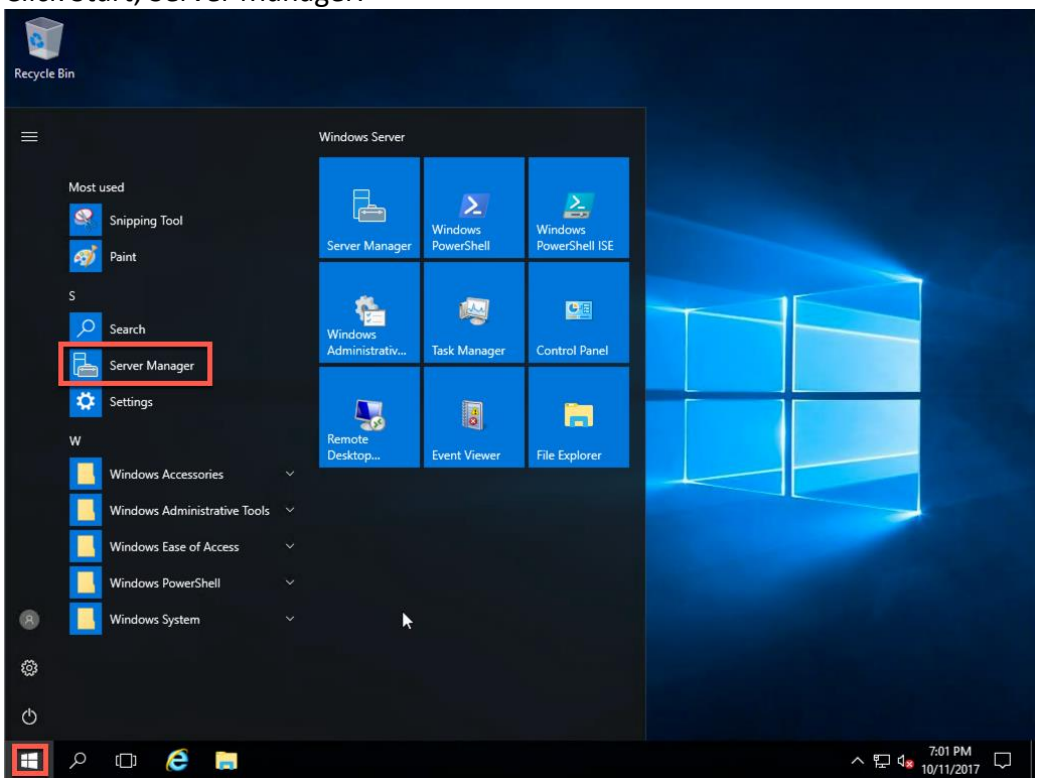
How To: Windows Server Update Service

This document walks through installing Windows Server Update Service (WSUS). This feature is used to have a central update server for your network. It allows your computers and servers to update from a local server rather than all of them downloading from Microsoft servers.

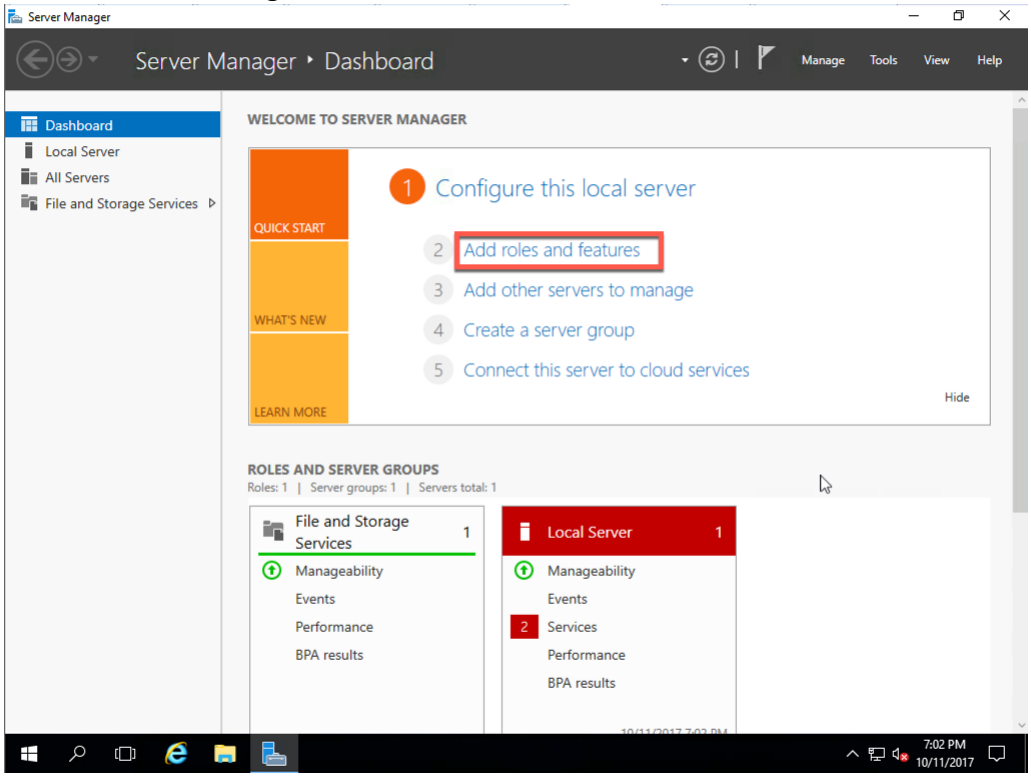
The following process will be completed on a Windows Server 2016 server that is a member of our lab domain. Also, I have added a second hard disk drive to this server. It will be used to store the Windows updates as they become available.

Add Windows Server Update Service Role

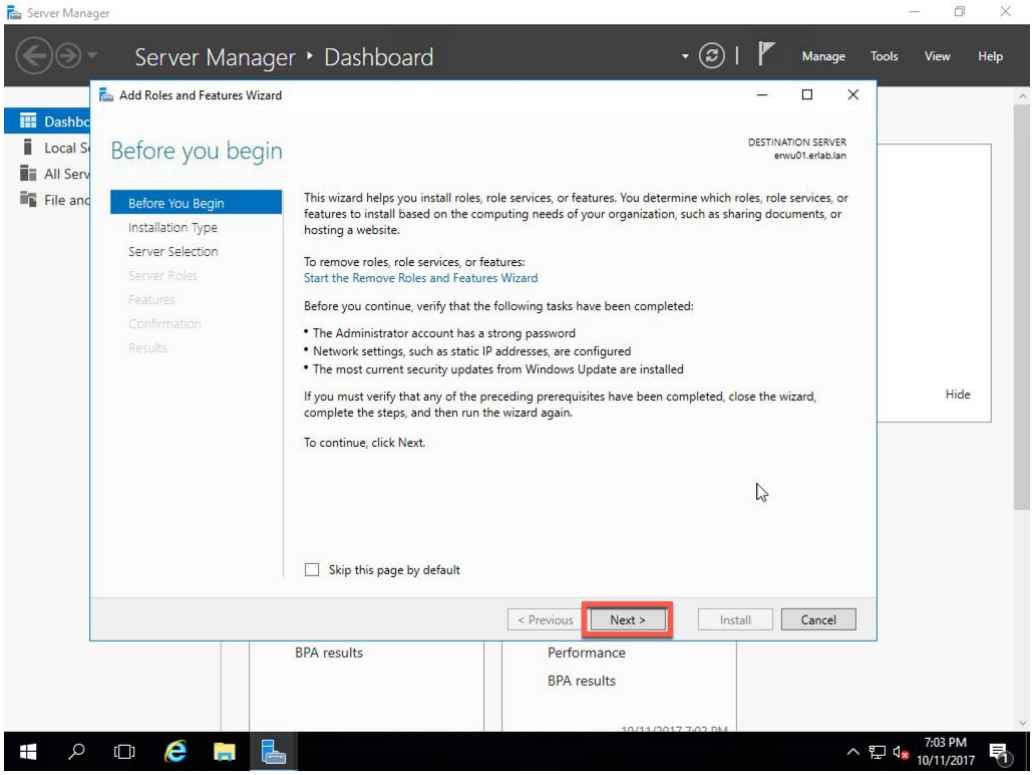
1. Click Start, Server Manager.



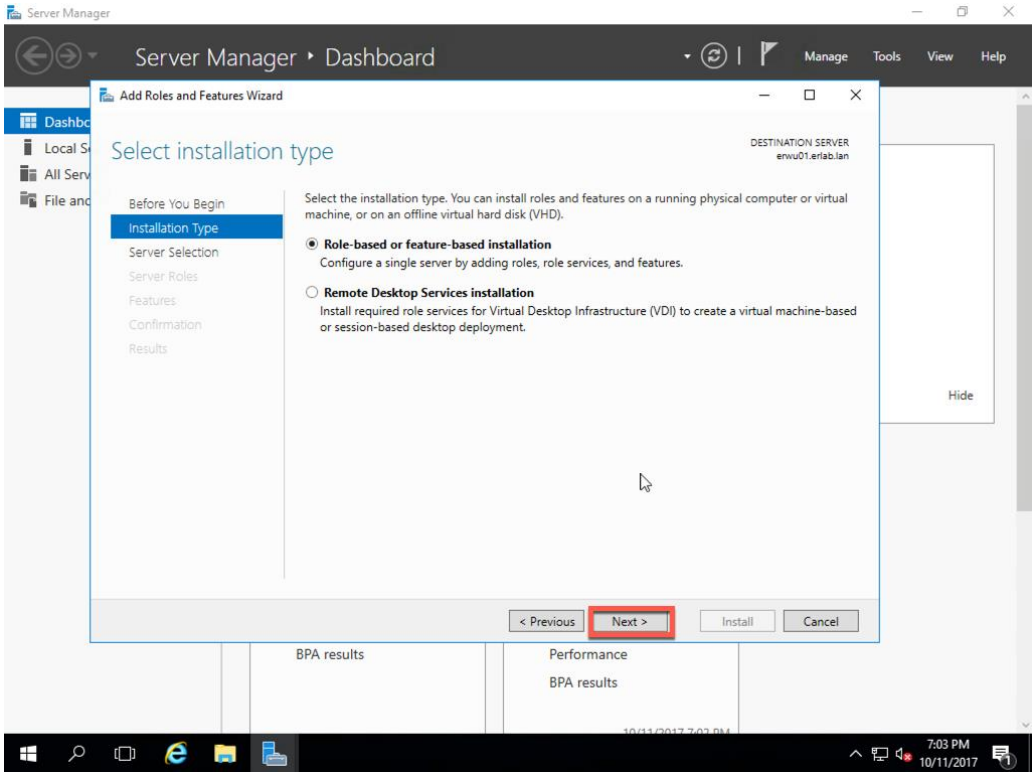
2. On the Server Manager window, click Add roles and features.



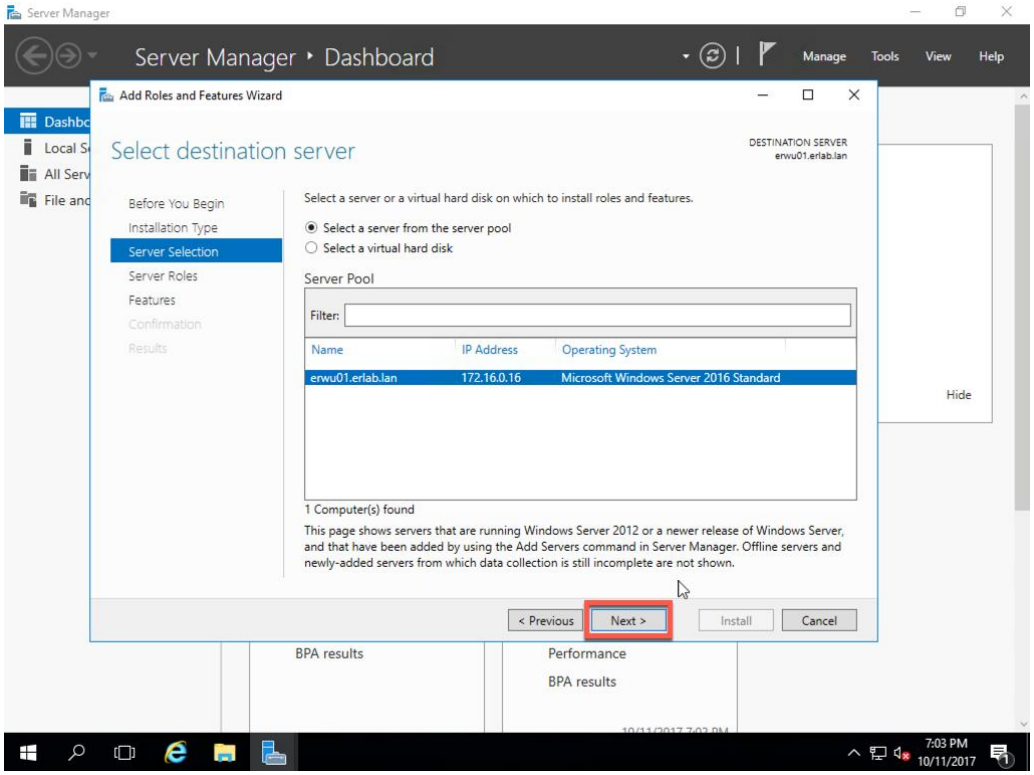
3. On the Before you begin dialog, click Next.



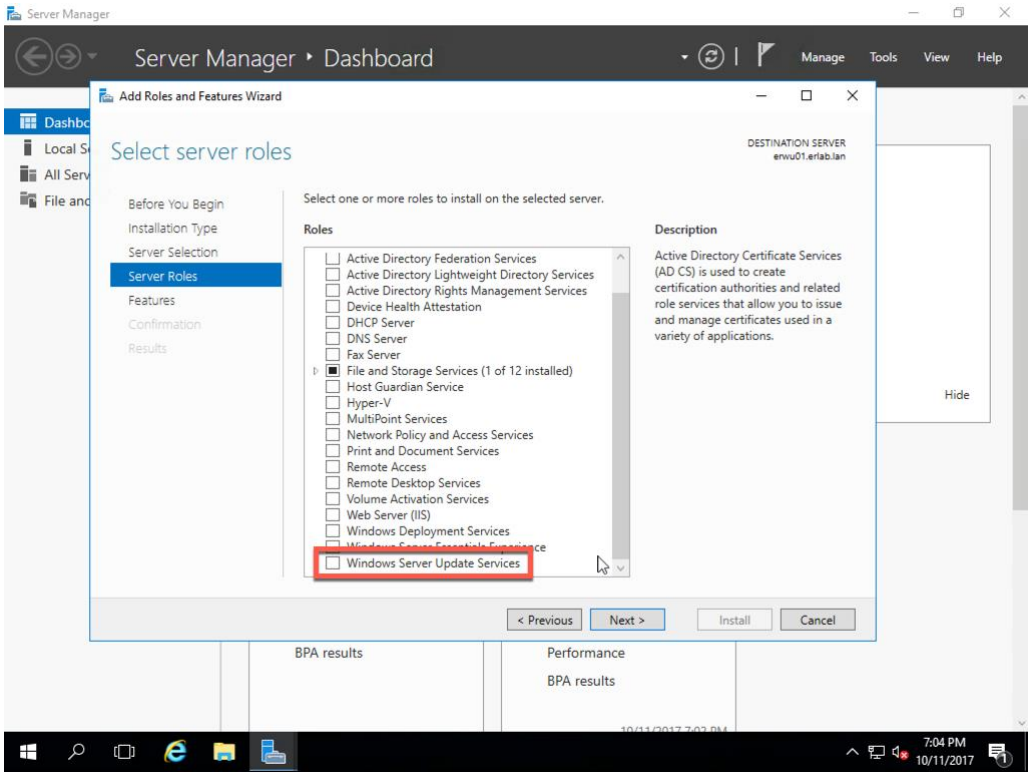
4. On the Select installation type, click Next.



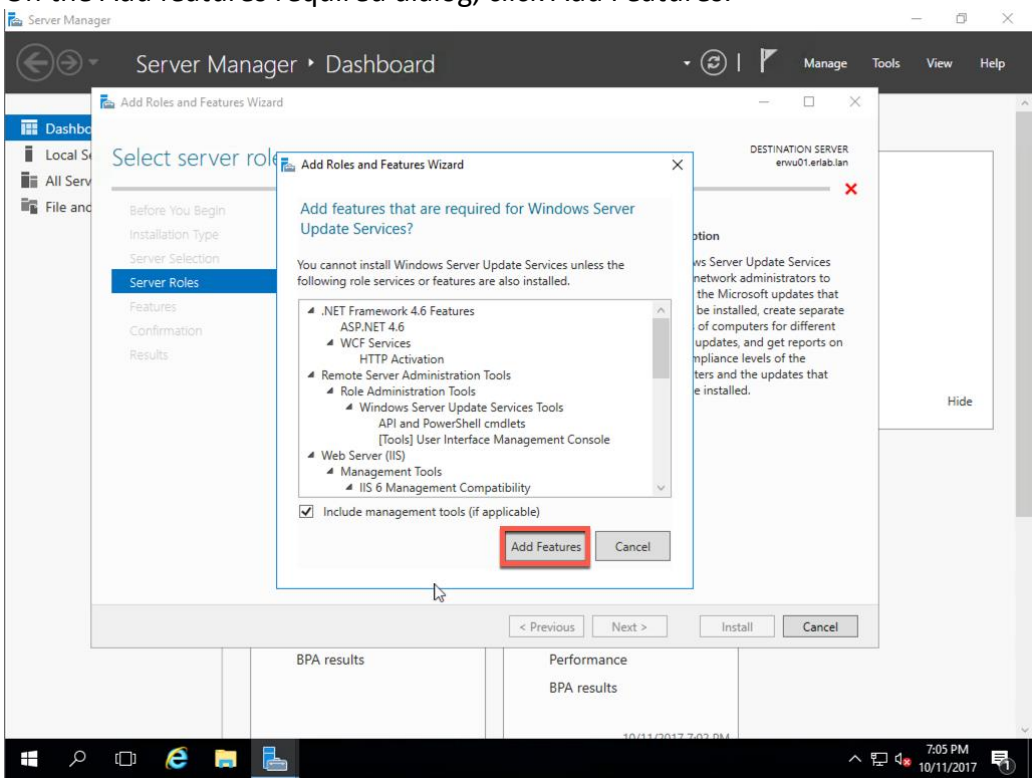
5. On the Select destination server, click Next.



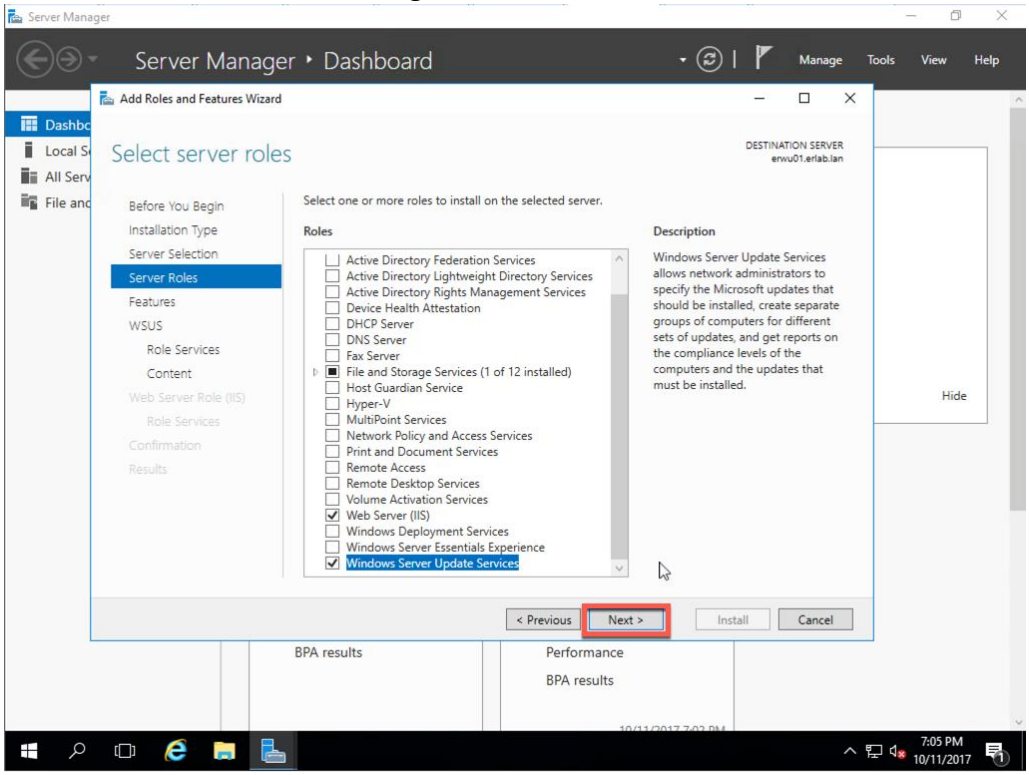
6. On the Select server roles, check Windows Server Update Services.



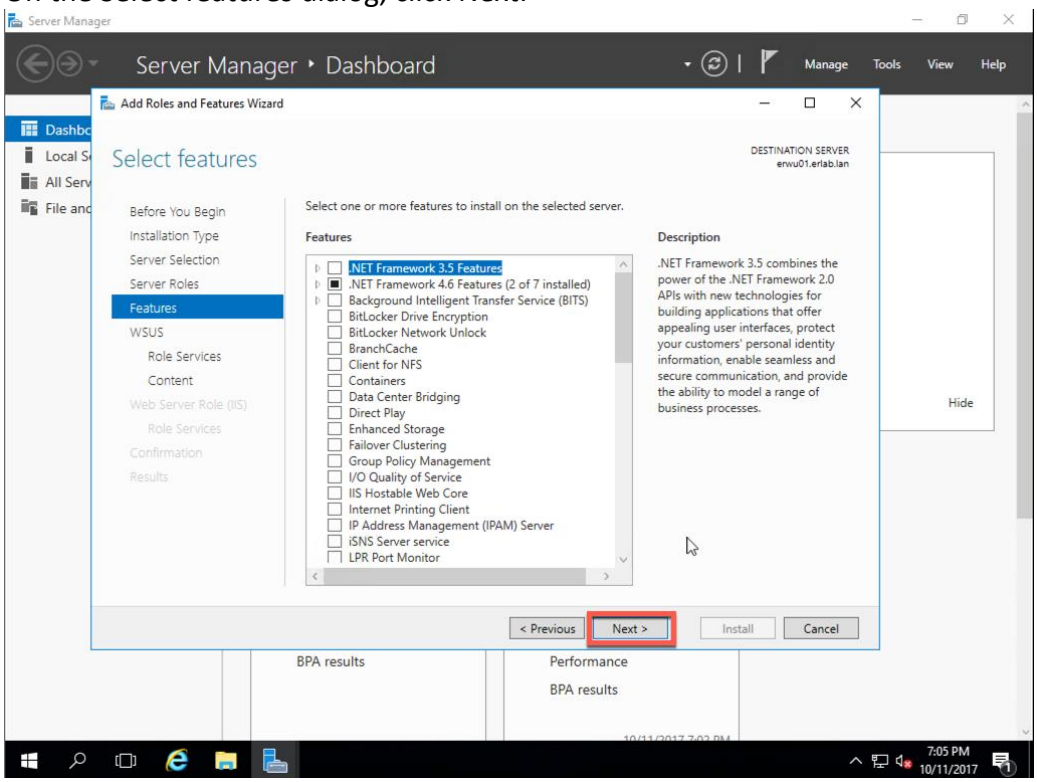
7. On the Add features required dialog, click Add Features.



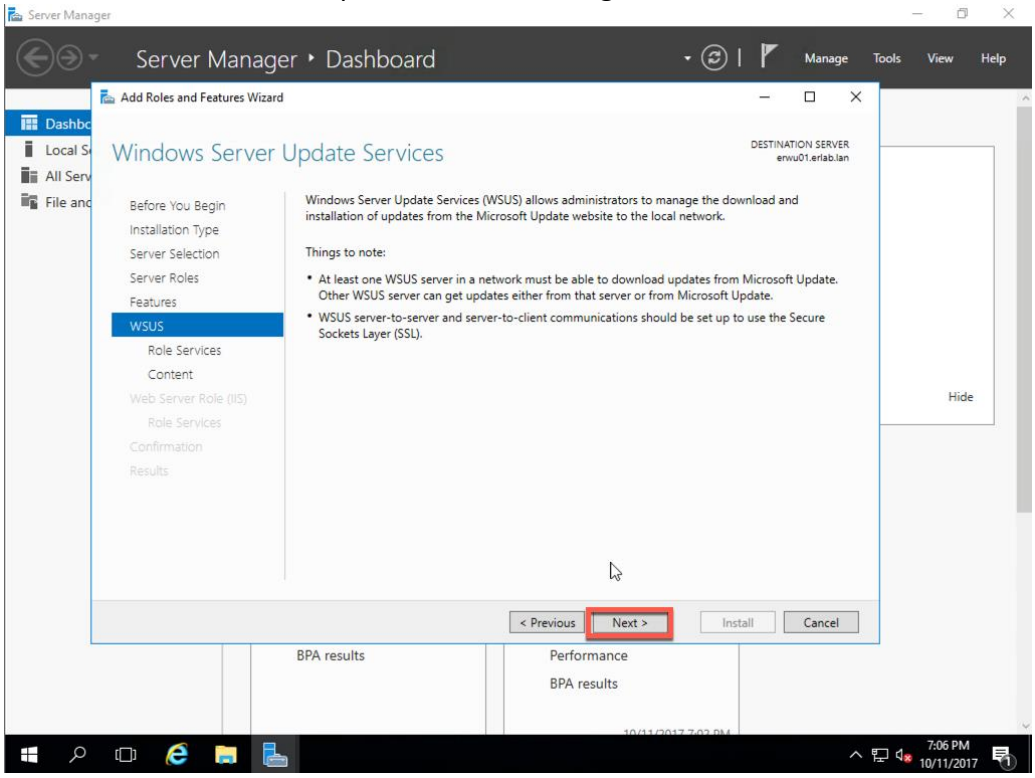
8. On the Select server roles dialog, click Next.



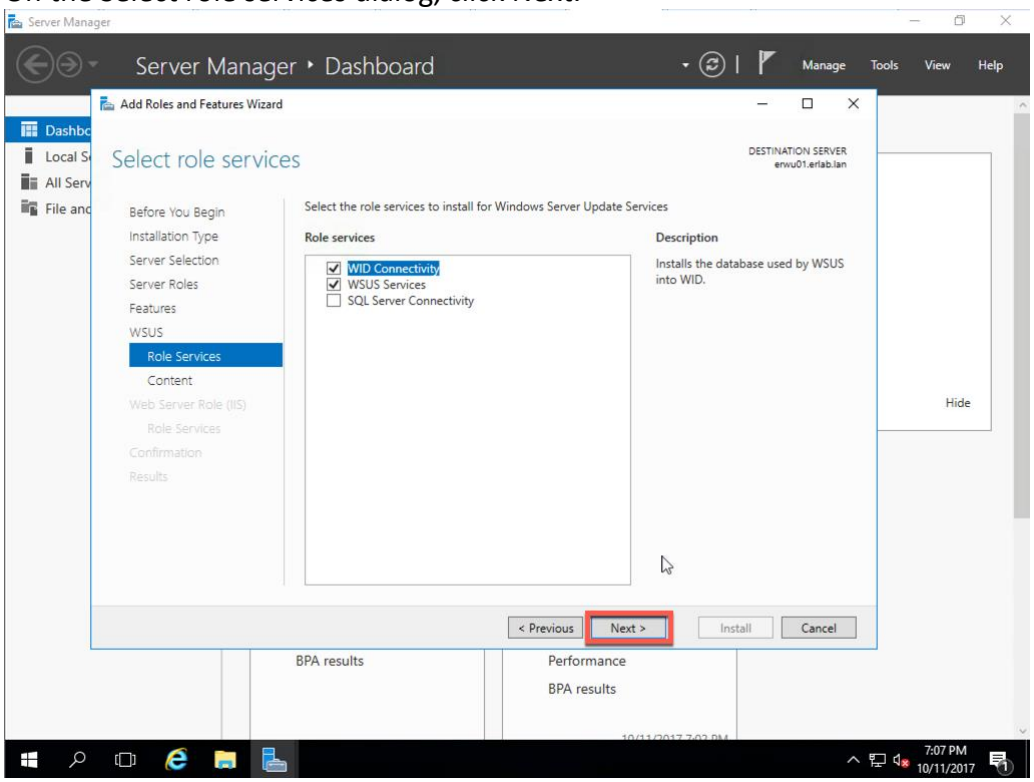
9. On the Select features dialog, click Next.



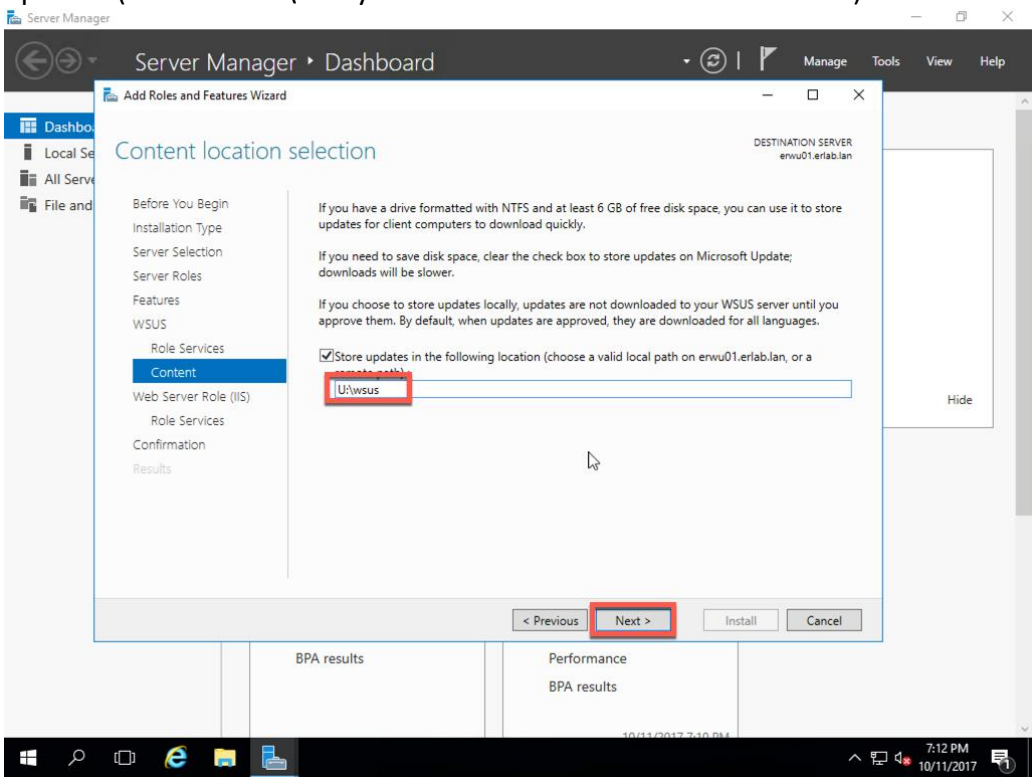
10. On the Windows Server Update Services dialog, click Next.



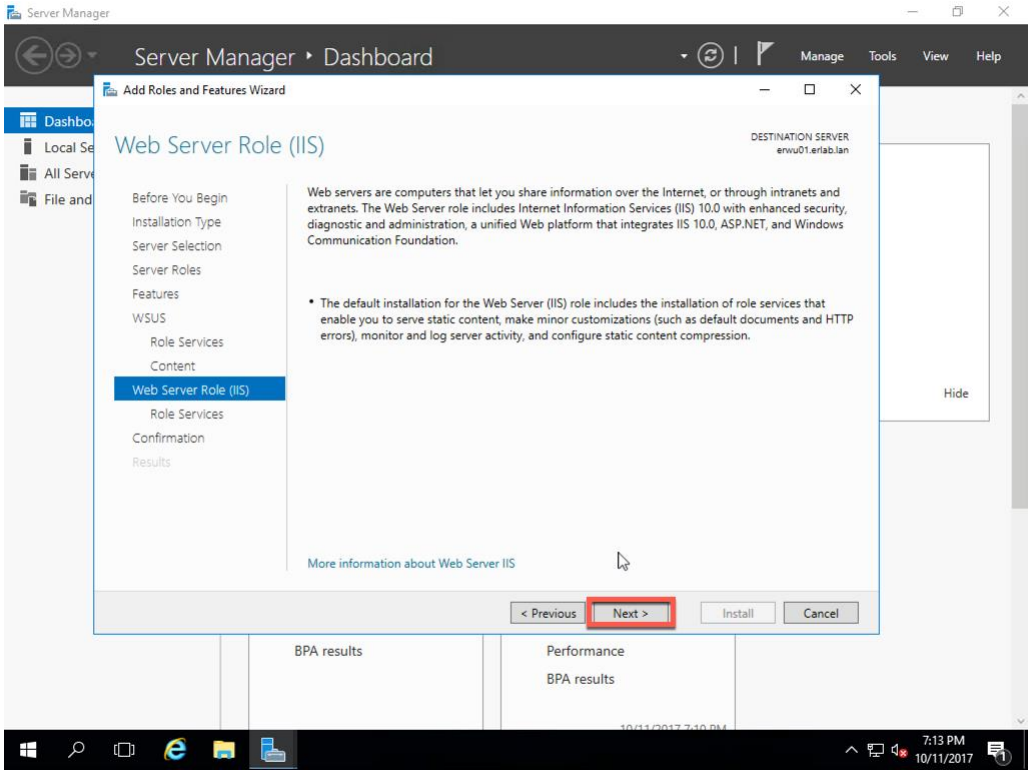
11. On the Select role services dialog, click Next.



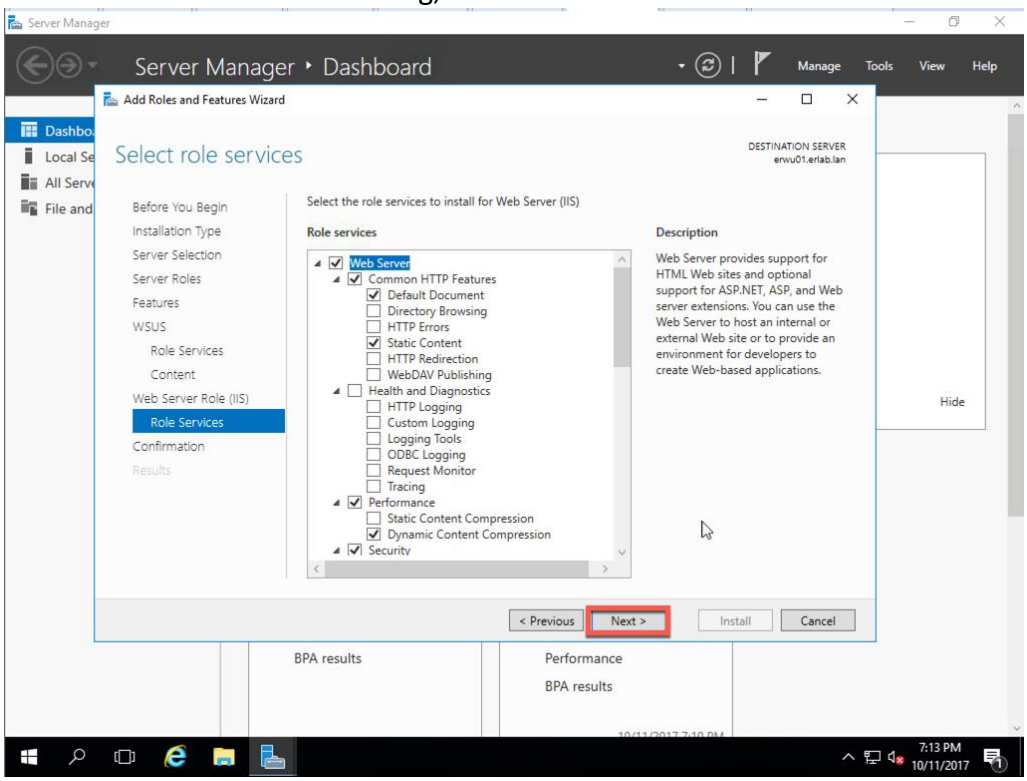
12. On the Content location selection dialog, enter the path you want to store the Windows updates (note that U:\ is my second hard disk drive on this server) and then click Next.



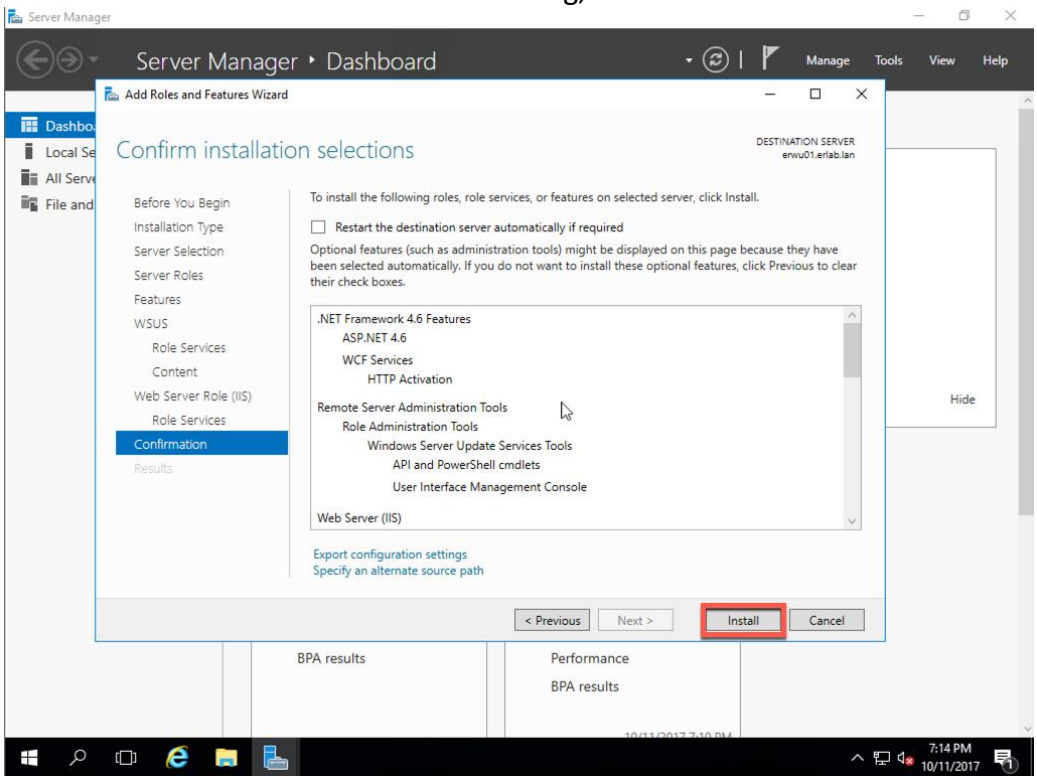
13. On the Web Server Role (IIS) dialog, click Next.



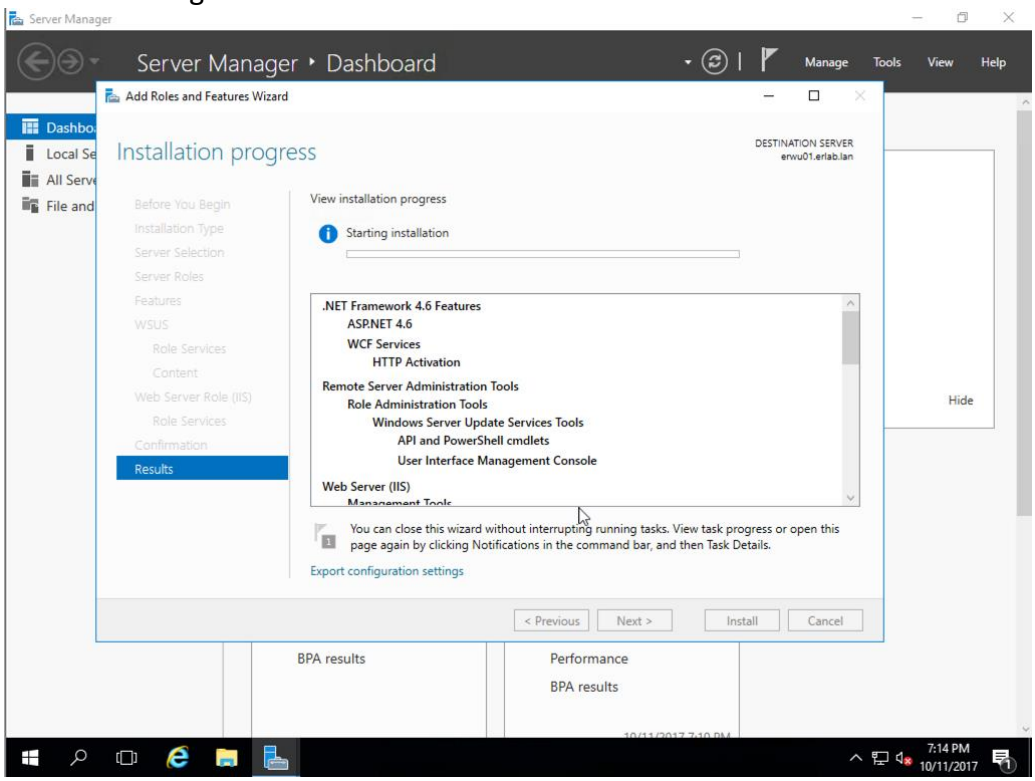
14. On the Select role services dialog, click Next.



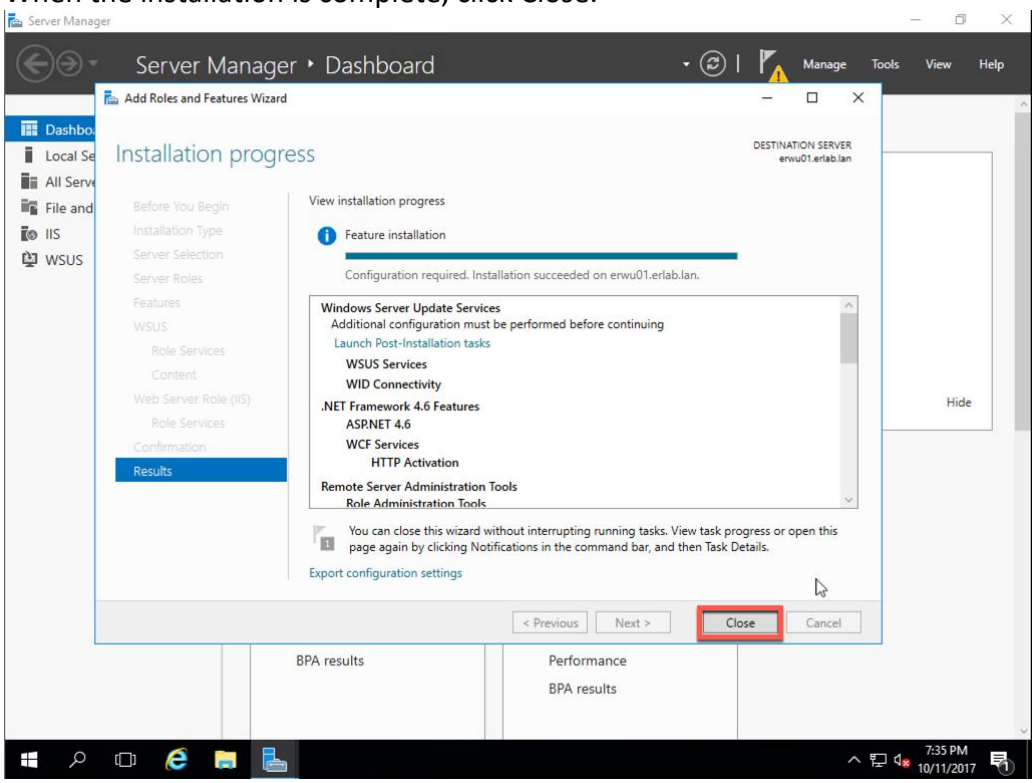
15. On the Confirm installation selections dialog, click Install.



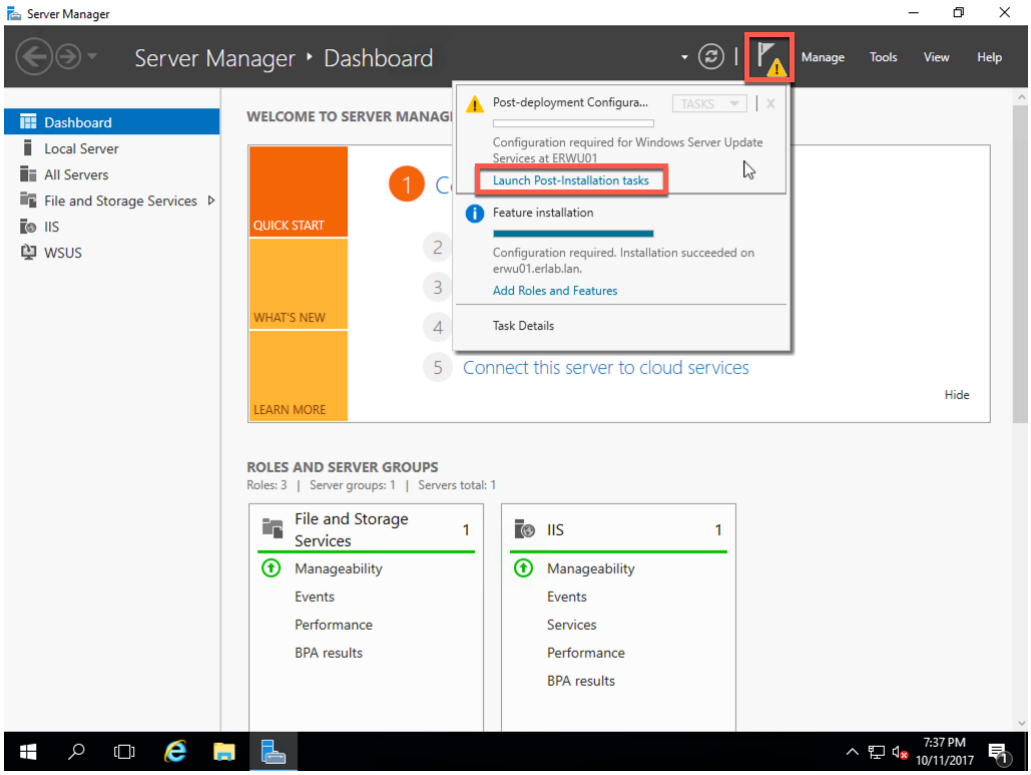
16. Installation begins.



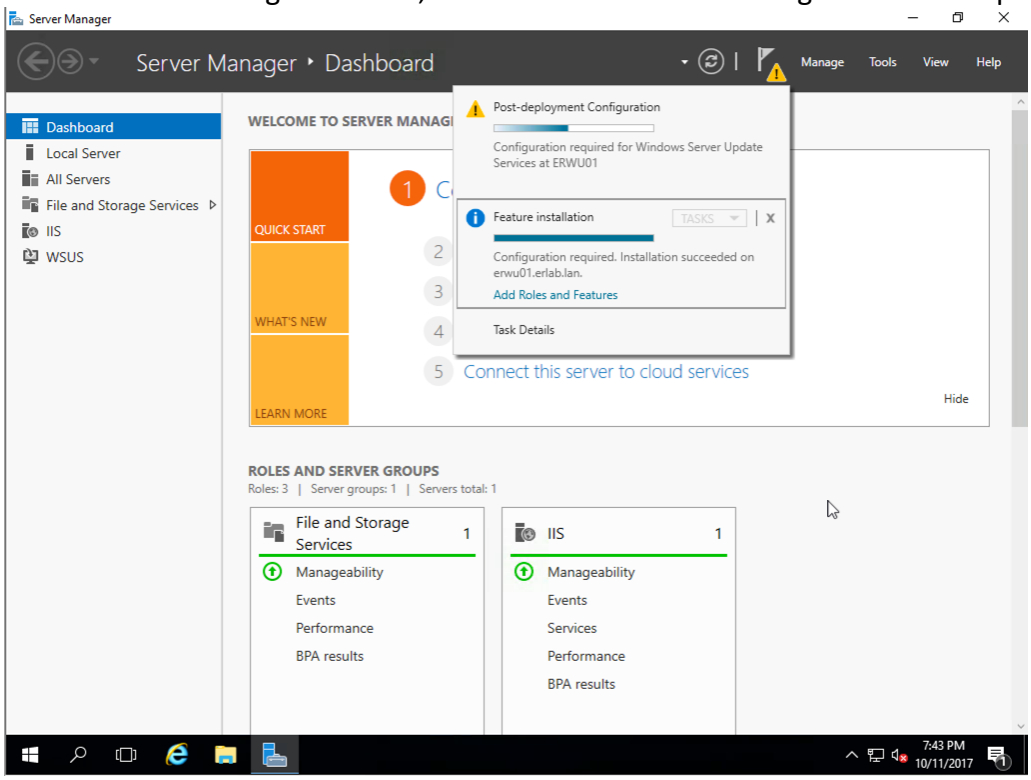
17. When the installation is complete, click Close.



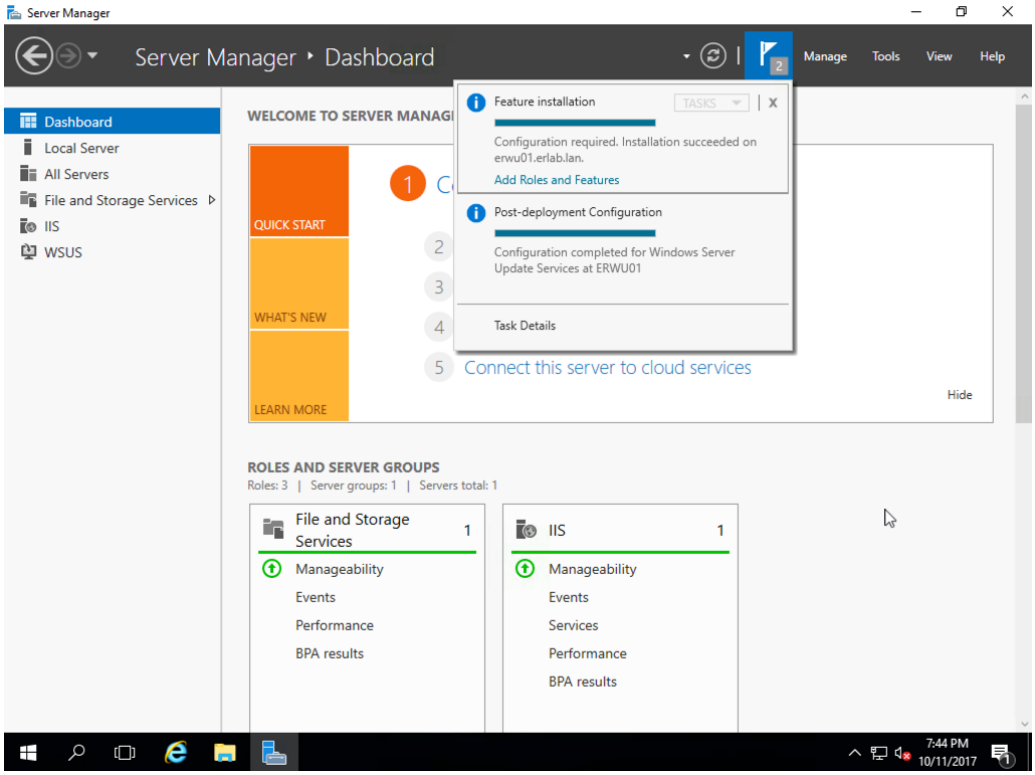
18. On the Server Manager window, click the Notifications icon and then click Launch Post-Installation tasks.



19. On the Server Manager window, click the Notifications icon again to see the progress.

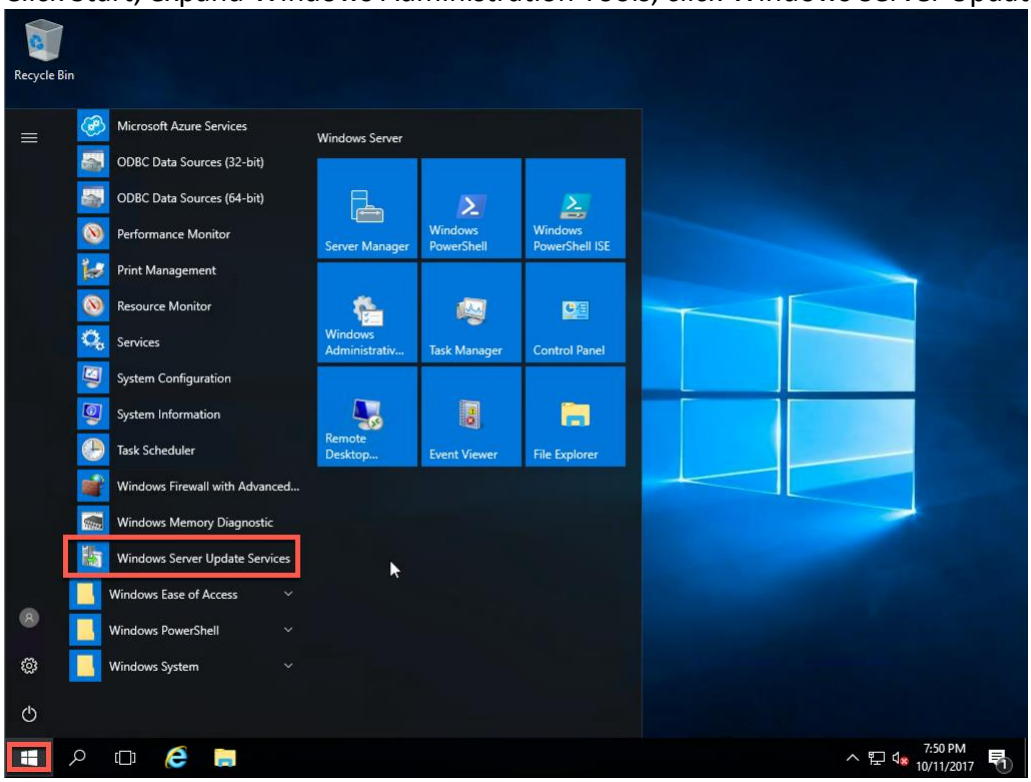


20. Once the configuration is complete, you will see a message under the Notifications icon.

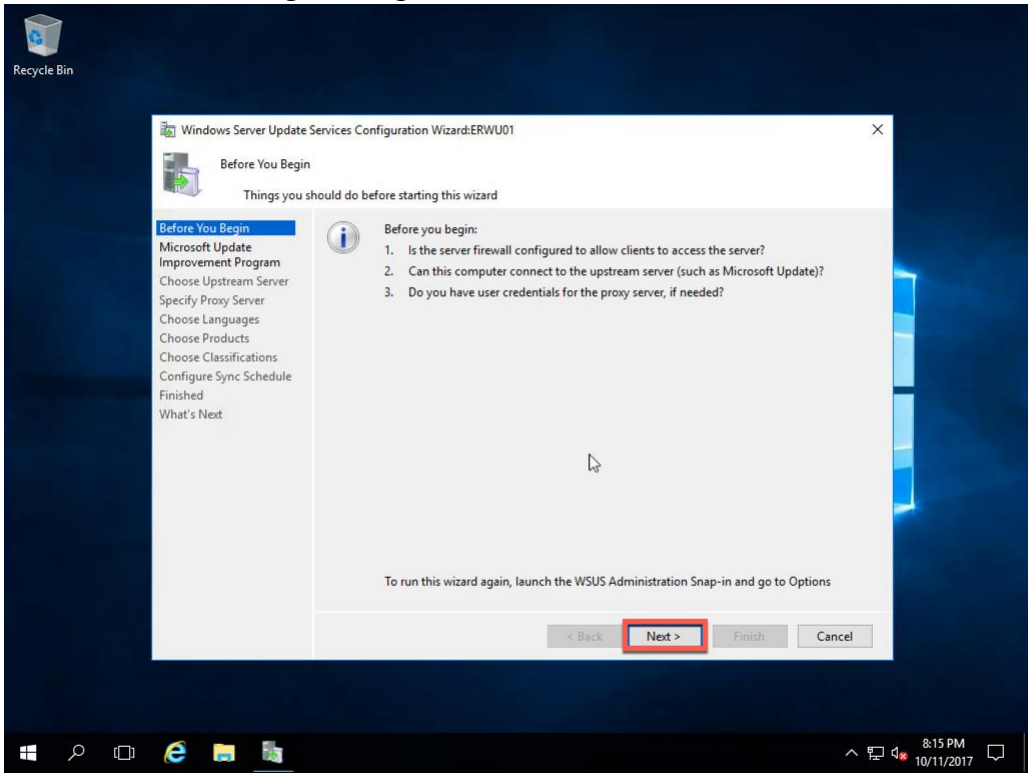


Configure WSUS

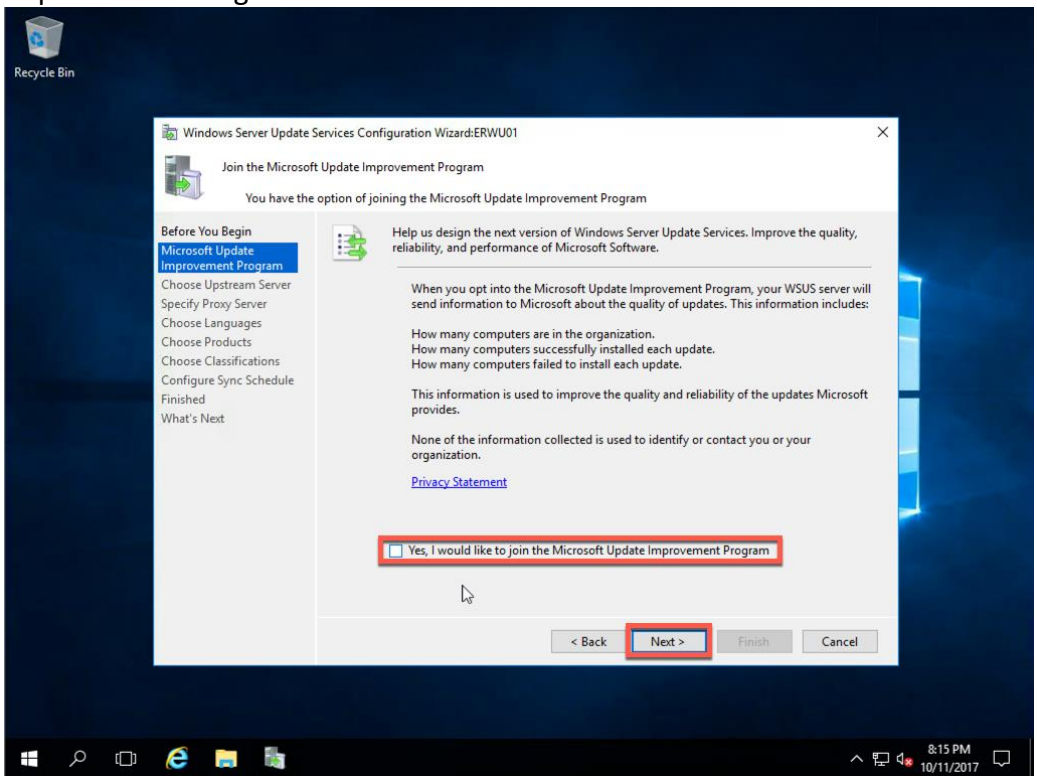
1. Click Start, expand Windows Administration Tools, click Windows Server Update Services.



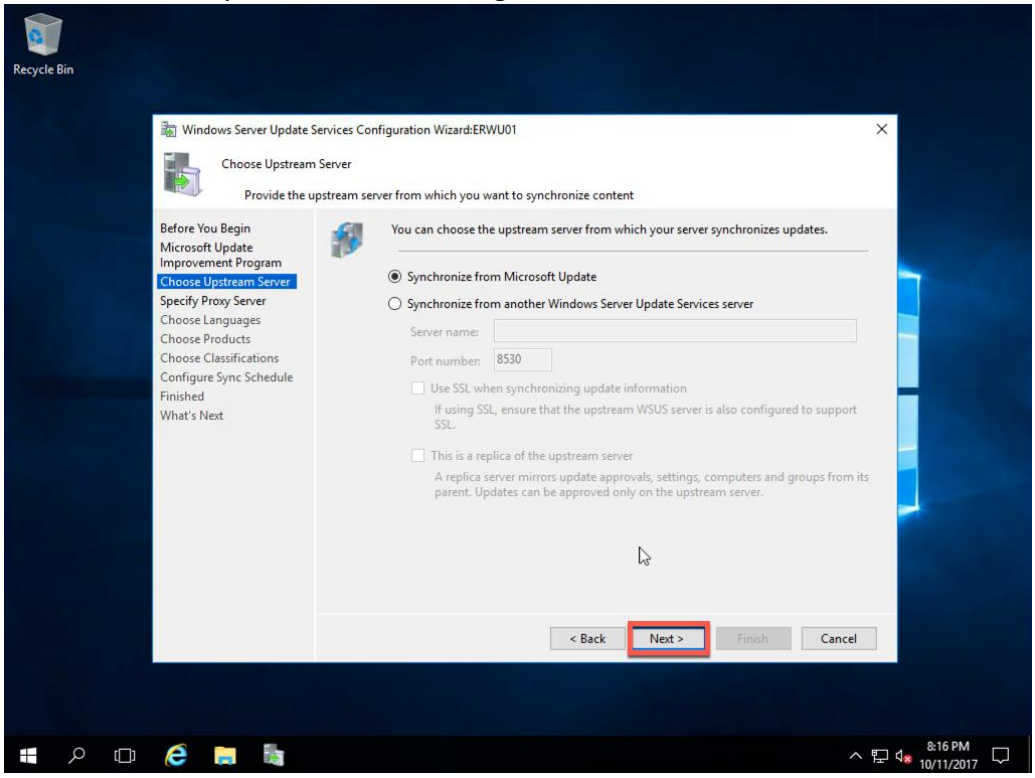
2. On the Before You Begin dialog, click Next.



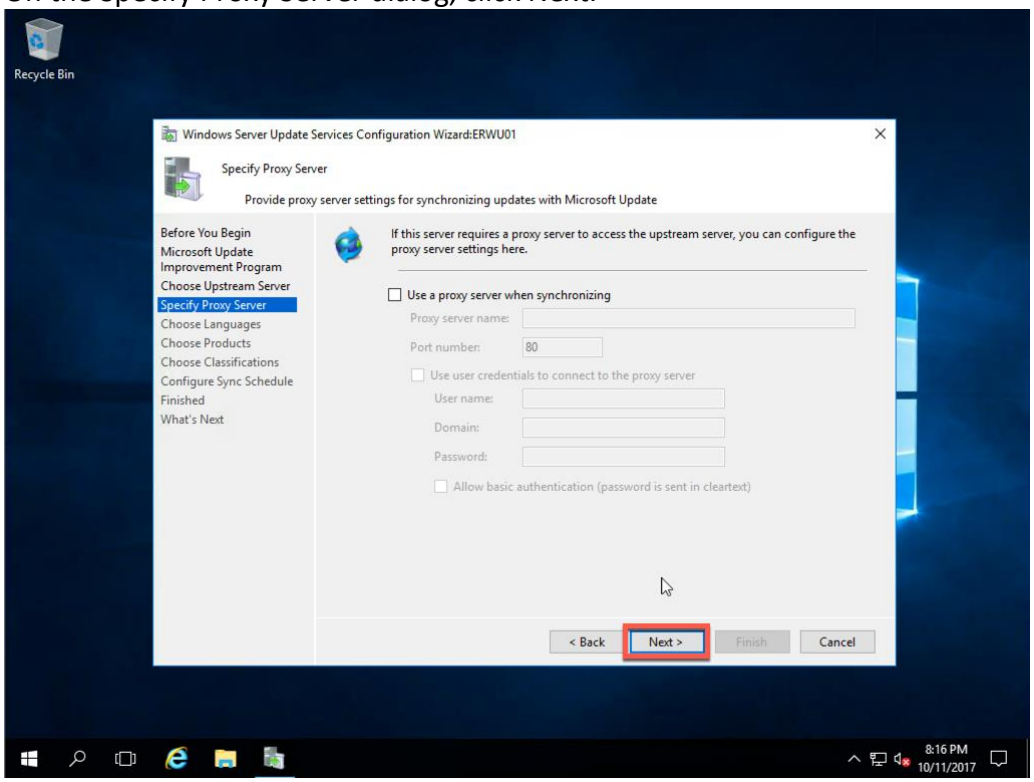
3. On the Improvement Program dialog, uncheck Yes, I would like to join the Microsoft Update Improvement Program and click Next.



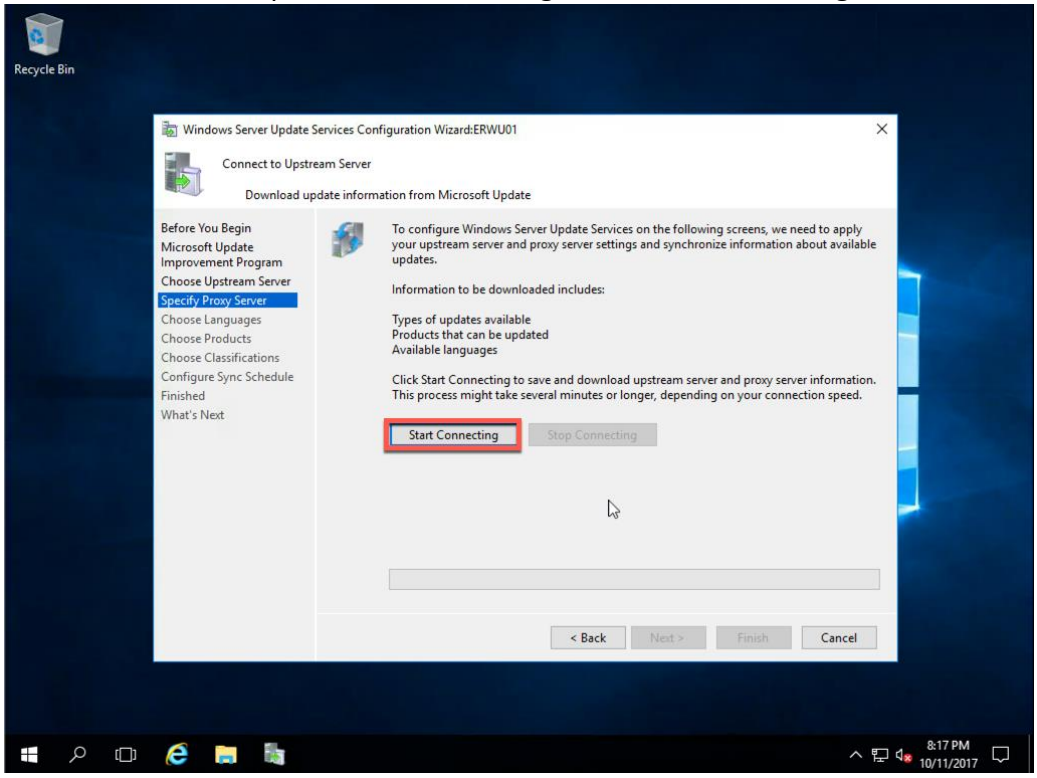
4. On the Choose Upstream Server dialog, click Next.



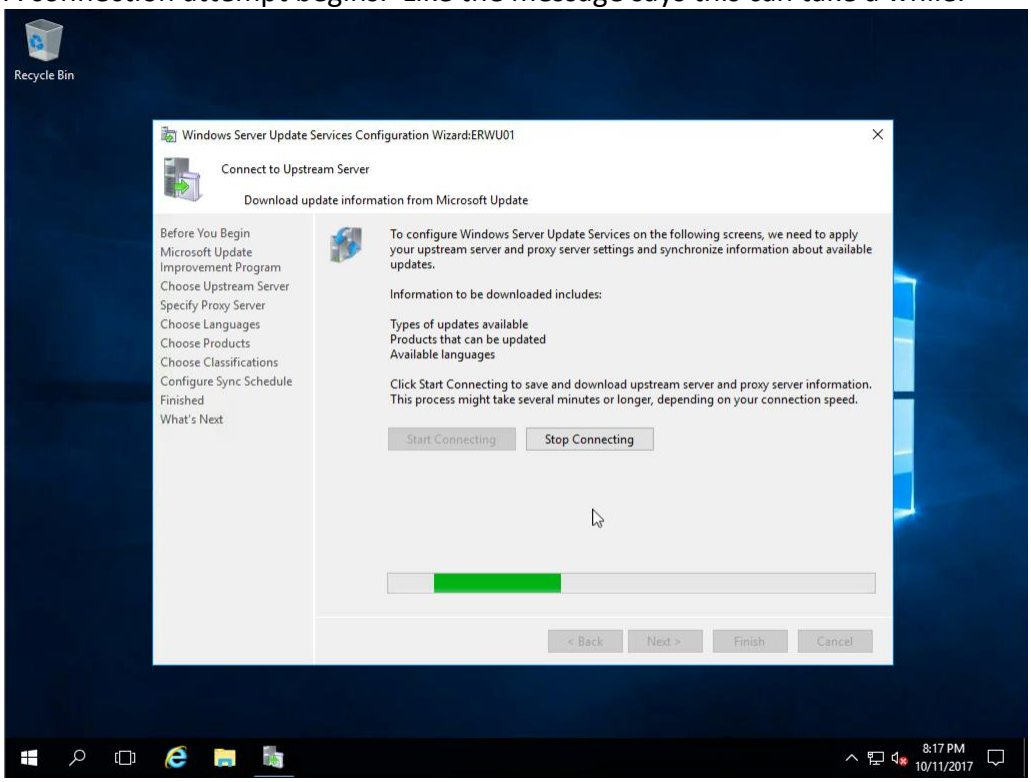
5. On the Specify Proxy Server dialog, click Next.



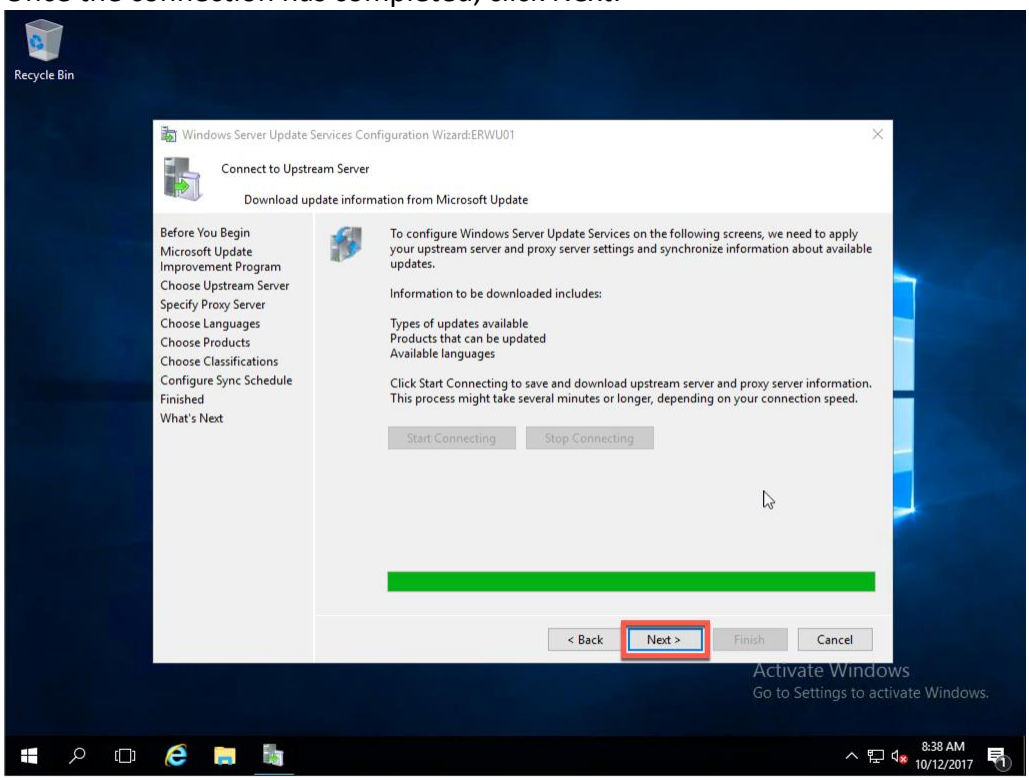
6. On the Connect to Upstream Server dialog, click Start Connecting.



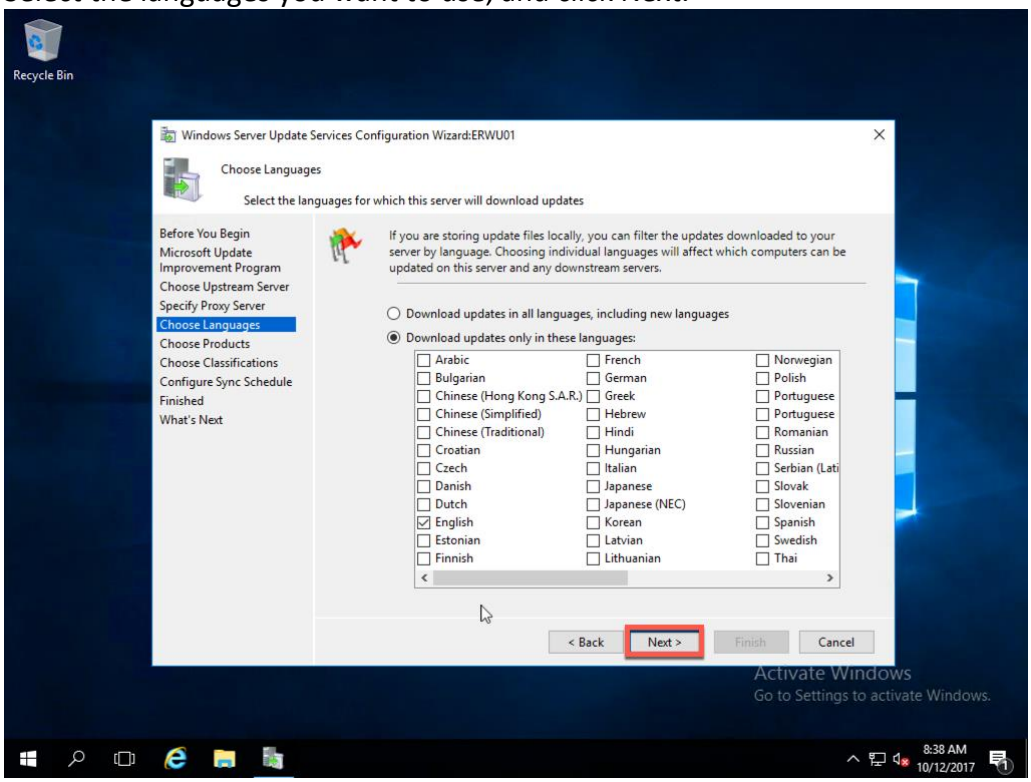
7. A connection attempt begins. Like the message says this can take a while.



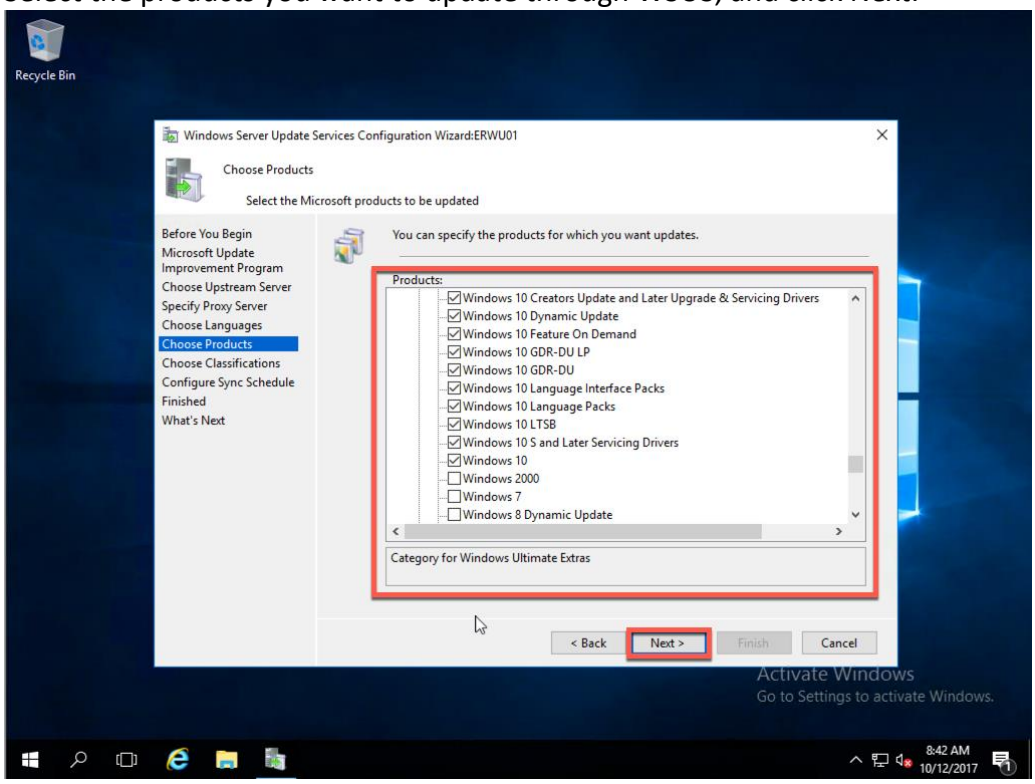
8. Once the connection has completed, click Next.



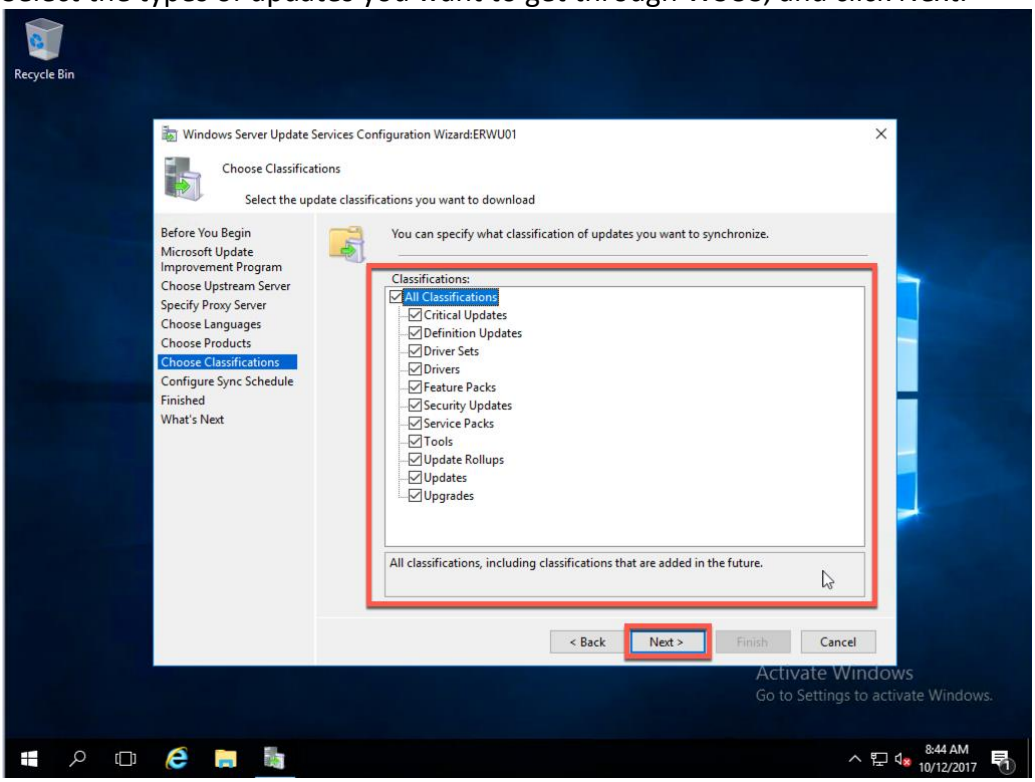
9. Select the languages you want to use, and click Next.



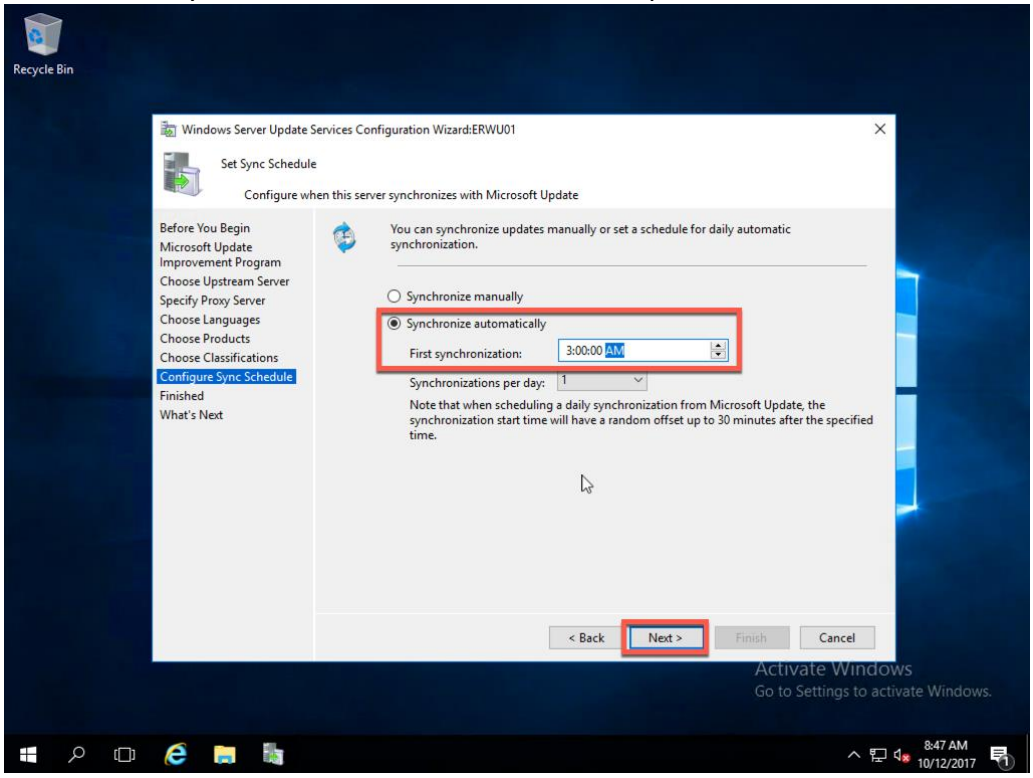
10. Select the products you want to update through WSUS, and click Next.



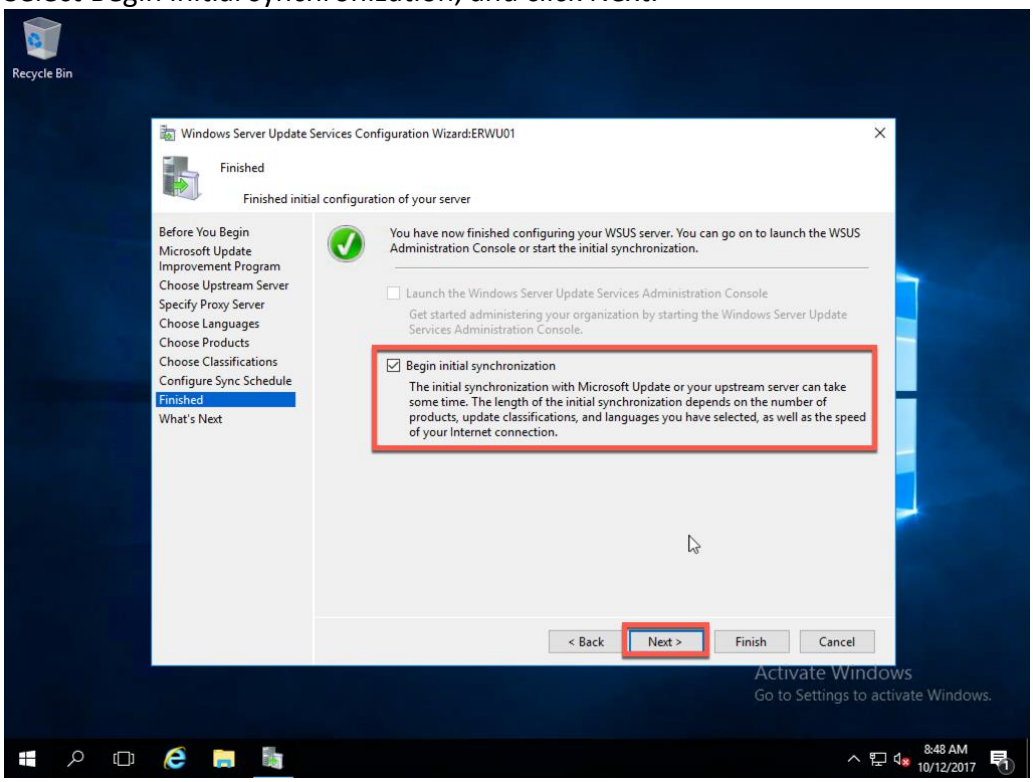
11. Select the types of updates you want to get through WSUS, and click Next.



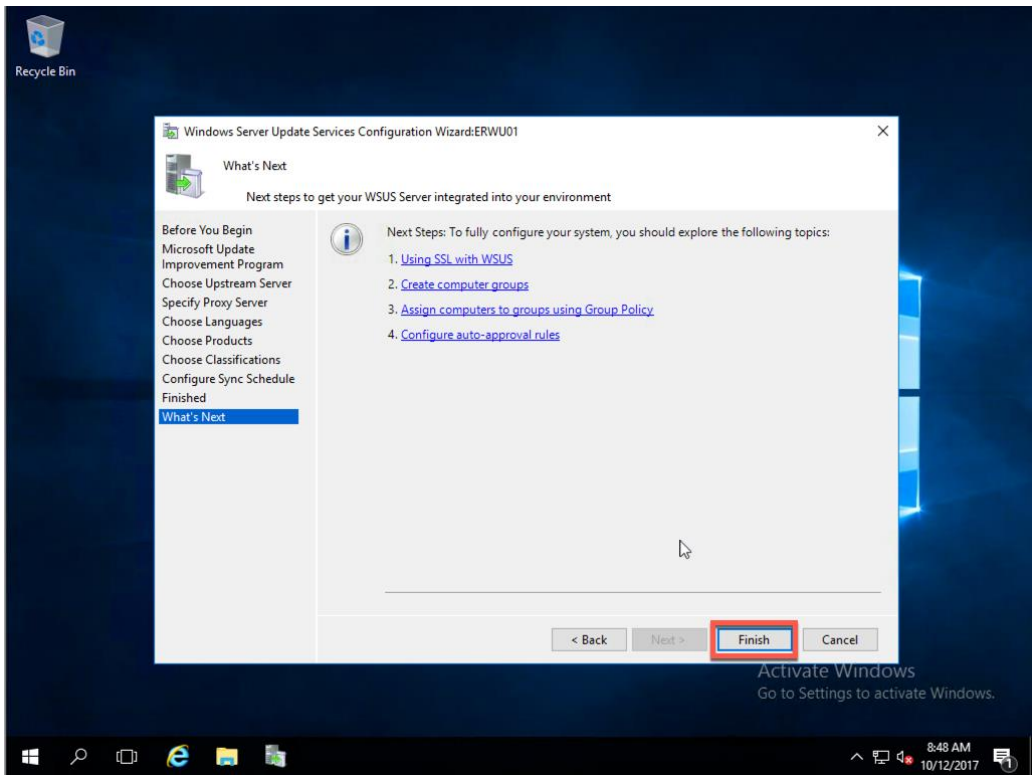
12. Choose when you want to have WSUS check for updates from Microsoft, and click Next.



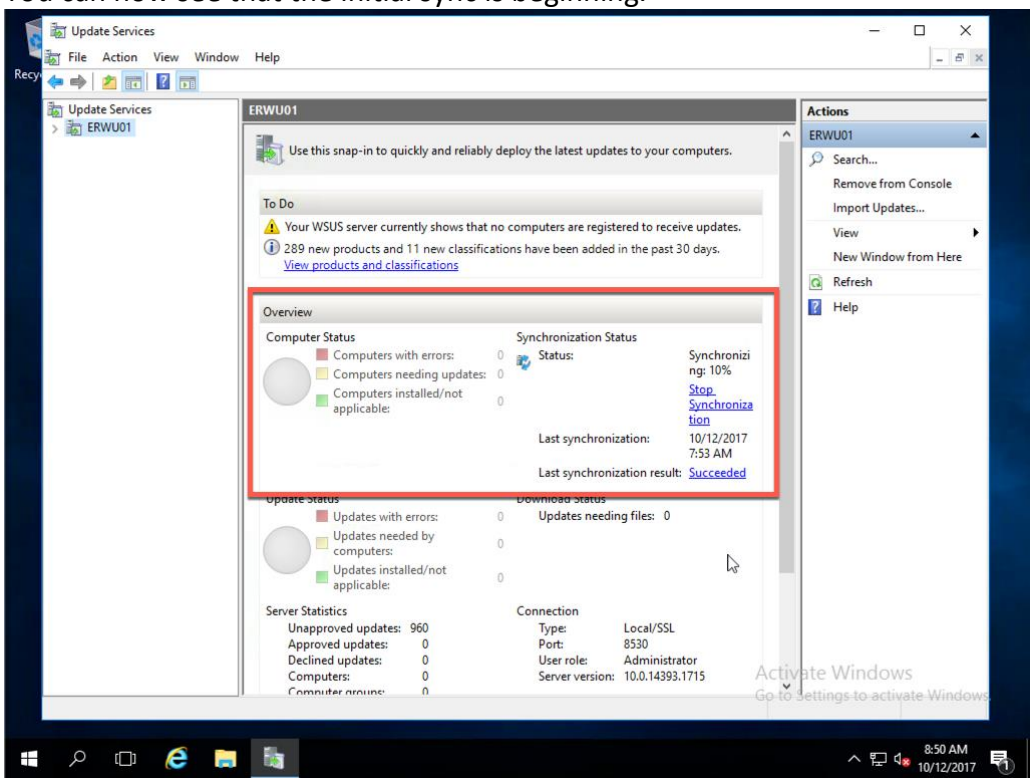
13. Select Begin initial synchronization, and click Next.



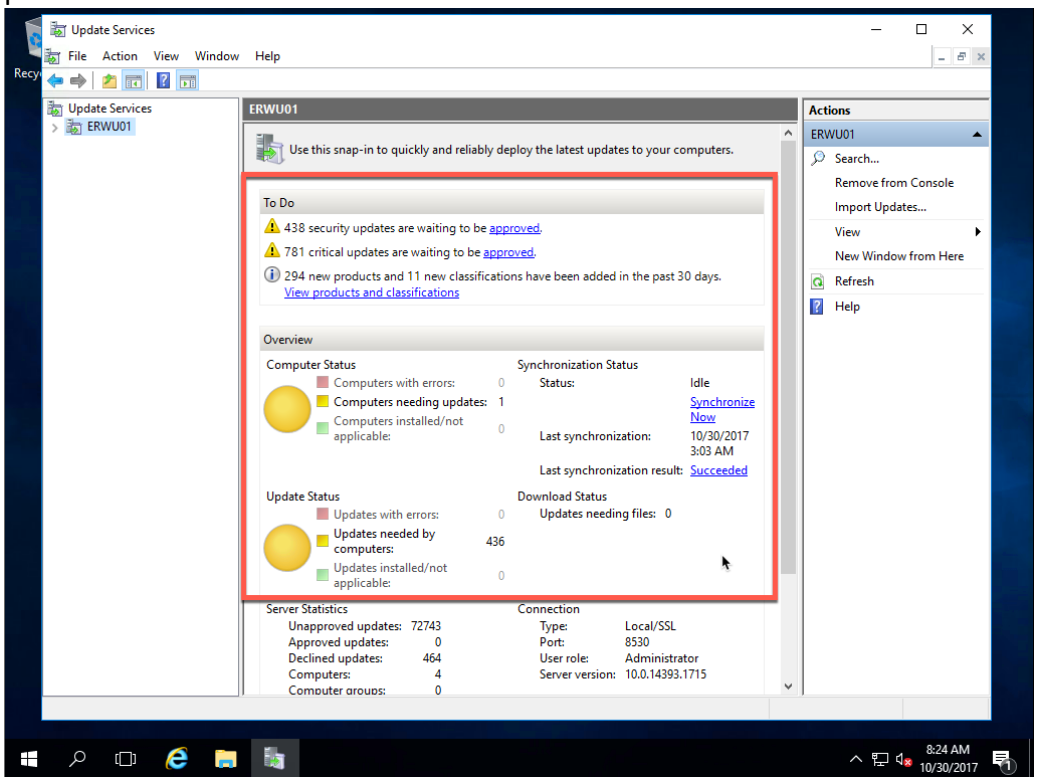
14. Click Finish.



15. You can now see that the initial sync is beginning.



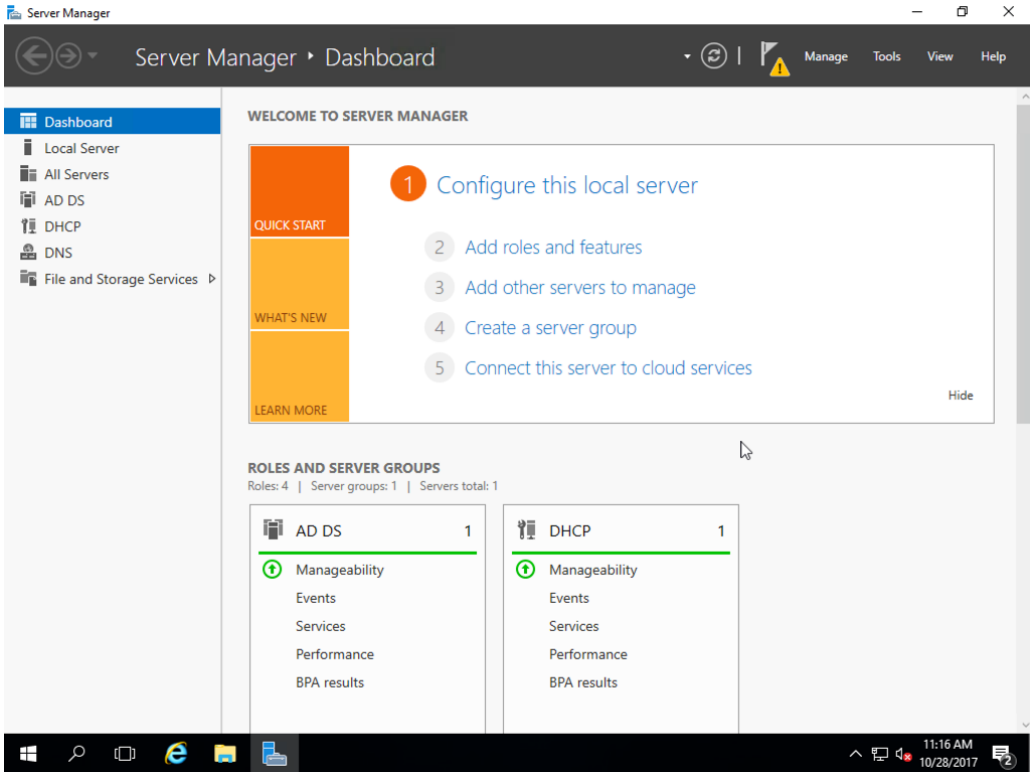
16. Now you can see that the server has completed its initial sync and has been syncing for the past week or so.



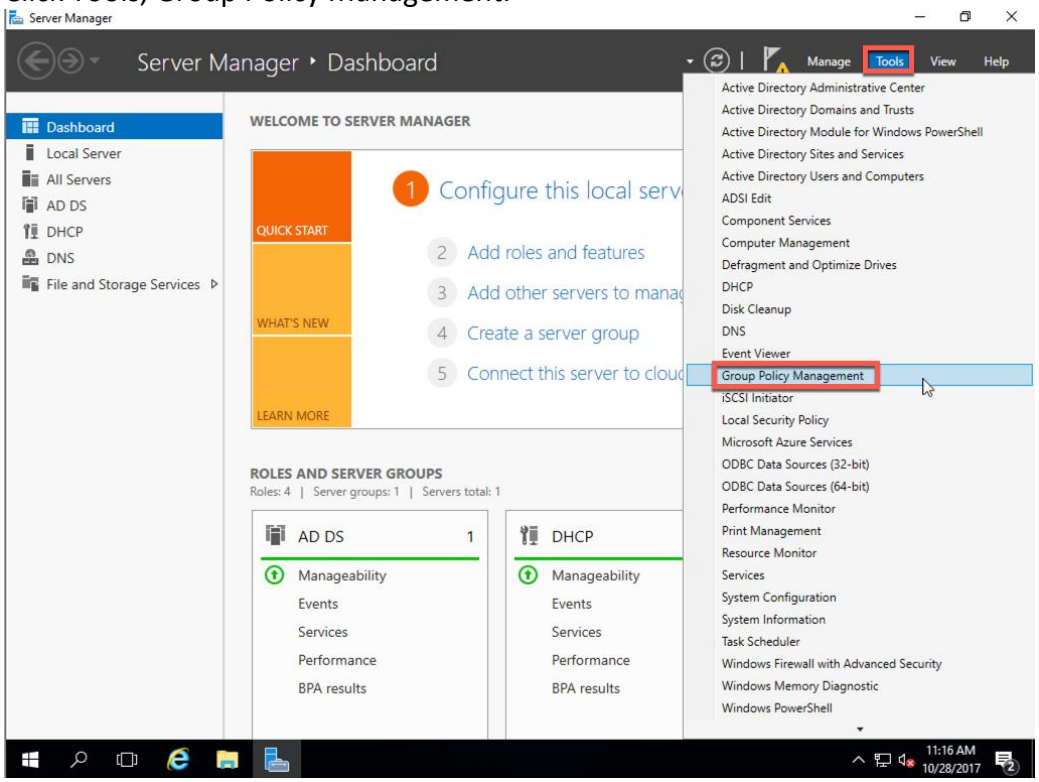
Configure GPO for Windows Updates

This section walks you through creating a GPO that can be applied to your computers OU. We will set how updates are applied, the update schedule, and the URL for the WSUS server.

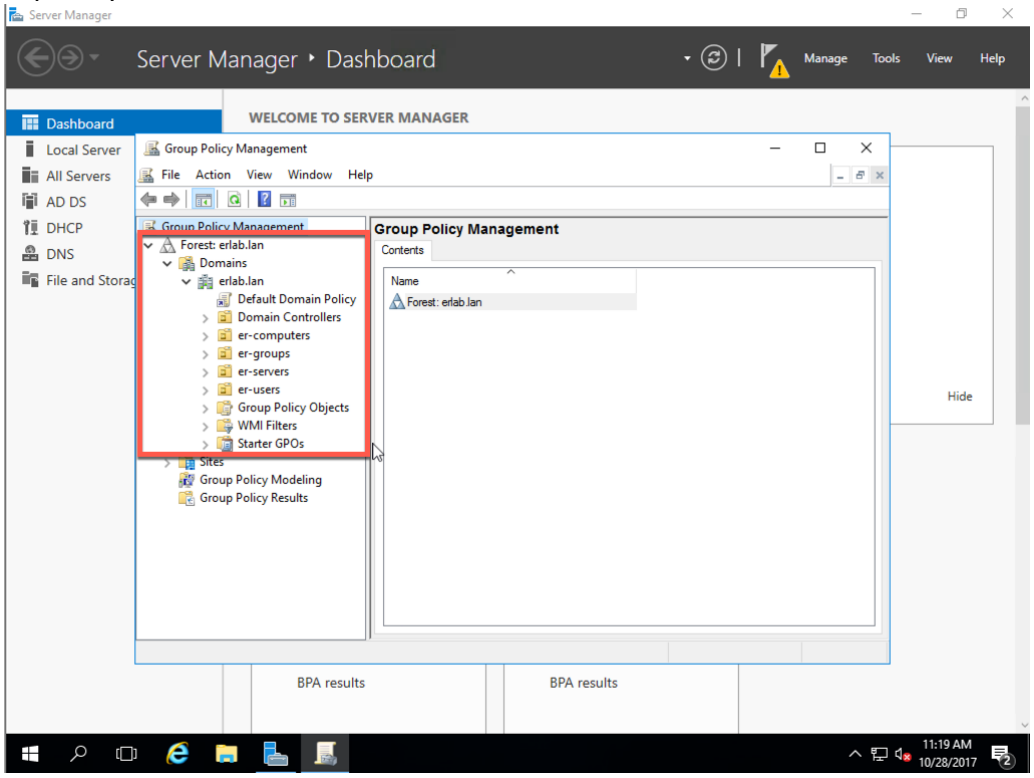
1. On your DC, open Server Manager.



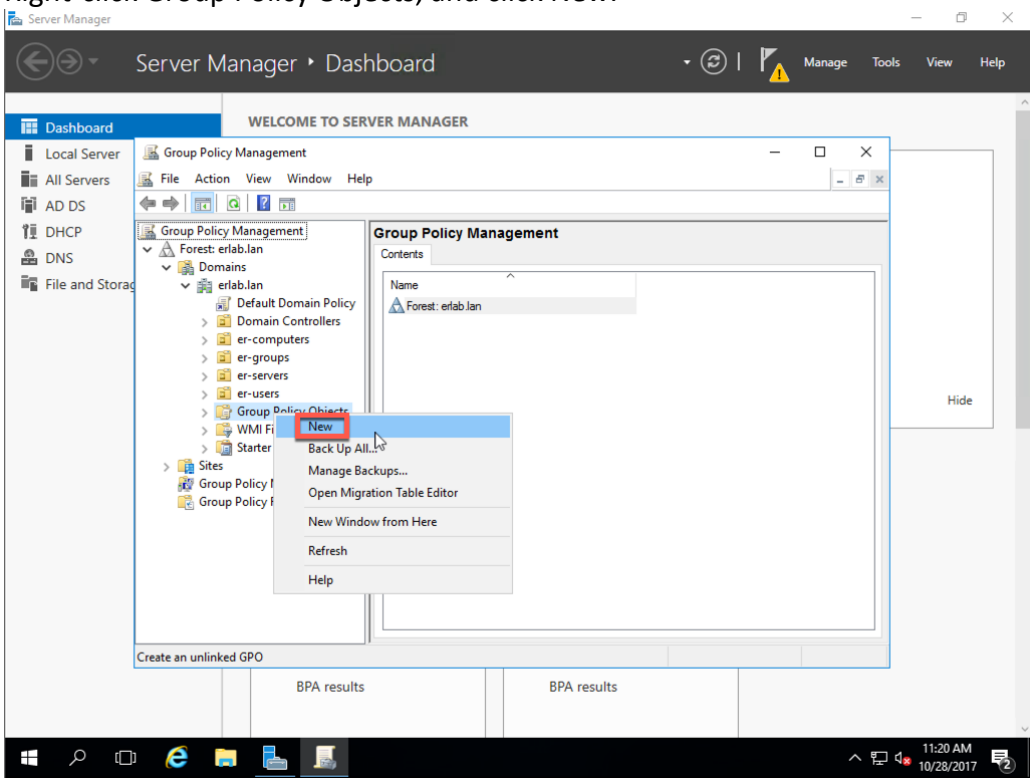
2. Click Tools, Group Policy Management.



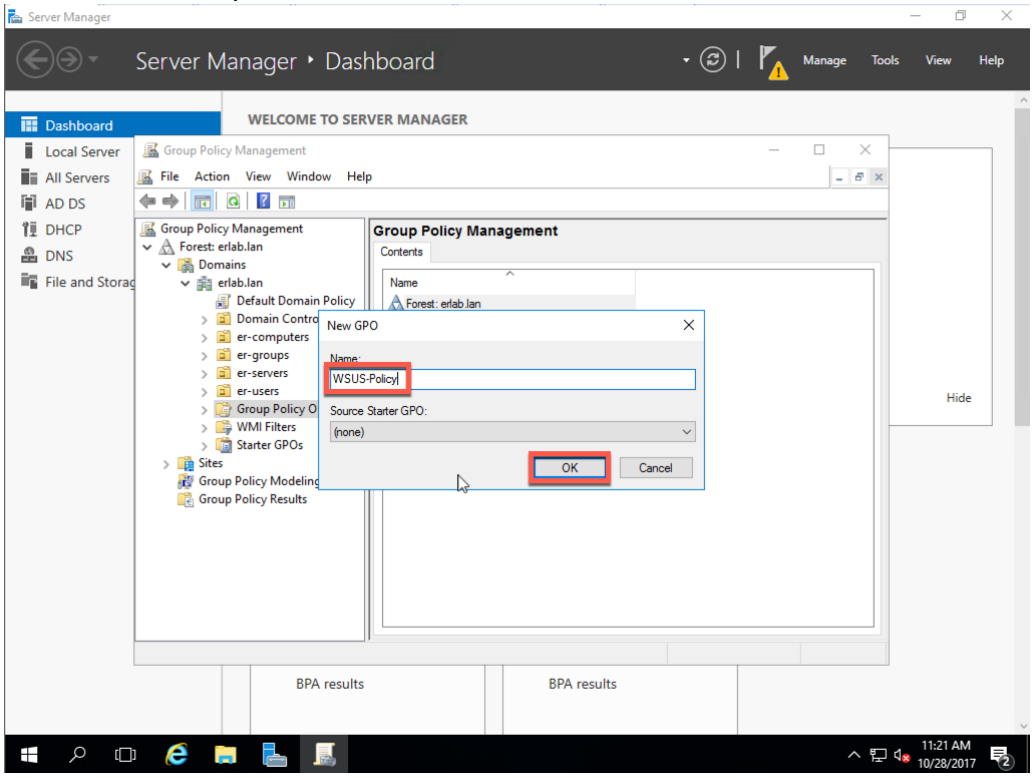
3. Expand your Forest and Domain as seen below.



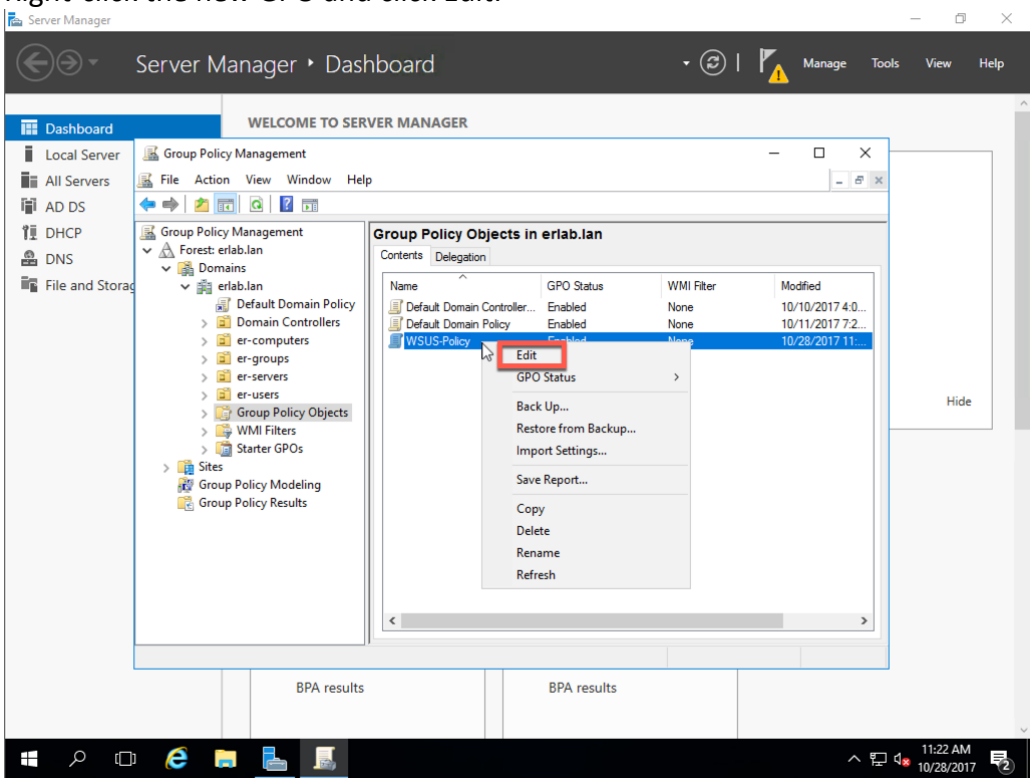
4. Right-click Group Policy Objects, and click New.



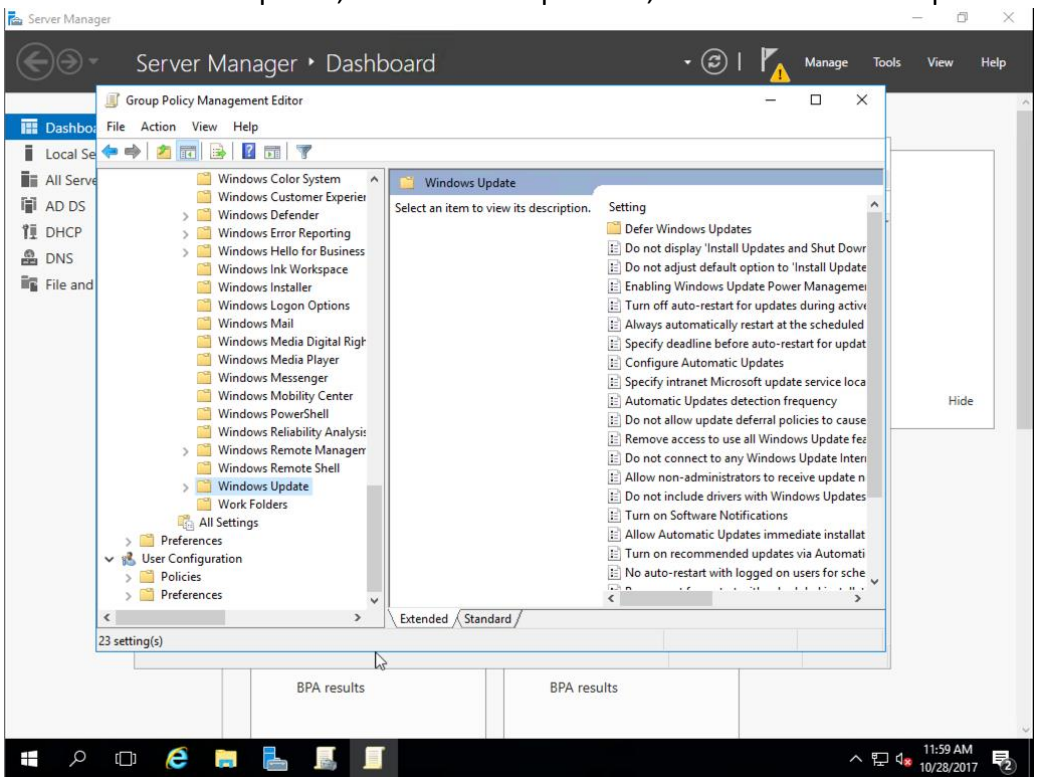
5. Enter a name for your new GPO, and click OK.



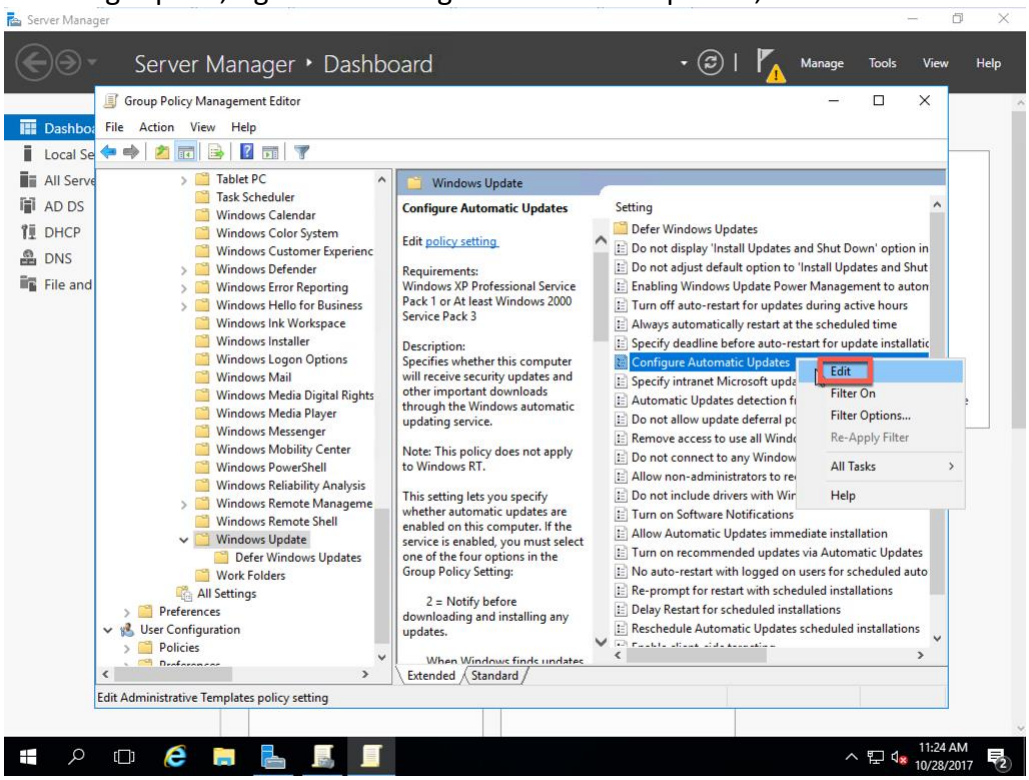
6. Right-click the new GPO and click Edit.



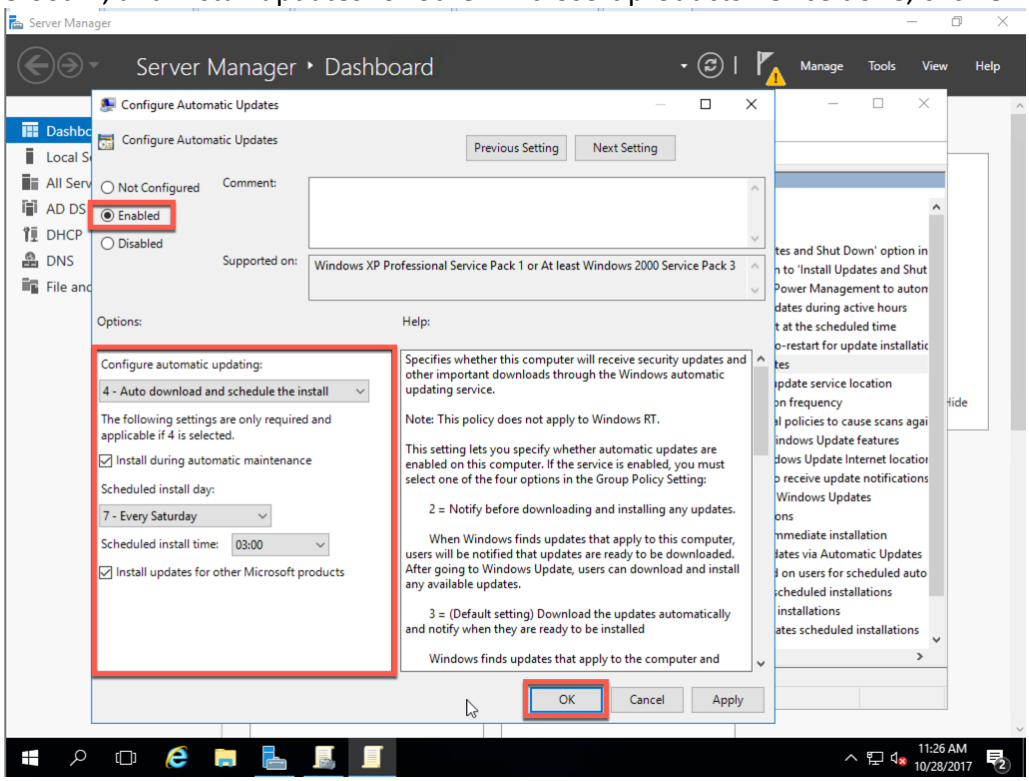
7. In the Group Policy Management Editor window, expand: Computer Configuration, Policies, Administrative Templates, Windows Components, and click Windows Update.



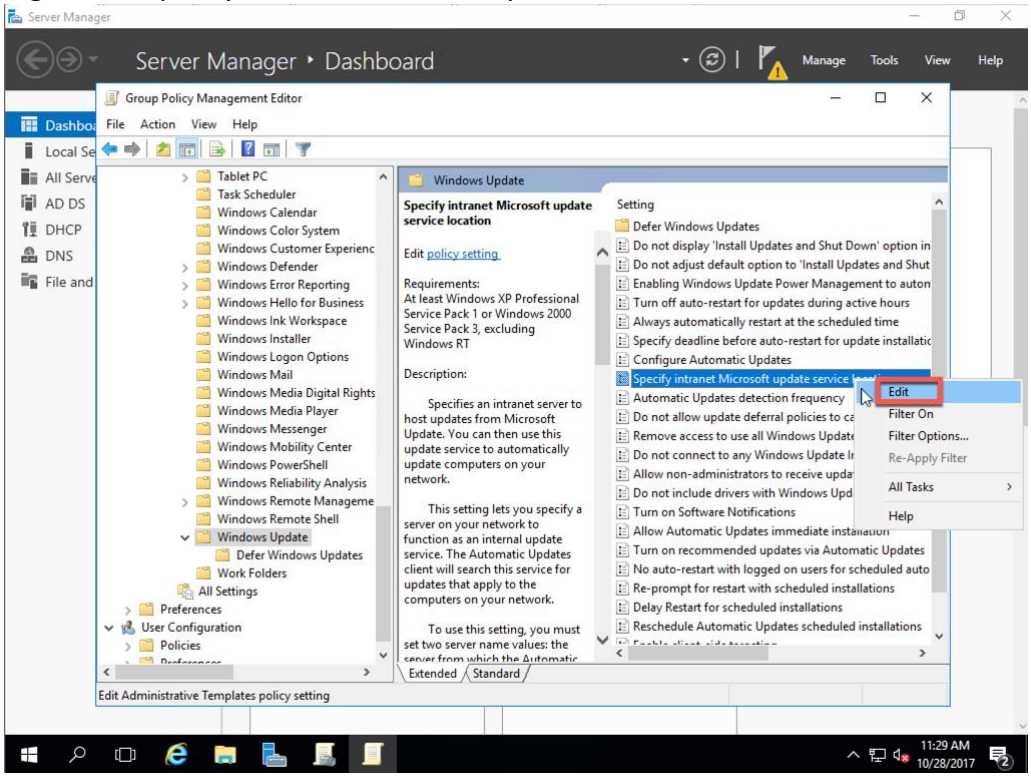
8. In the right pane, right-click Configure Automatic Updates, and click Edit.



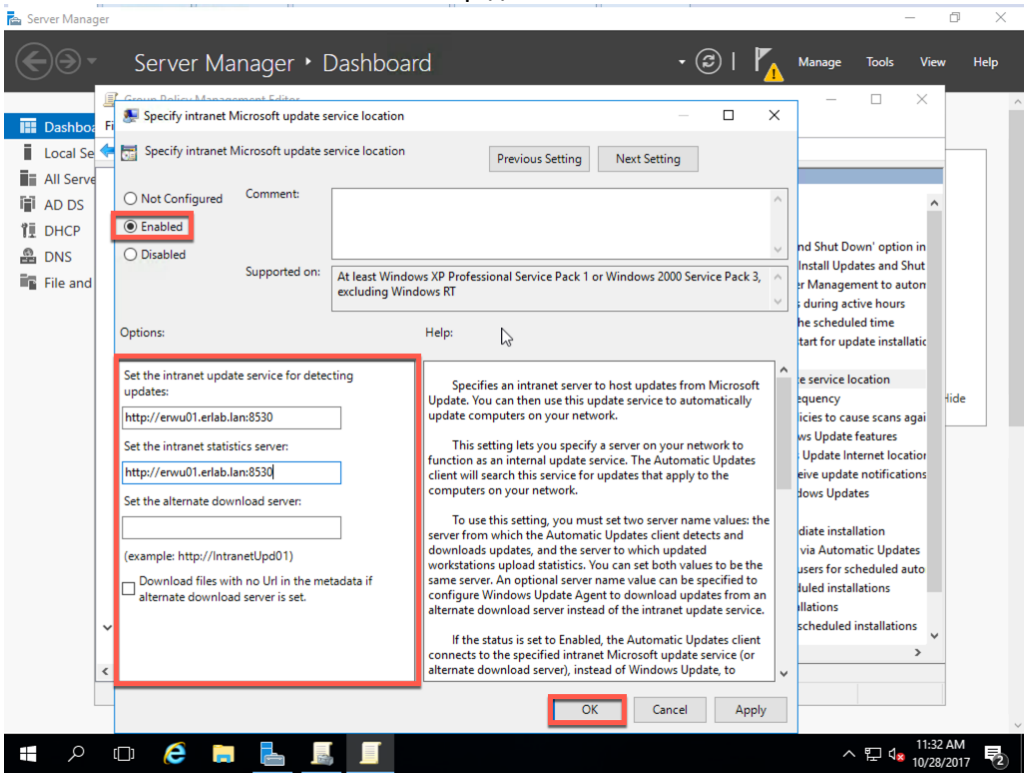
9. Select Enable. Then configure your options. I am setting to Auto download and schedule the install, Install during automatic maintenance, Scheduled install date to Every Saturday at 3:00am, and Install updates for other Microsoft products. Once done, click OK.



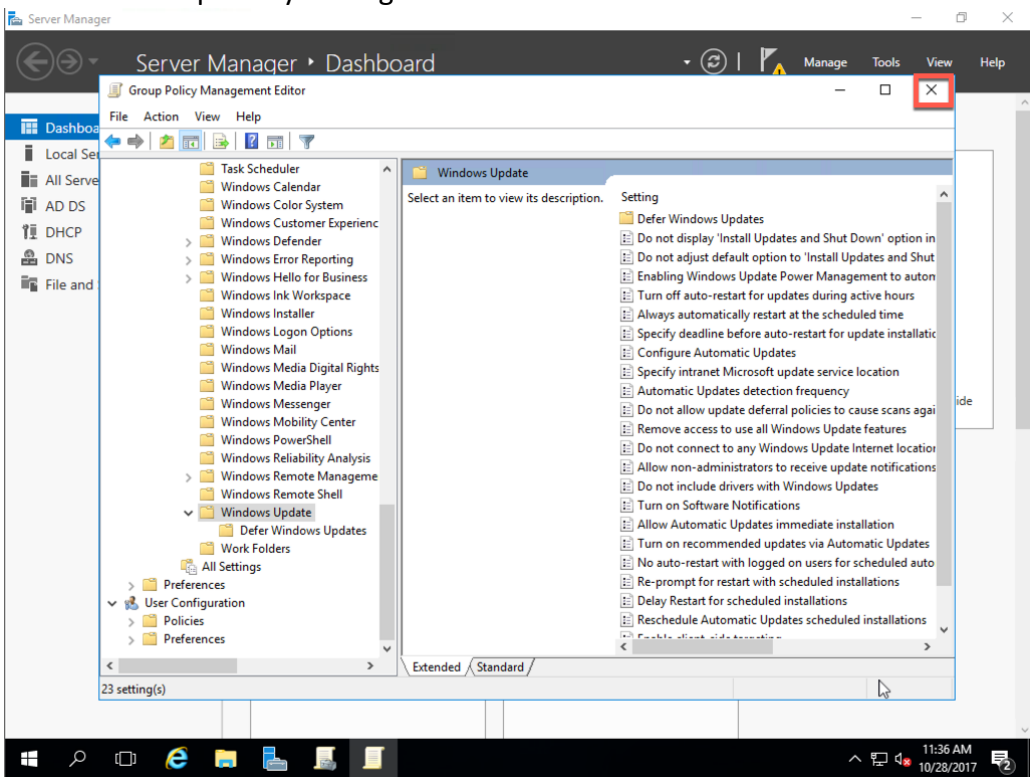
10. Right-click Specify intranet Microsoft update service location, and click Edit.



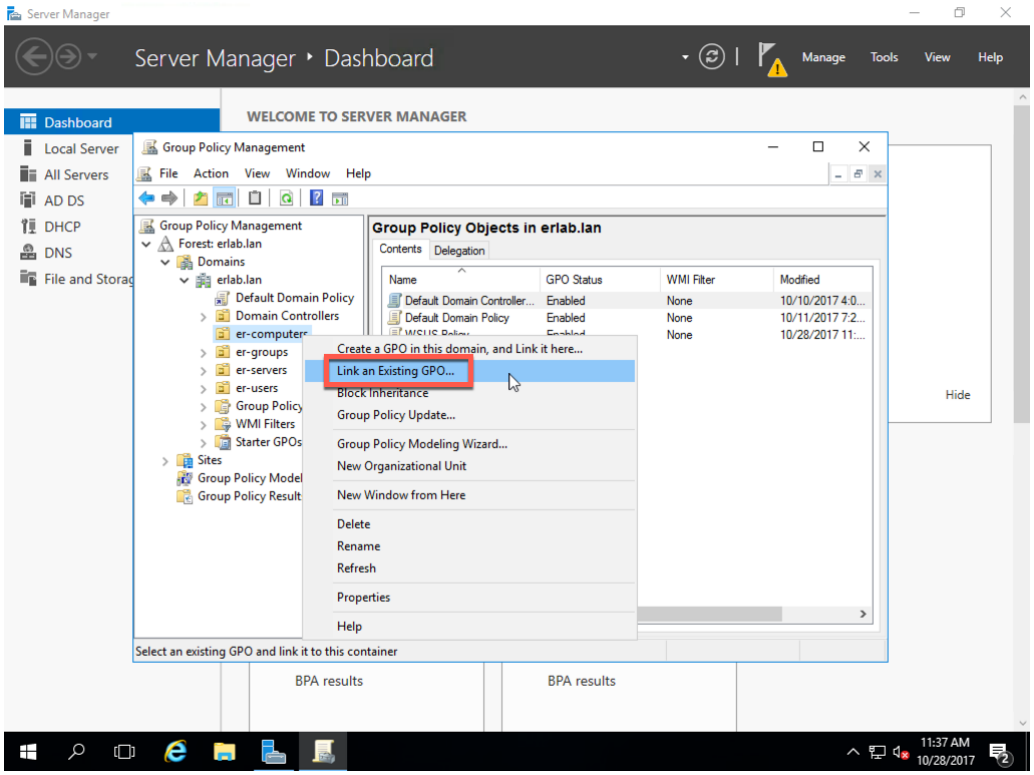
11. Select Enabled. Then in the Options section set the URL for your WSUS server and your Statistics server. The format is: http://<FQDN of WSUS Server>:8530. Then click OK.



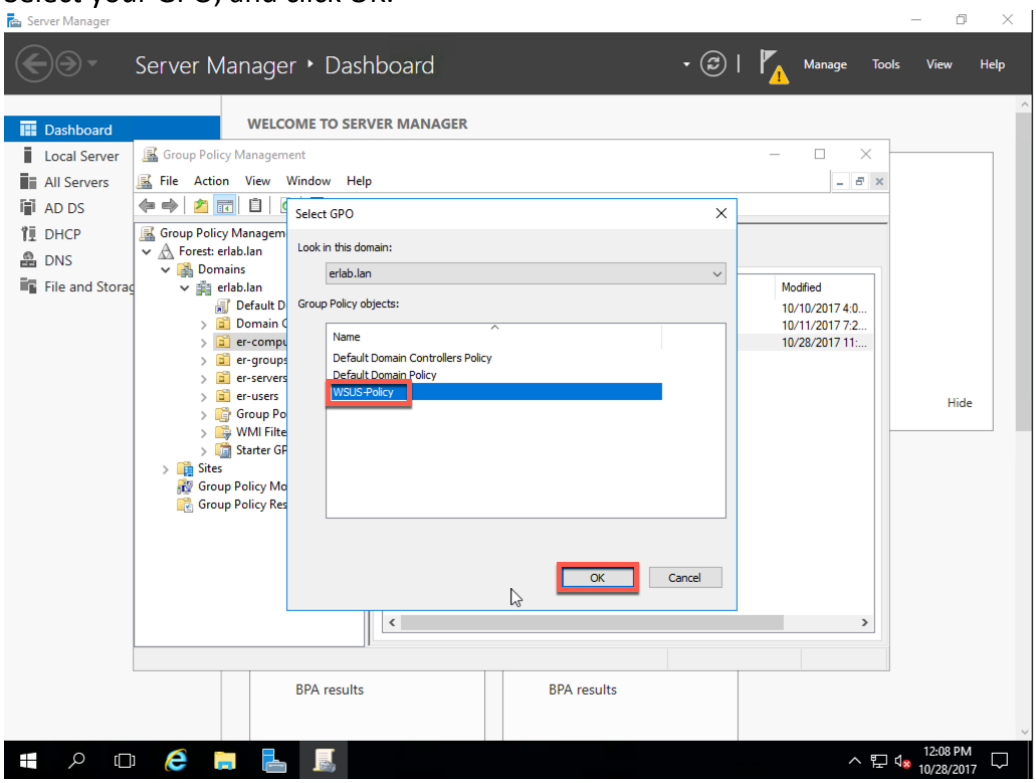
12. Close the Group Policy Management Editor.



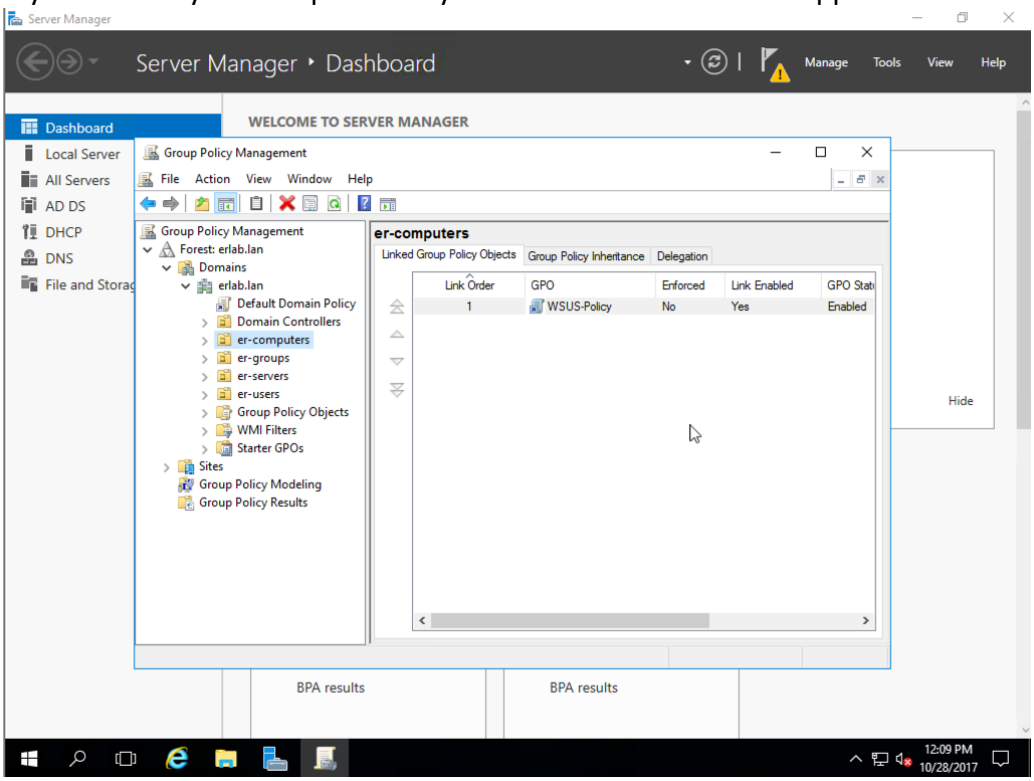
13. In the Group Policy Management window, right-click your computer OU and click Link an Existing GPO…



14. Select your GPO, and click OK.



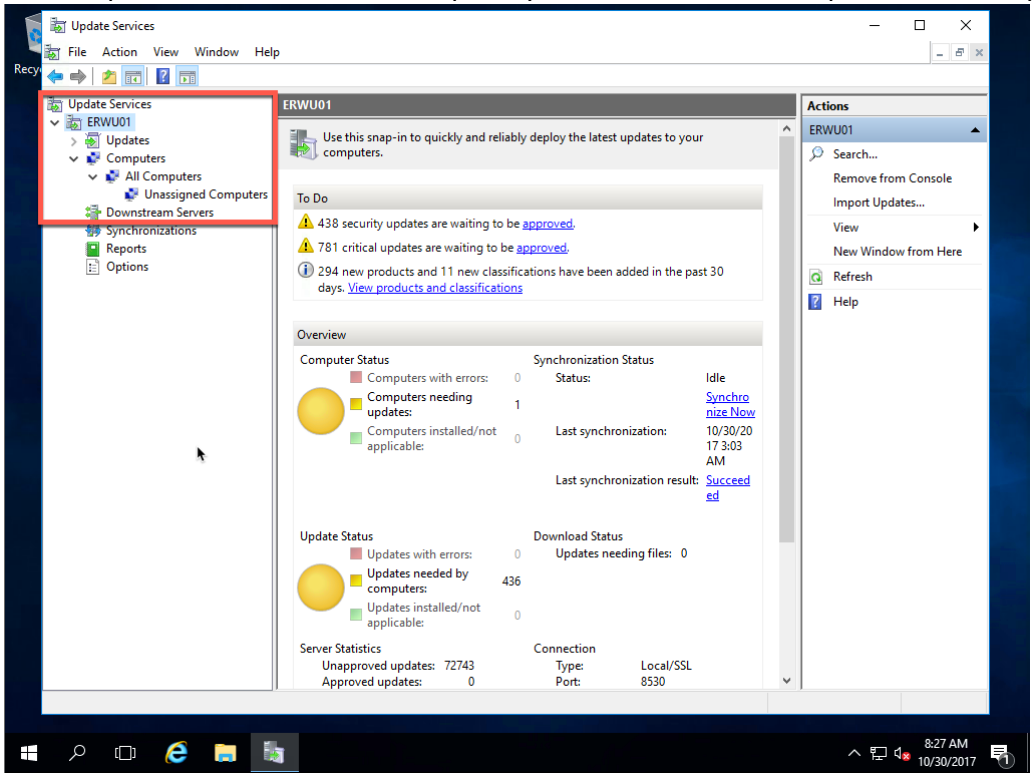
15. If you click on your computer OU you will see the GPO that is applied.



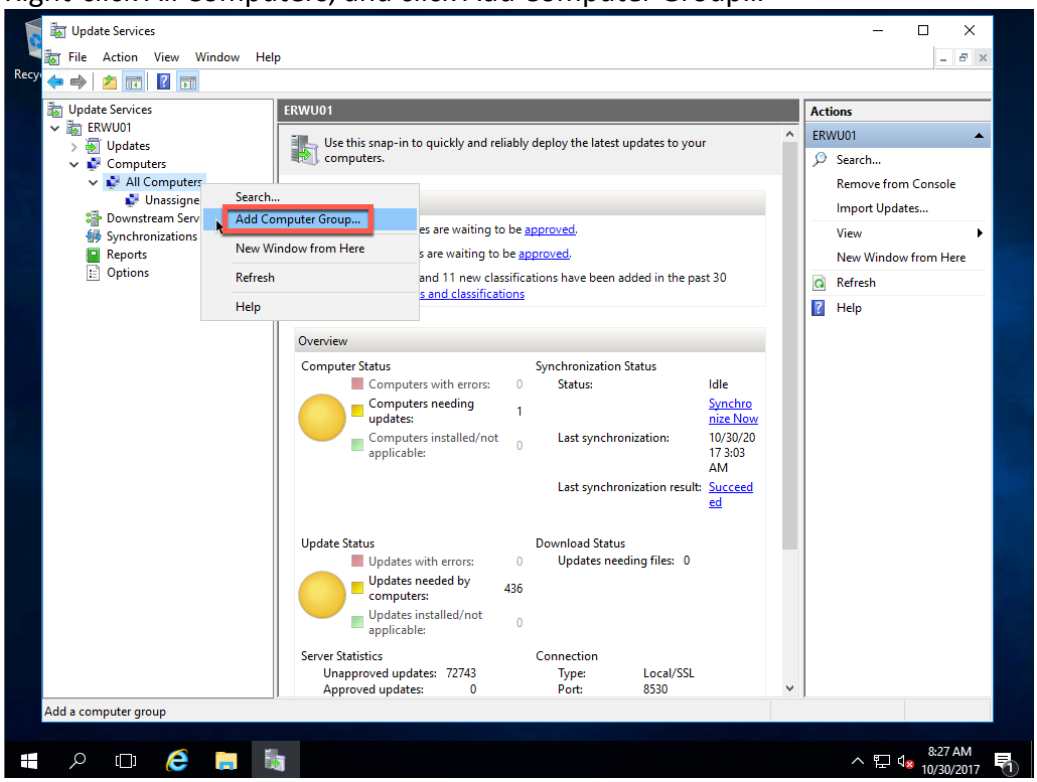
<u>Create Computer Groups</u>

Now we will create computer groups. These groups will be used to establish our update plan. We will create two groups. The firsts will be our “Pilot” group and the second will be our “Production” group. The pilot group is where we will apply new updates first. Then after testing has been done we will approve the updates for our production group. Be default, all computers are listed under the Unassigned Computers group. So we will need to assign our computers to the appropriate groups within WSUS.

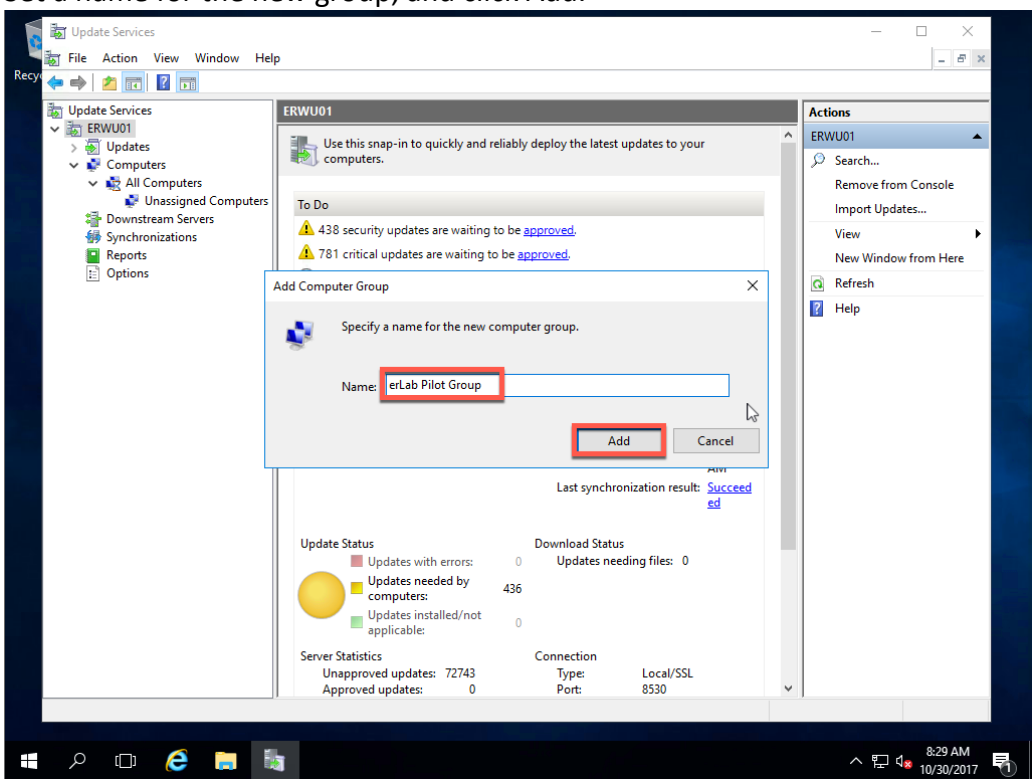
1. In the Update Services window, expand your server name, Computers, All Computers.



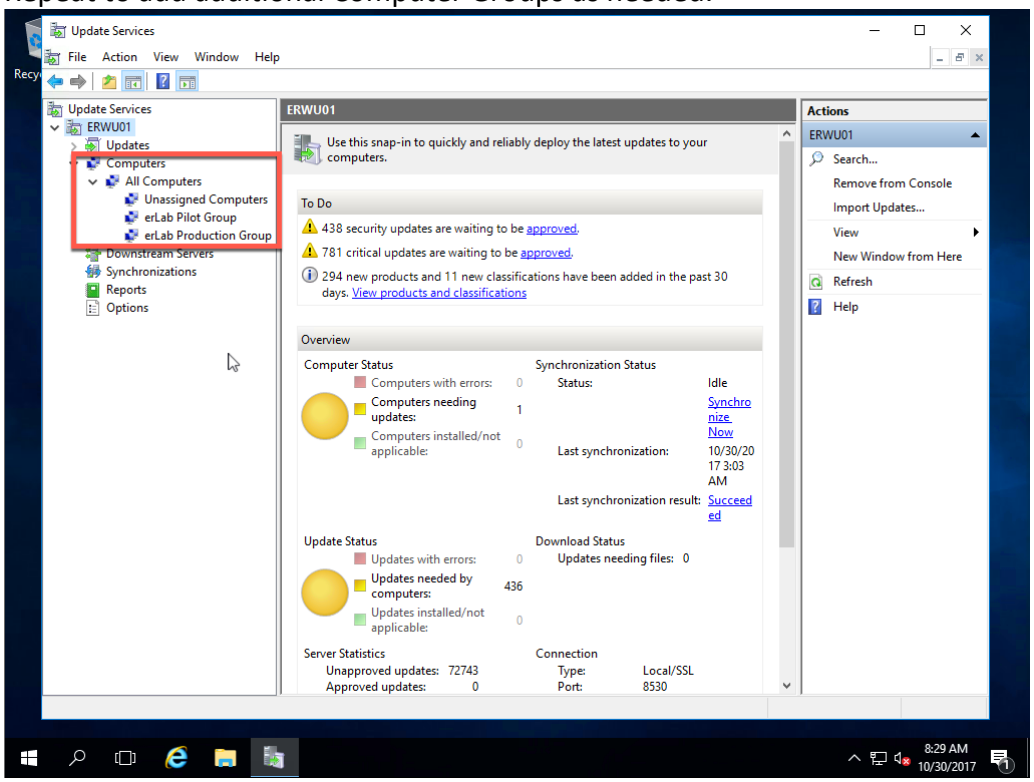
2. Right-click All Computers, and click Add Computer Group…



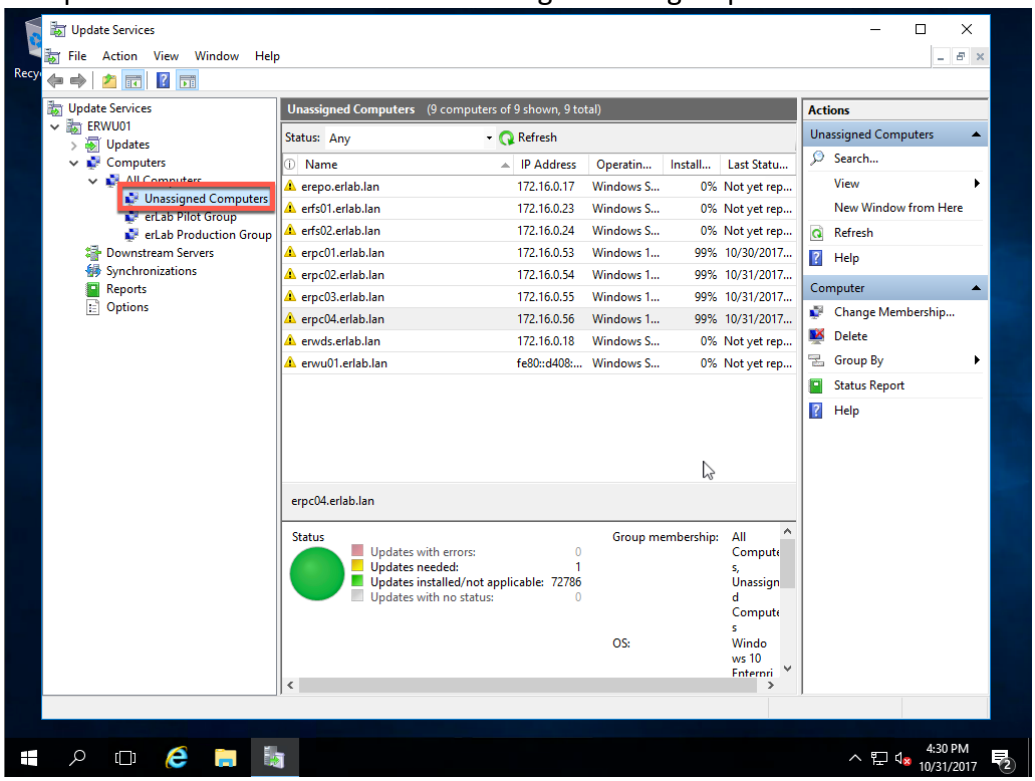
3. Set a name for the new group, and click Add.



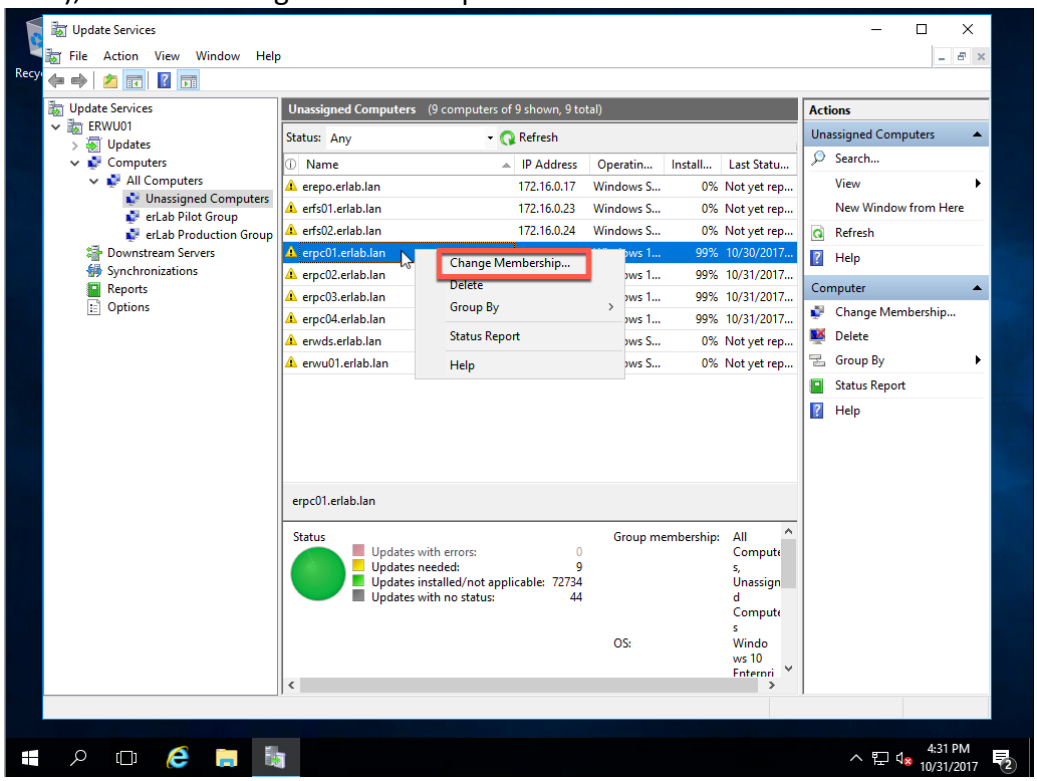
4. Repeat to add additional Computer Groups as needed.



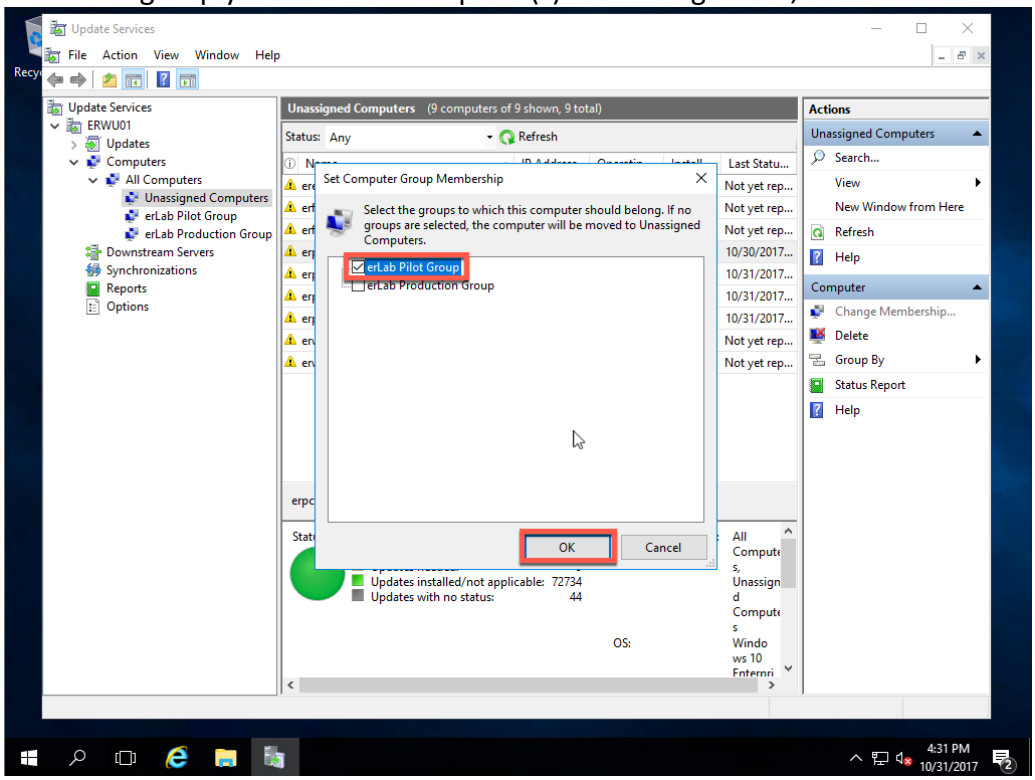
5. Once your groups are created you can add computers to them. Start by clicking Unassigned Computers to see what has not been assigned to a group.



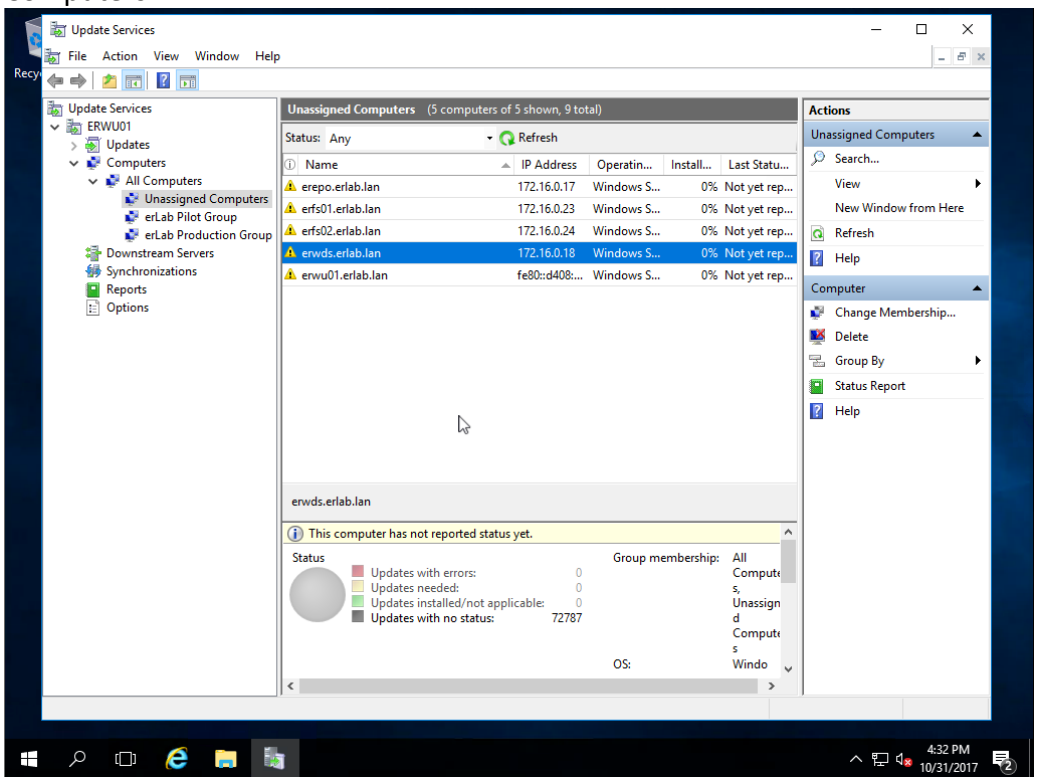
6. Right-click the computer you want to assign (you can select multiple computers at one time), and click Change Membership.



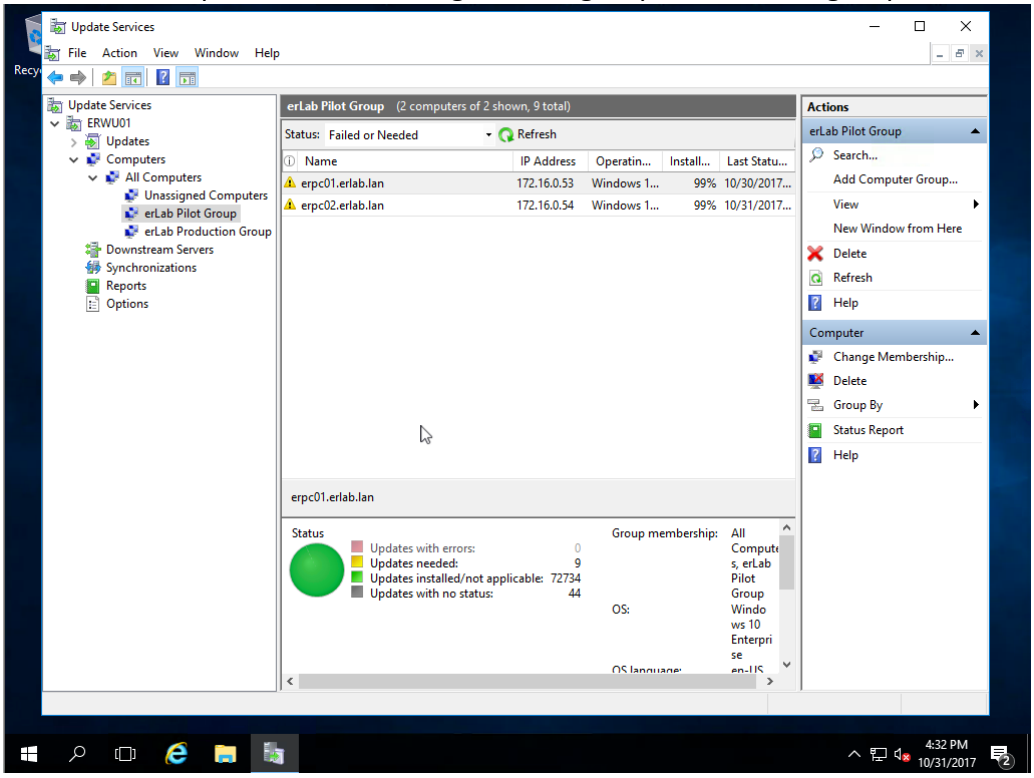
7. Check the group you want the computer(s) to be assigned to, and click OK.



8. Repeat these steps until you have assigned all of your computers. You will notice that once you have assigned the computers to a group they won't show up under Unassigned Computers.



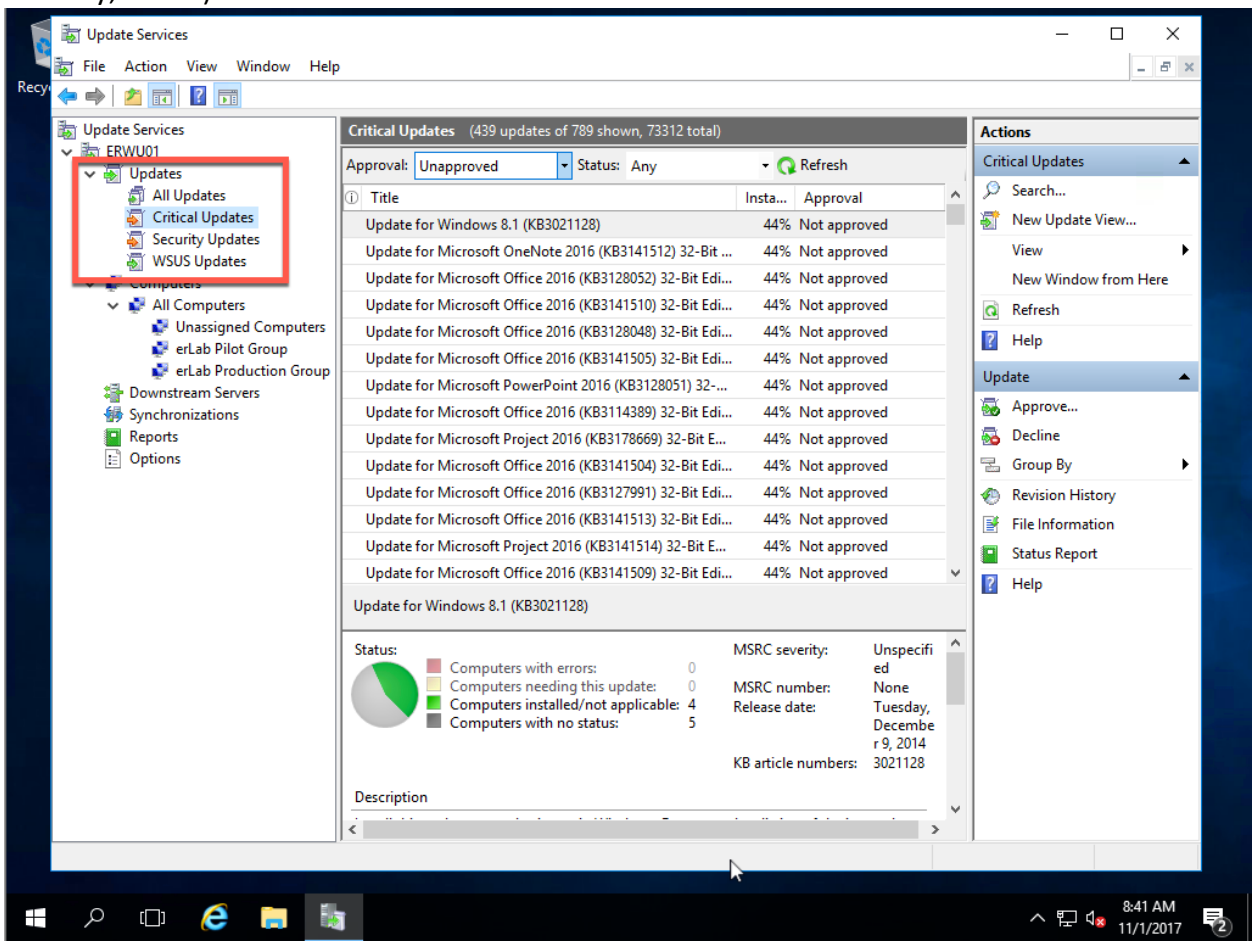
9. To see the computers that are assigned to a group, click on the group.



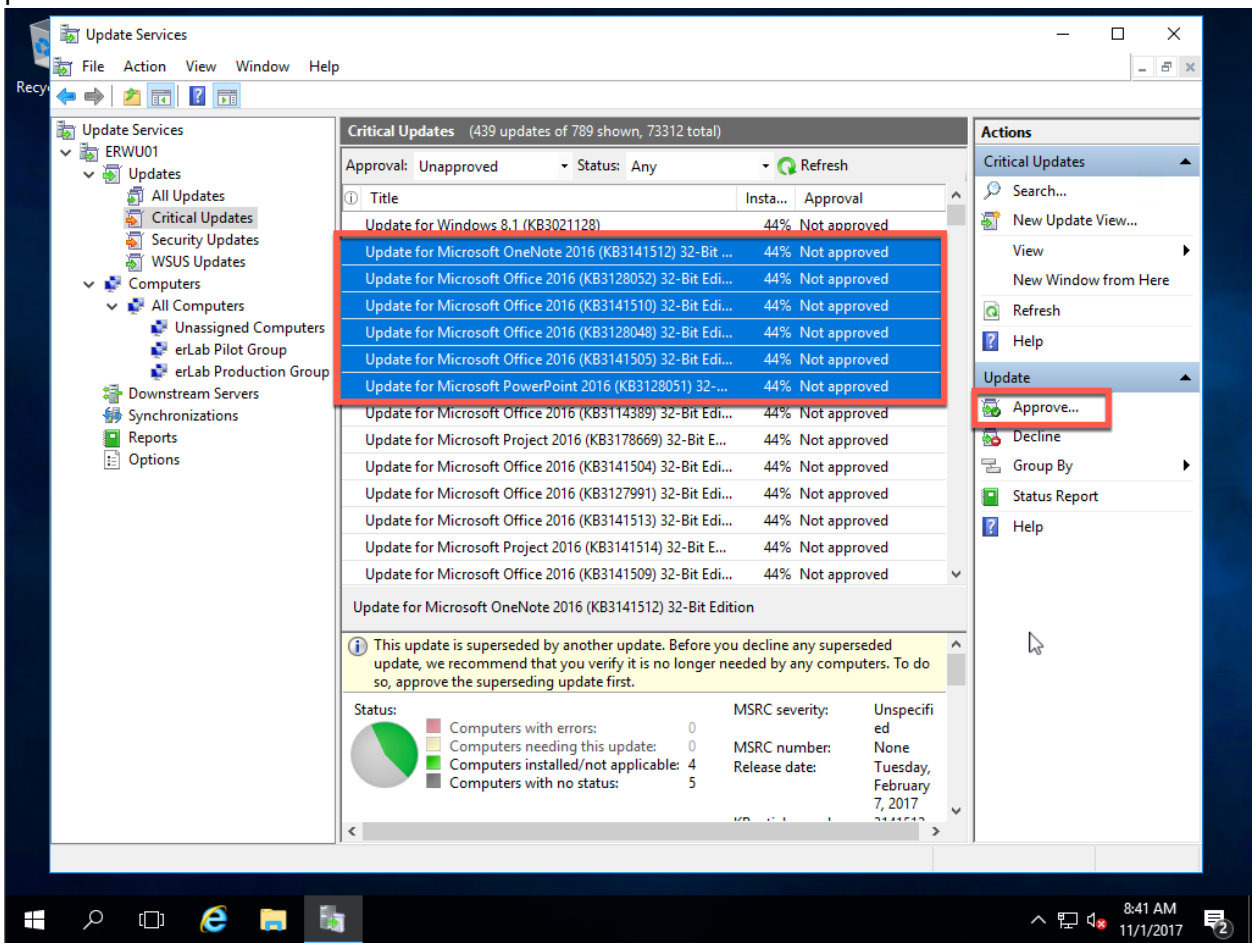
Approving Updates

Now it is time to start approving updates for your groups.

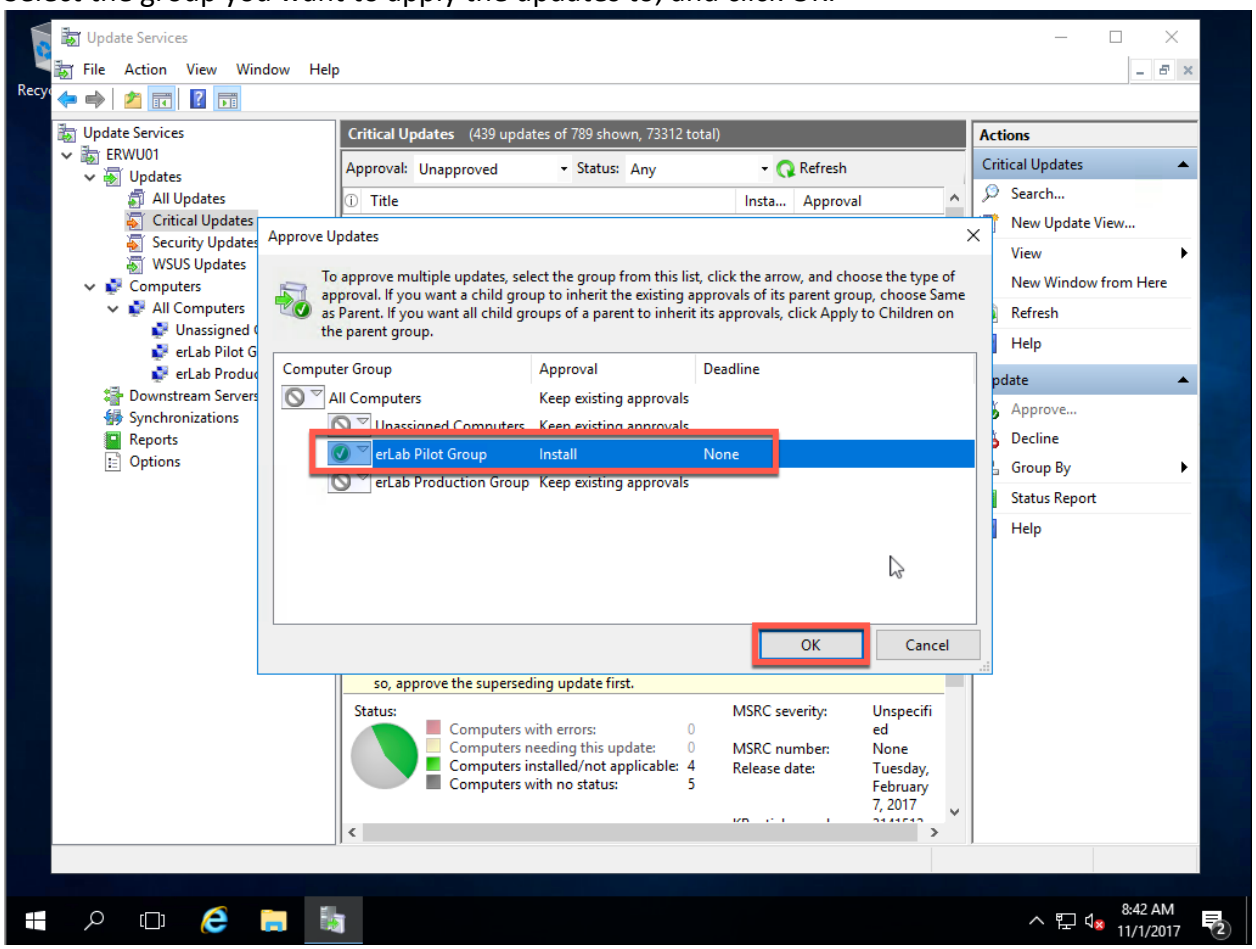
1. In the left pane, select the type of updates you want to approve (All Updates, Critical, Security, WSUS).



2. Select the updates you want to approve in the middle pane, and click Approve in the right pane.



3. Select the group you want to apply the updates to, and click OK.



4. Now your computers should start to receive updates based on your group policy and your groups within WSUS.