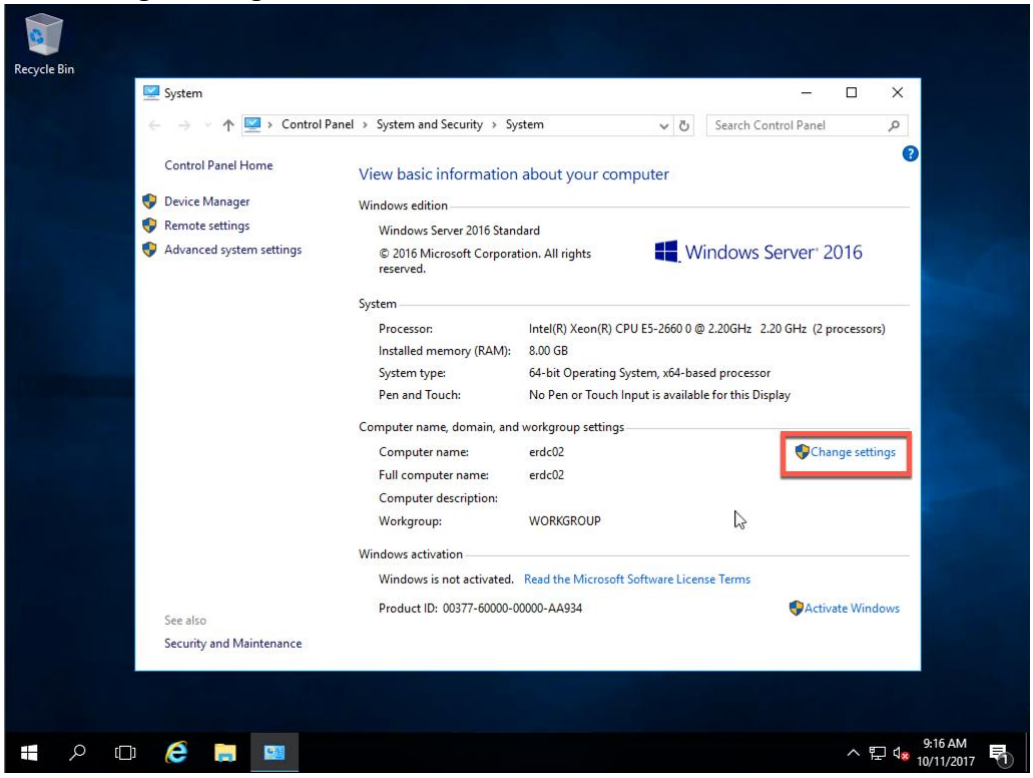
This document explains how to configure a standard Windows Server 2016 installation as an additional Domain Controller in your domain. You normally want at least two domain controllers for redundancy.

Join Server to Domain

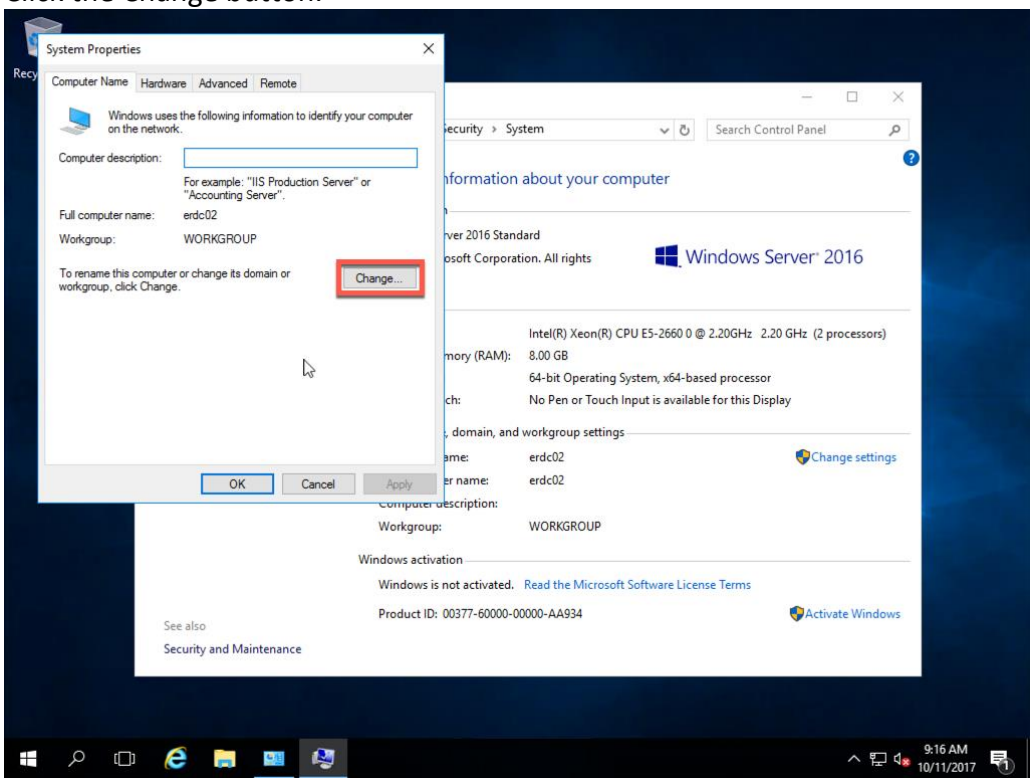
1. Right-click the Start button, and click System.



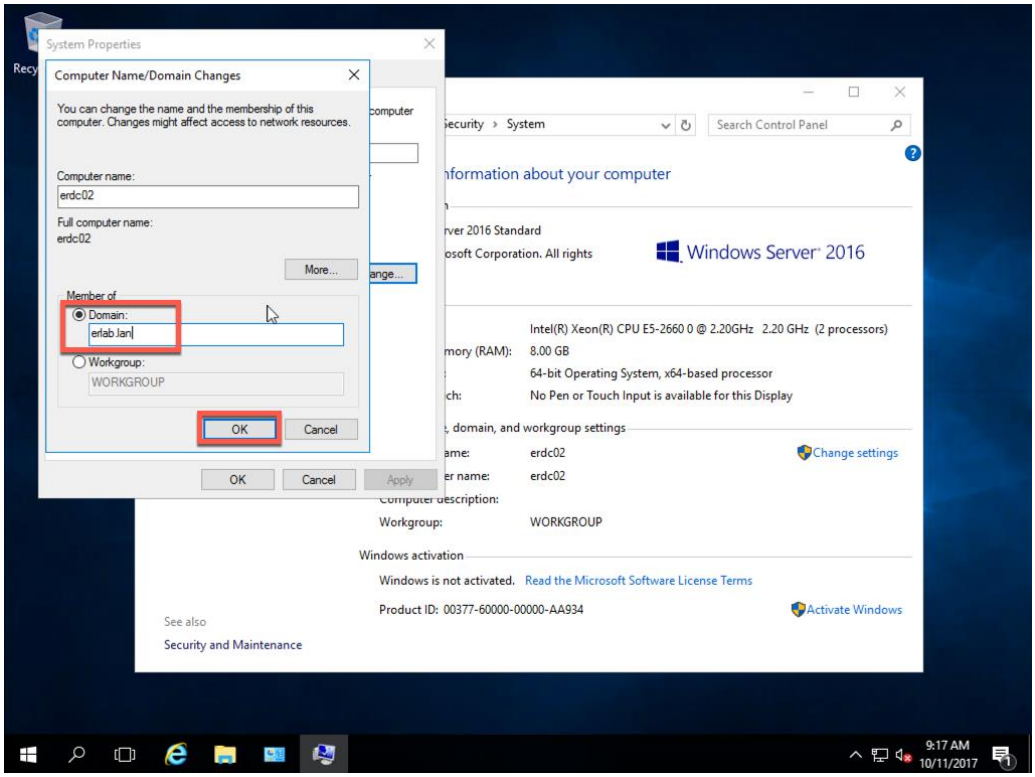
2. Click Change settings.



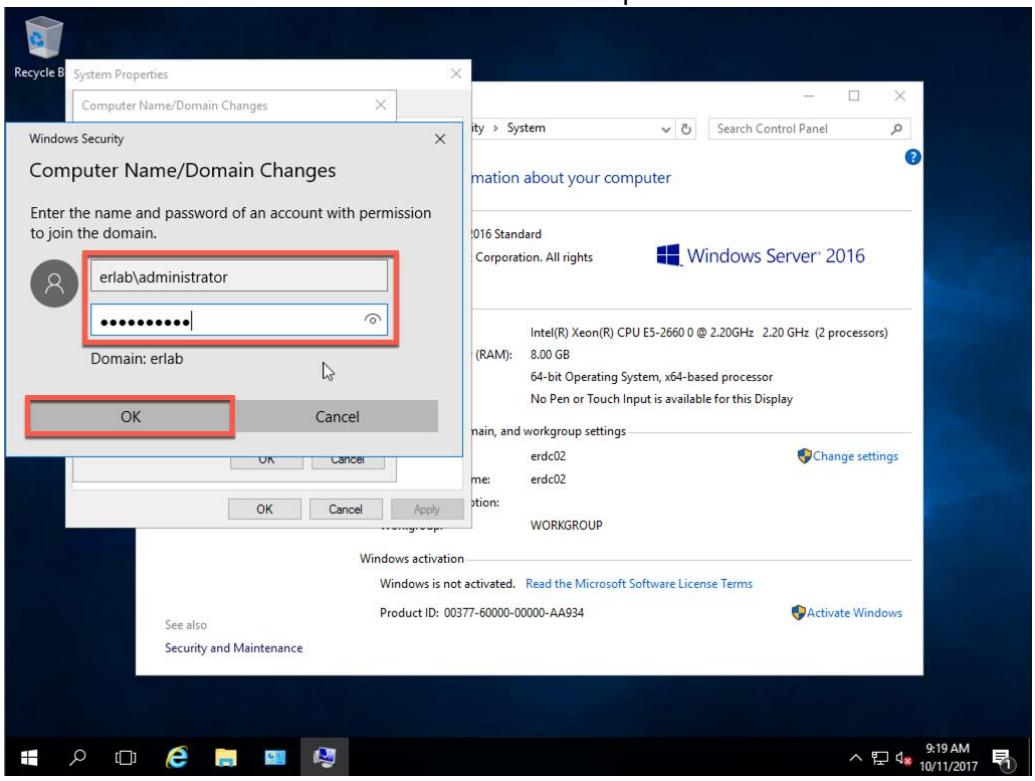
3. Click the Change button.



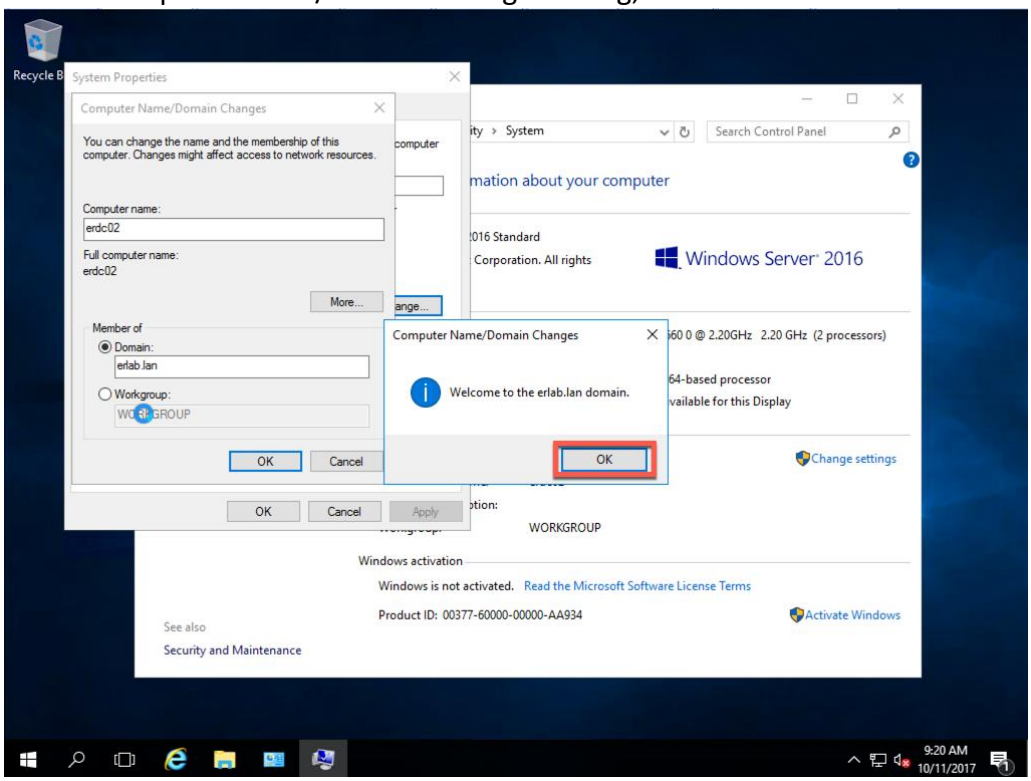
4. In the Member of section, choose Domain, enter the name of the domain you want to join, and click OK.



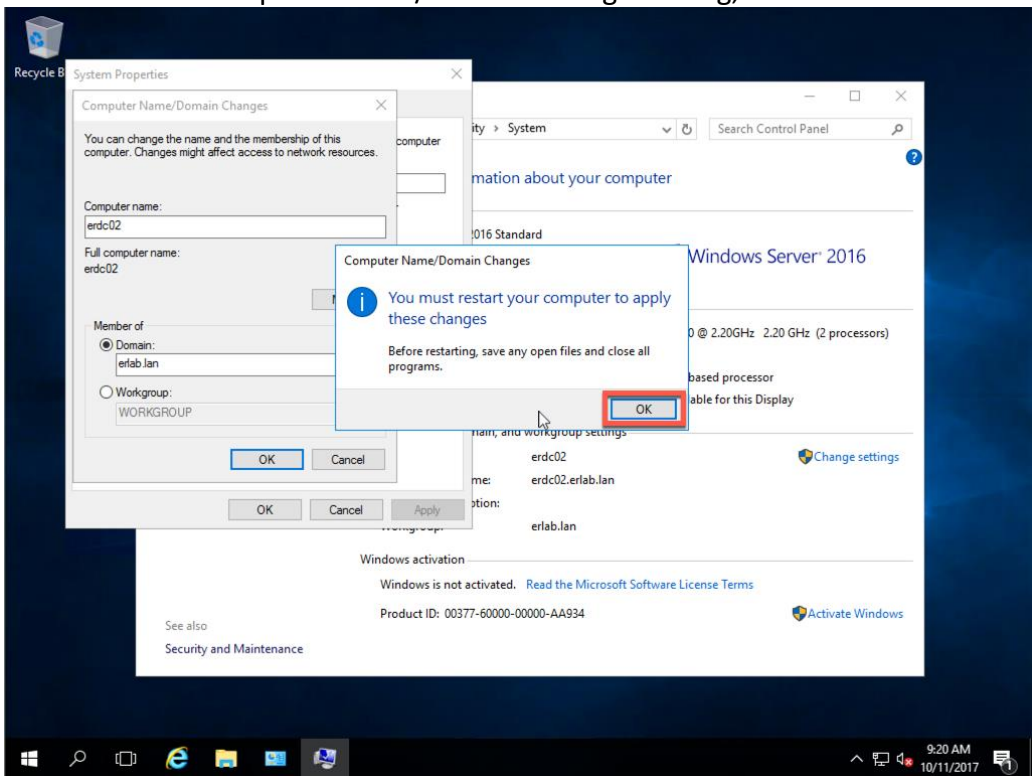
5. Enter the Domain Administrator username and password and click OK.



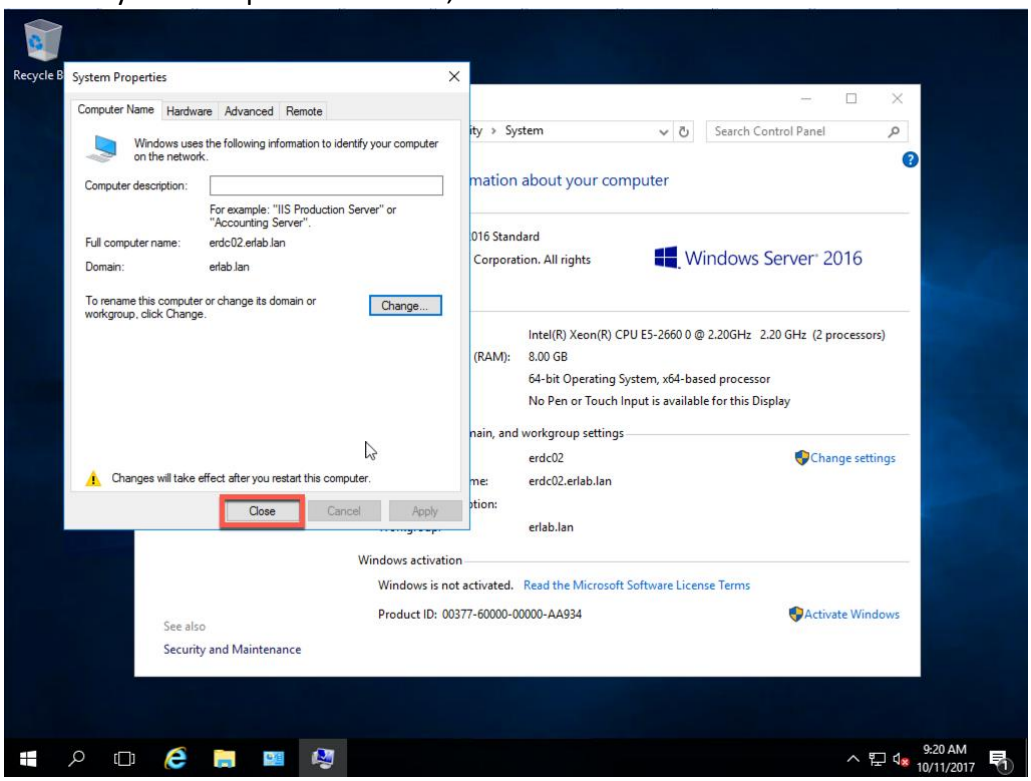
6. On the Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog, click OK.



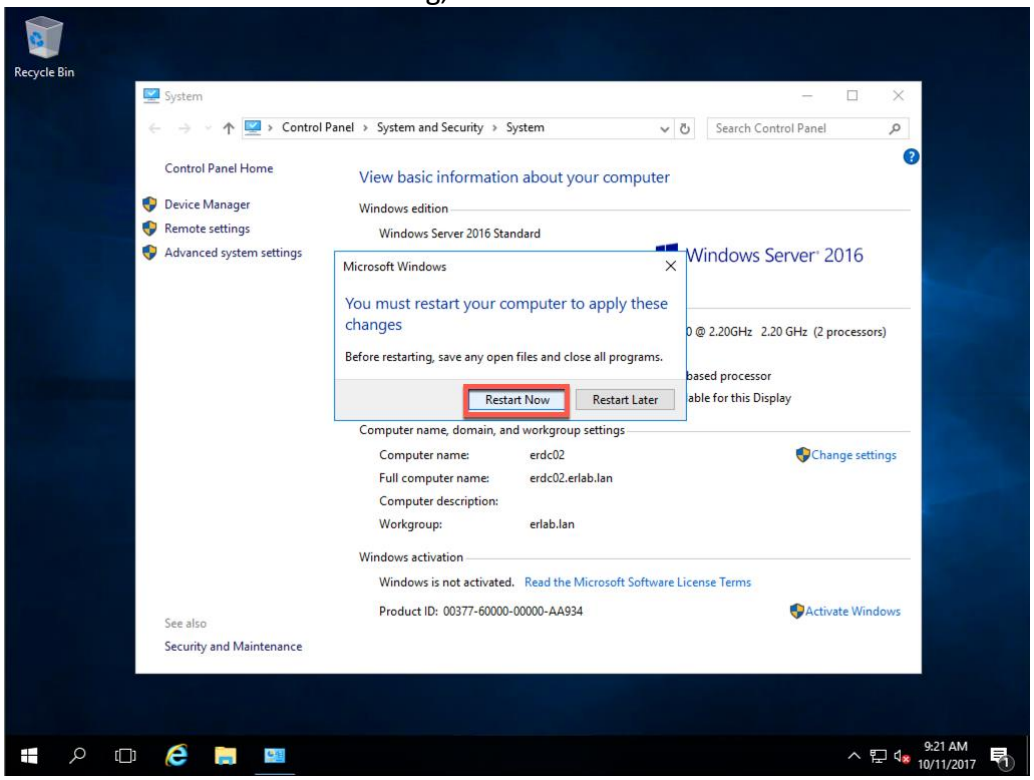
7. On the second Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog, click OK.



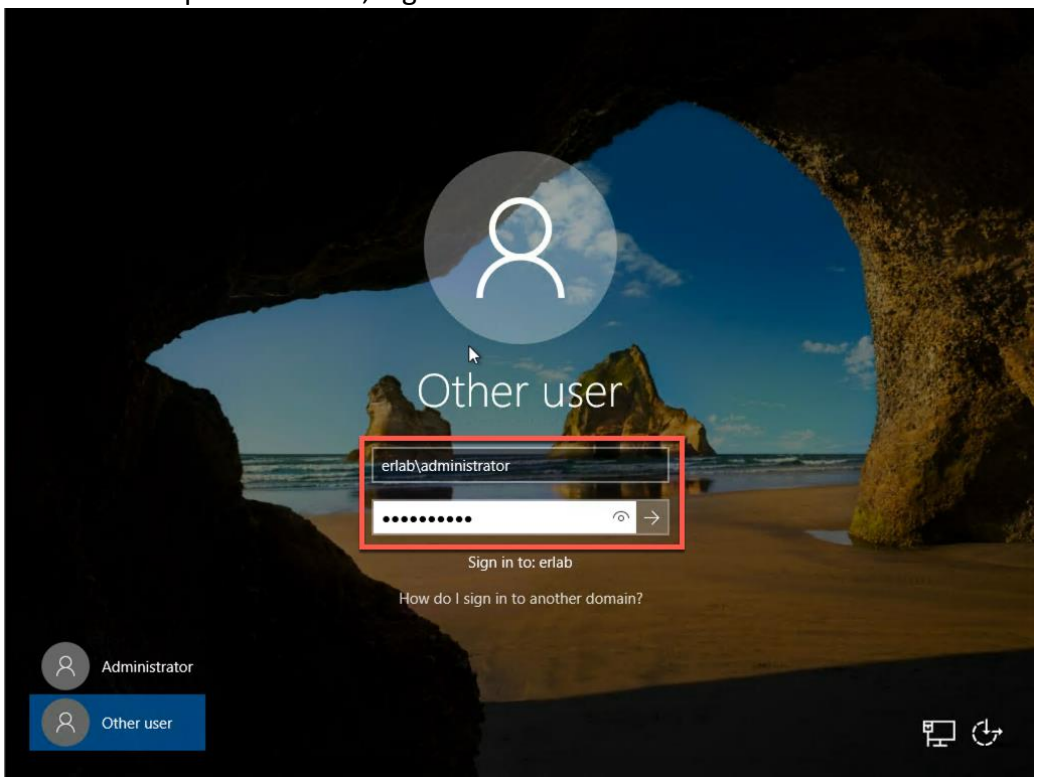
8. On the System Properties window, click Close.



9. On the Microsoft Windows dialog, click Restart Now.



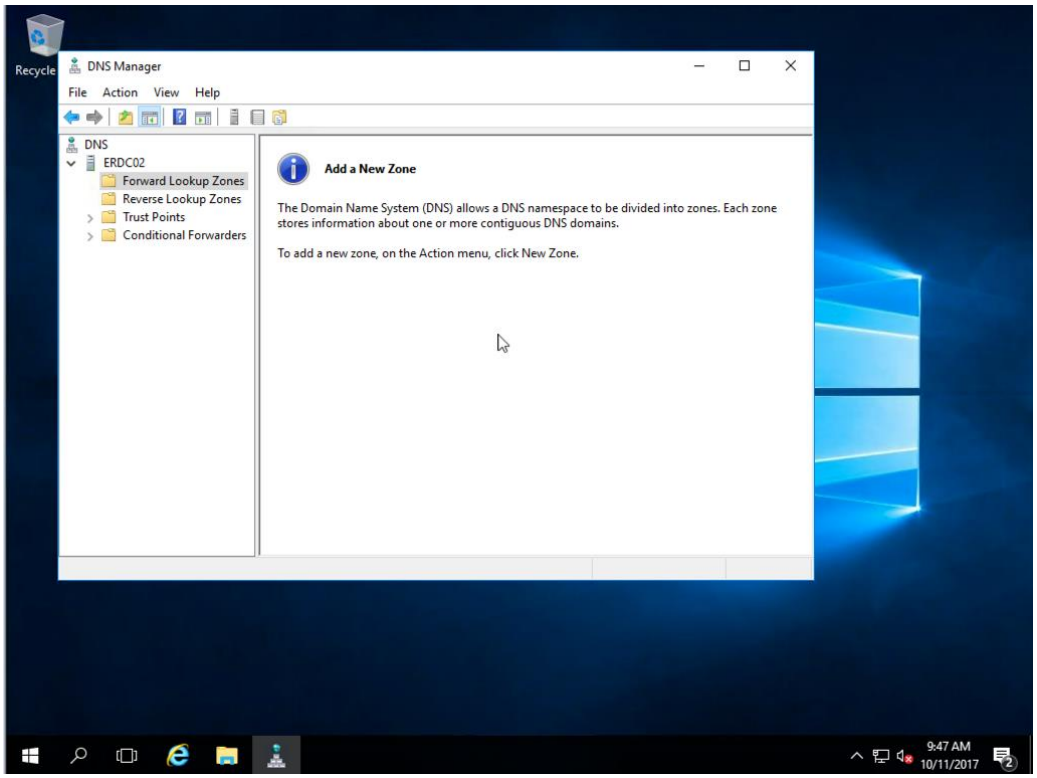
10. After the computer restarts, login as the Domain Administrator.



Add DNS Roles

Before you promote this server to a Domain Controller, recommend adding the DNS Server Role. You don't have to add any Forward or Reverse Lookup Zones like you did on the first server. The reason for that is once this server is promoted to a Domain Controller the DNS settings will get replicated.

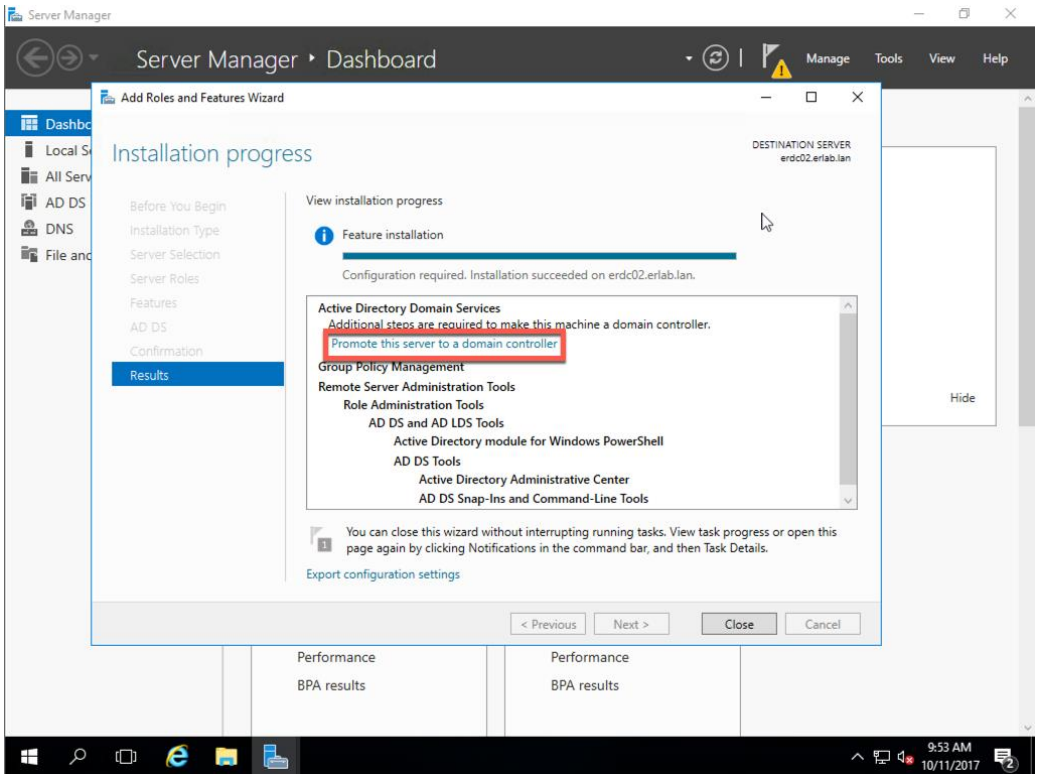
Here is a screenshot of DNS on my second server that shows no Forward or Reverse Lookup Zones.



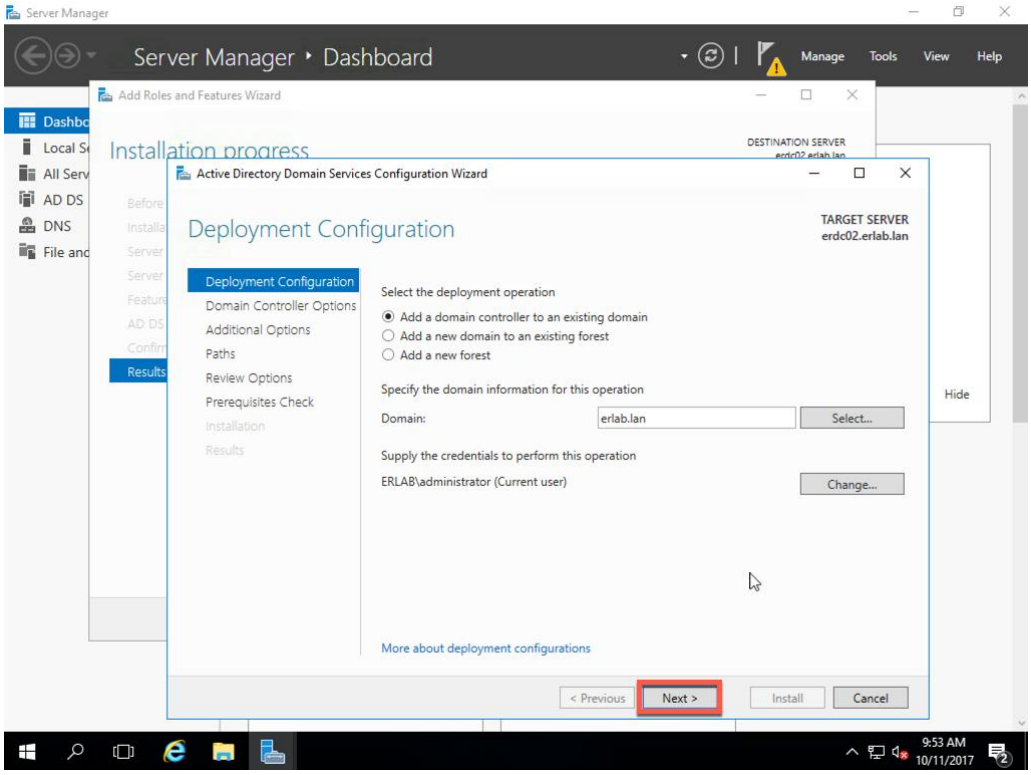
Add Active Directory Services Role

We are now ready to add the Active Directory Services Role. We will follow the same process to add the Role as we did on our first domain controller. The difference will be when we do the promotion. So I won't show any screenshots for adding the role, but will start with the promotion process so you can see the difference.

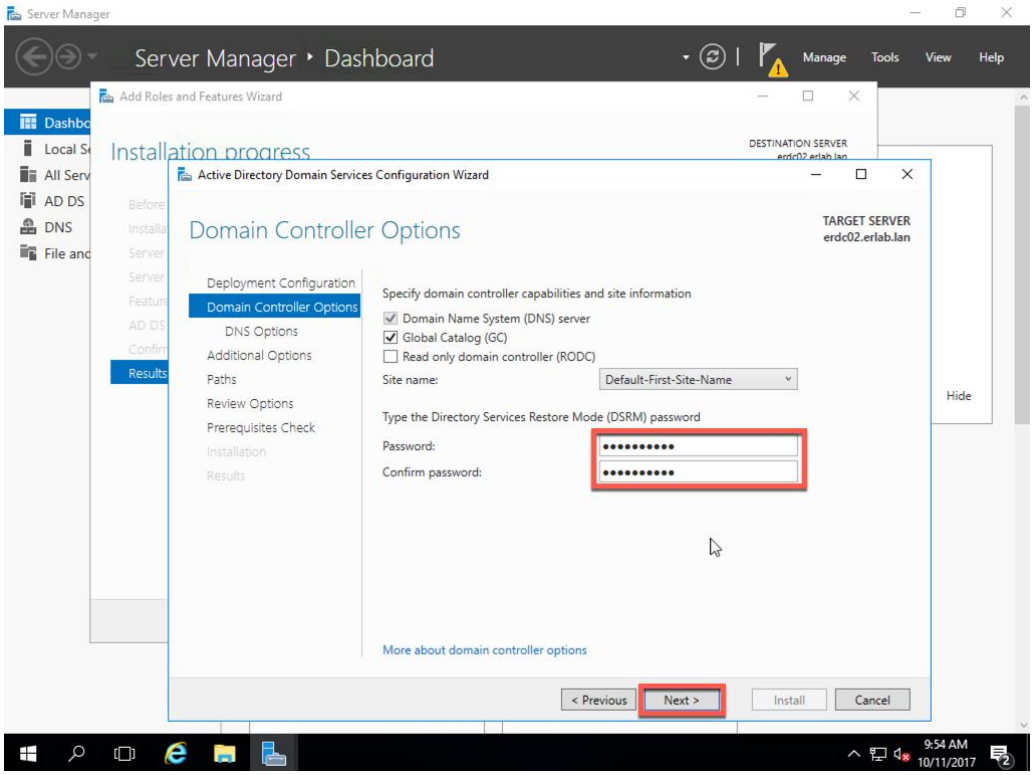
1. Once the Active Directory Services Role has been added, click Promote this server to a domain controller.



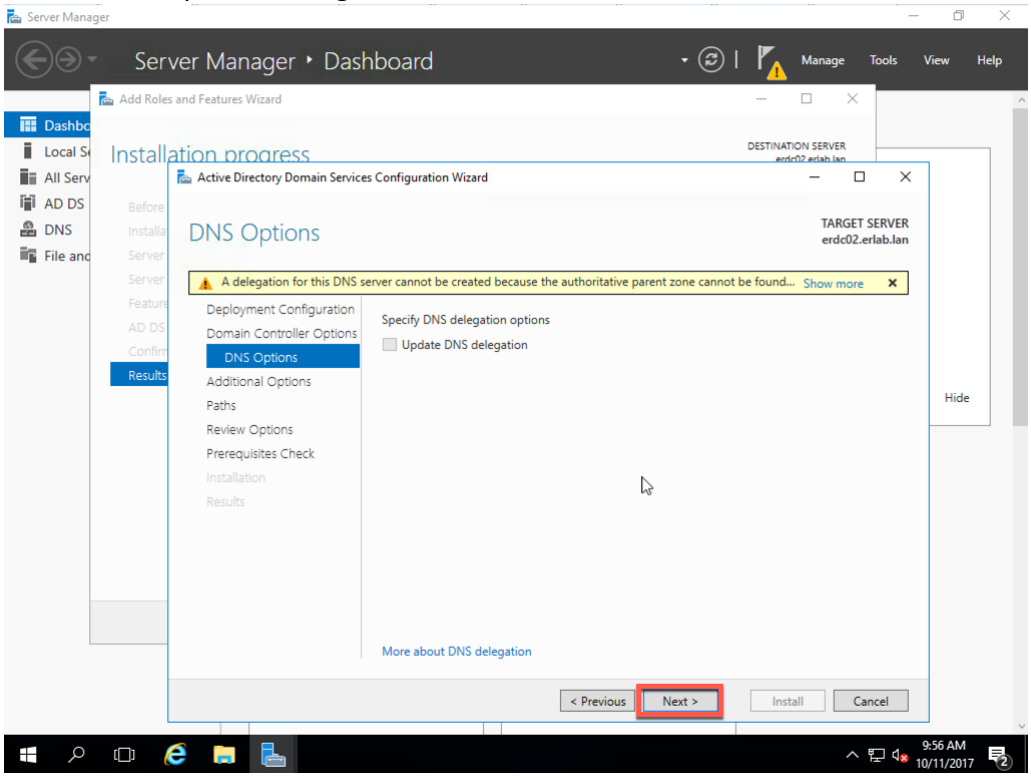
2. On the Deployment Configuration dialog, verify the information and click Next.



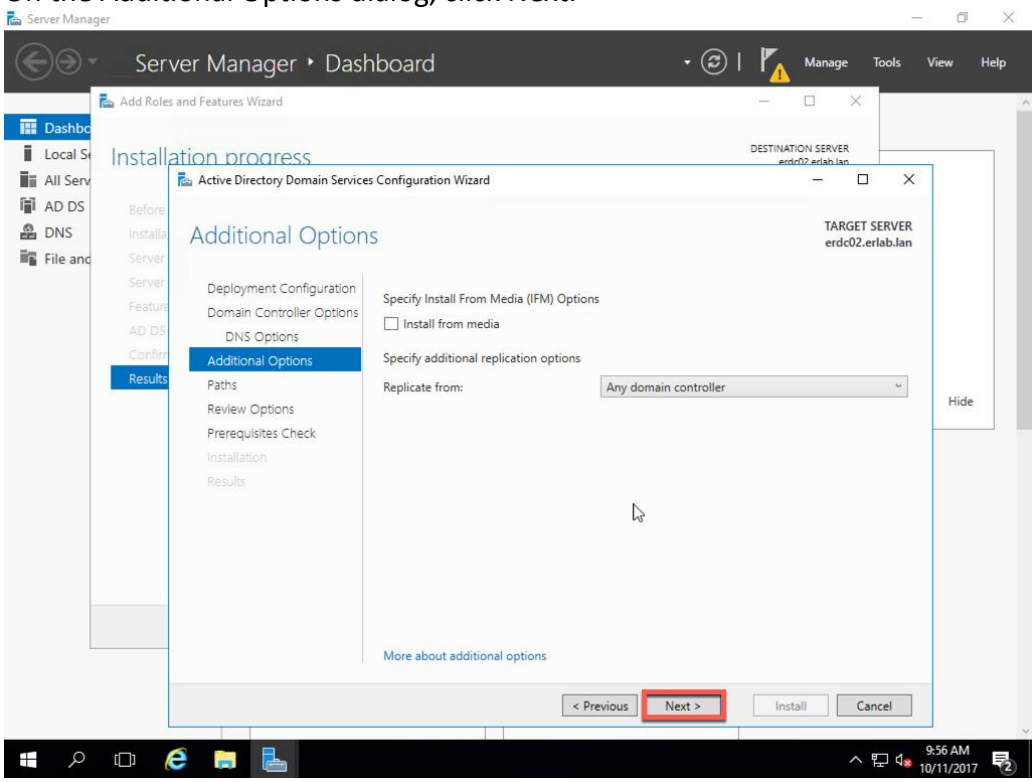
3. On the Domain Controller Options dialog, enter the password DSRM, and click Next.



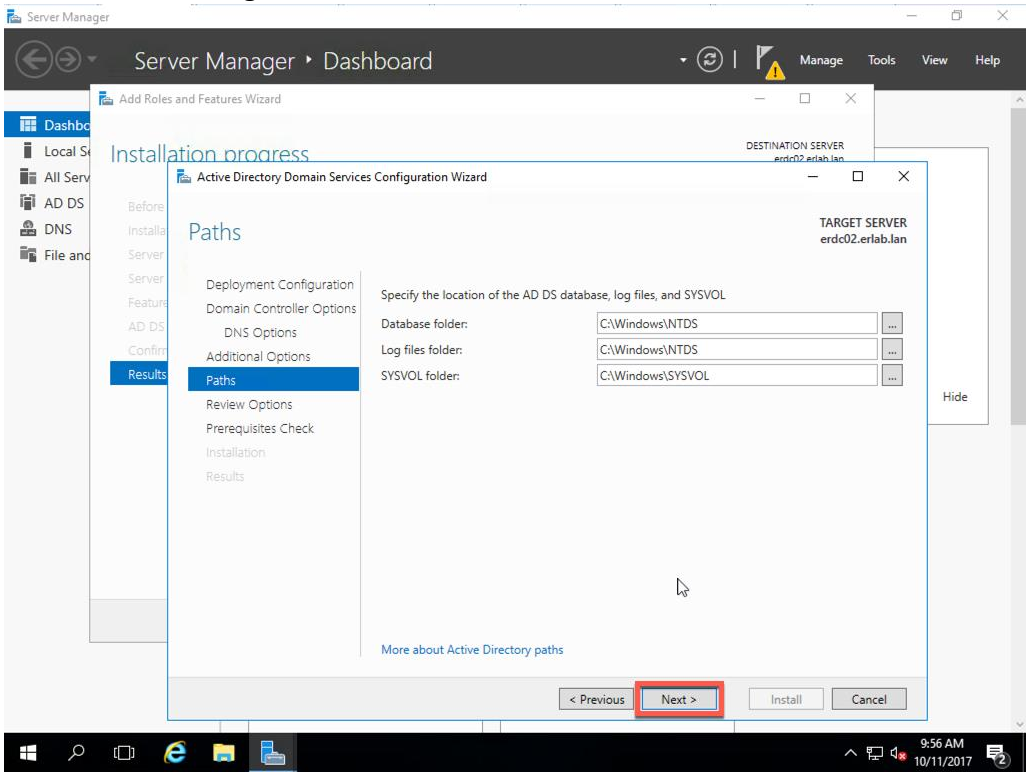
4. On the DNS Options dialog, click Next.



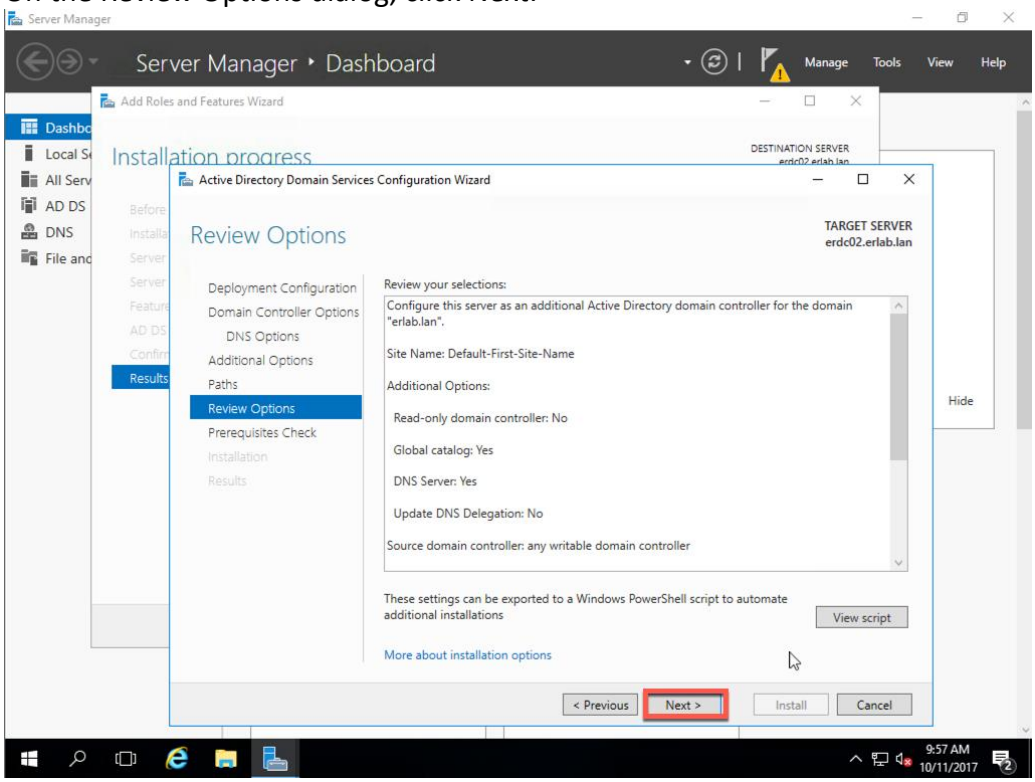
5. On the Additional Options dialog, click Next.



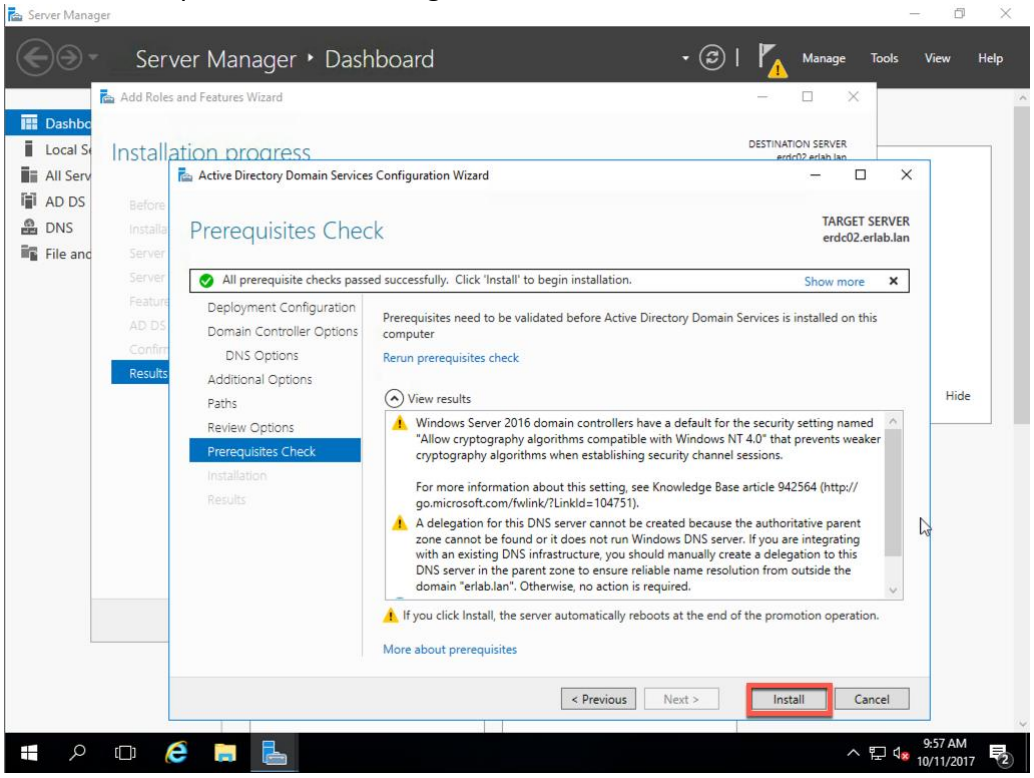
6. On the Paths dialog, click Next.



7. On the Review Options dialog, click Next.



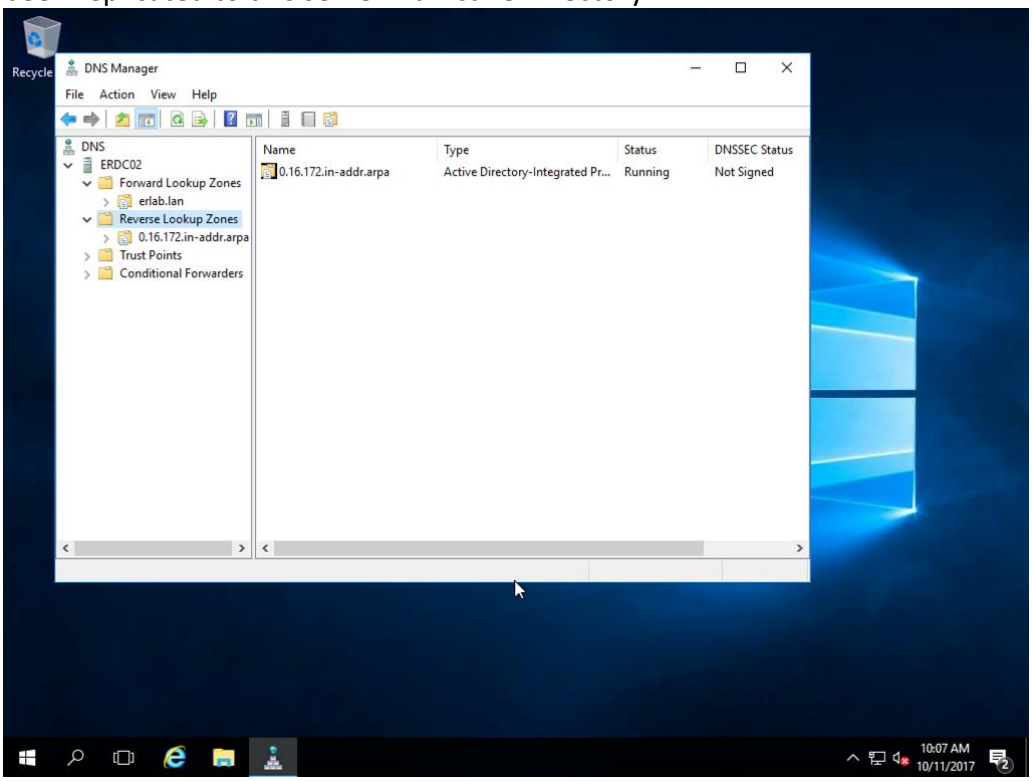
8. On the Prerequisites Check dialog, click Install.



9. The installation and promotion process begins. Once this is complete the server will automatically restart. Once the server has rebooted, you will only be able to use a domain account to login. The local administrator account will no longer work on this server.

DNS Server Check

In the screenshot below, you can now see that the Forward and Reverse Lookup Zones have been replicated to this server via Active Directory.



Now that Active Directory is replicating DNS Server settings, make sure to update the DNS Server settings on your network adapter so that this server is pointing to itself.