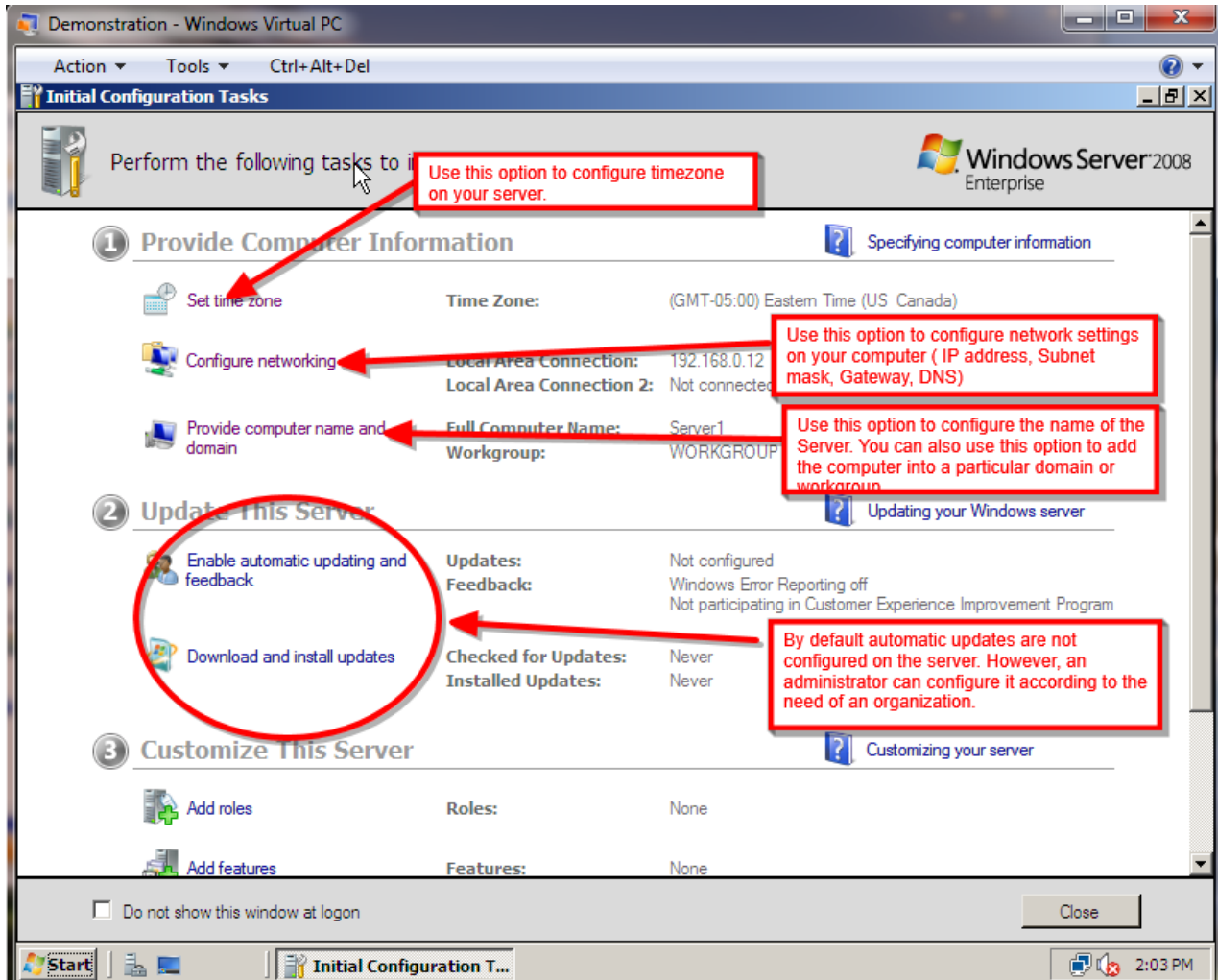## Initial Configuration Tasks on Windows server 2008

When you log into Windows server 2008, the very first time, the 'Initial Configuration Tasks' window is displayed. You can configure the basic functionality of the server from this window.

From here you can set the timezone of your server, configure the network settings and provde the computer name to the server. You can also check the windows update feature, configure the firewall and enable remote desktop if required. This article walks you through the ICT window in a step by step method.


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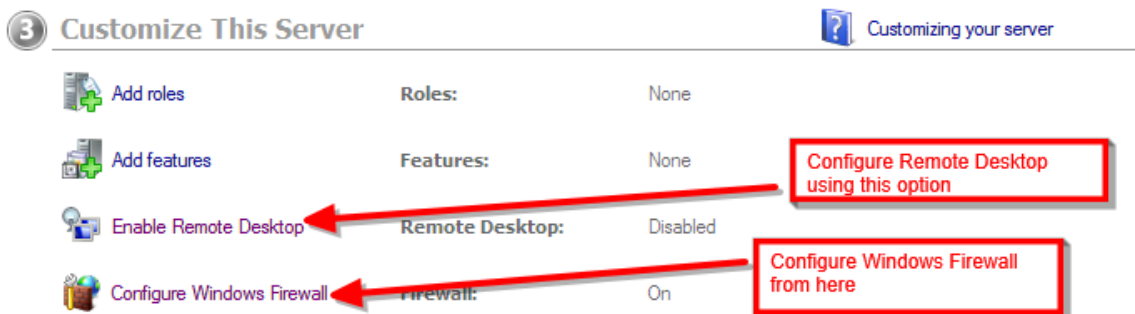
Setting the time zone:
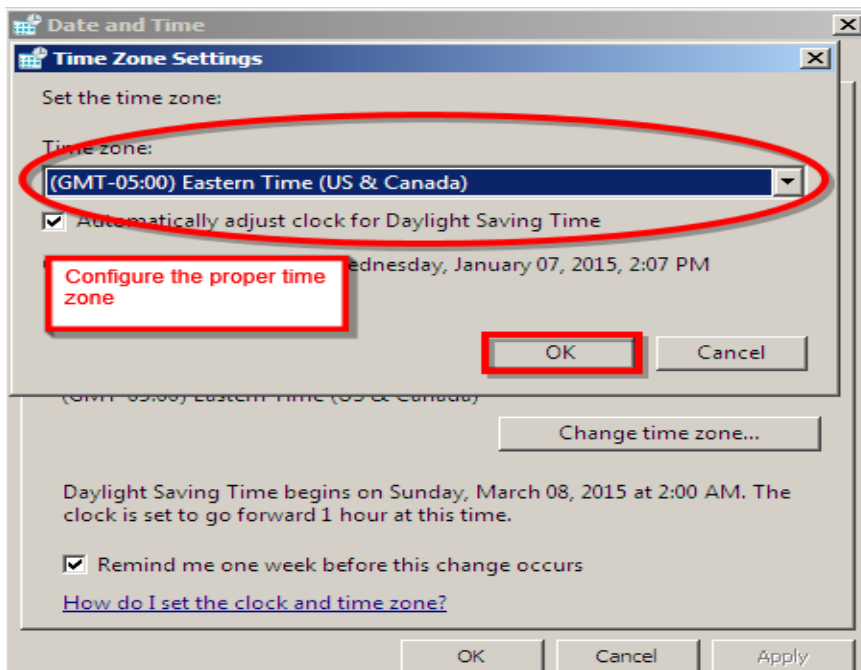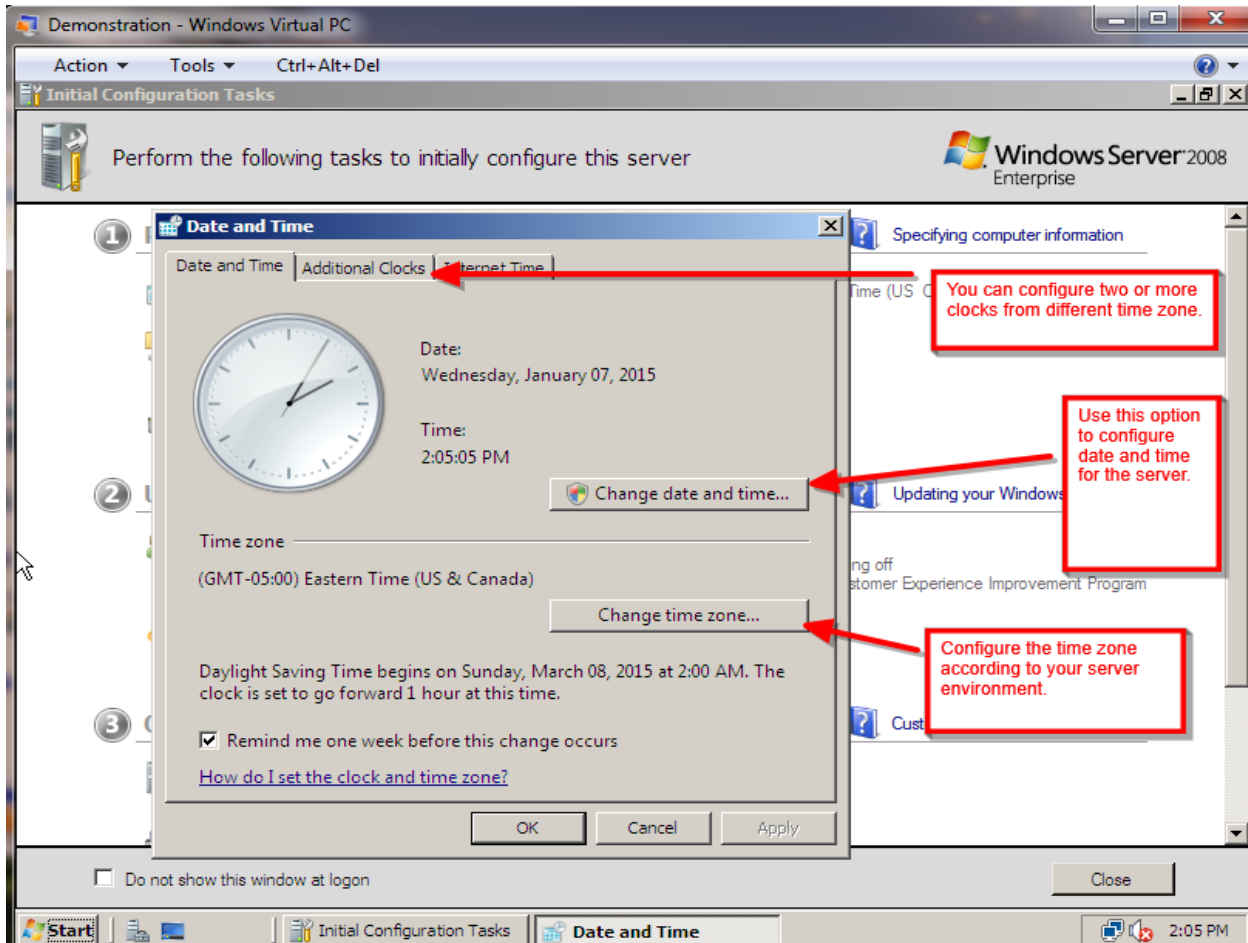
By clicking on 'Change time zone' you can set the appropriate time zone for your server. By clicking 'Change date and time' you can set the appropriate date and time on your server. You can also click on 'Additional Clocks' tab to add clocks from different time zone.

Configuring the network:

Using this option you can configure the Network Interface Card (NIC) of your computer. You do not need to configure this if you already have a DHCP server in the network which can assign IP address to the server. To assign a static IP address to the server click on 'Properties'.
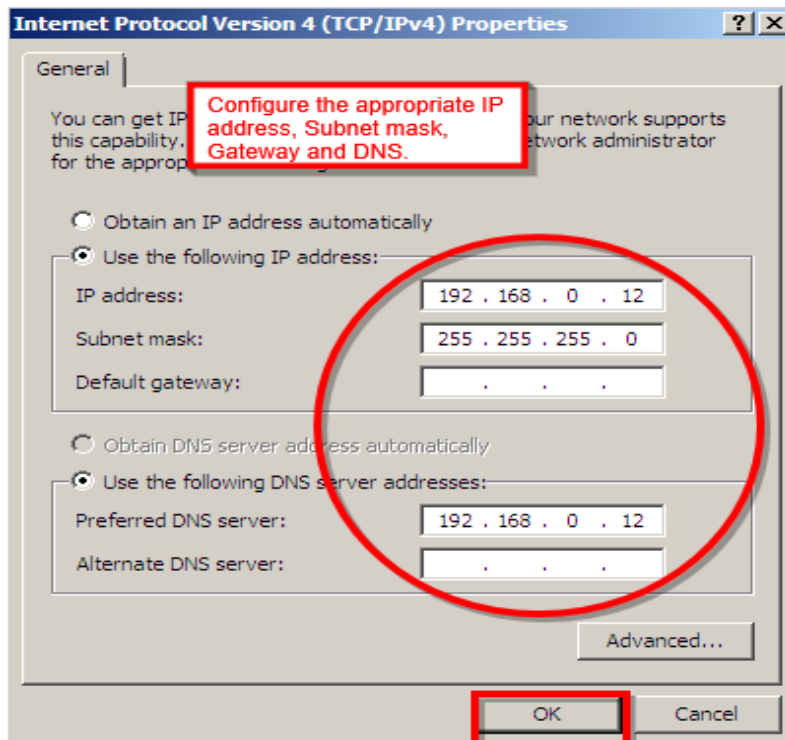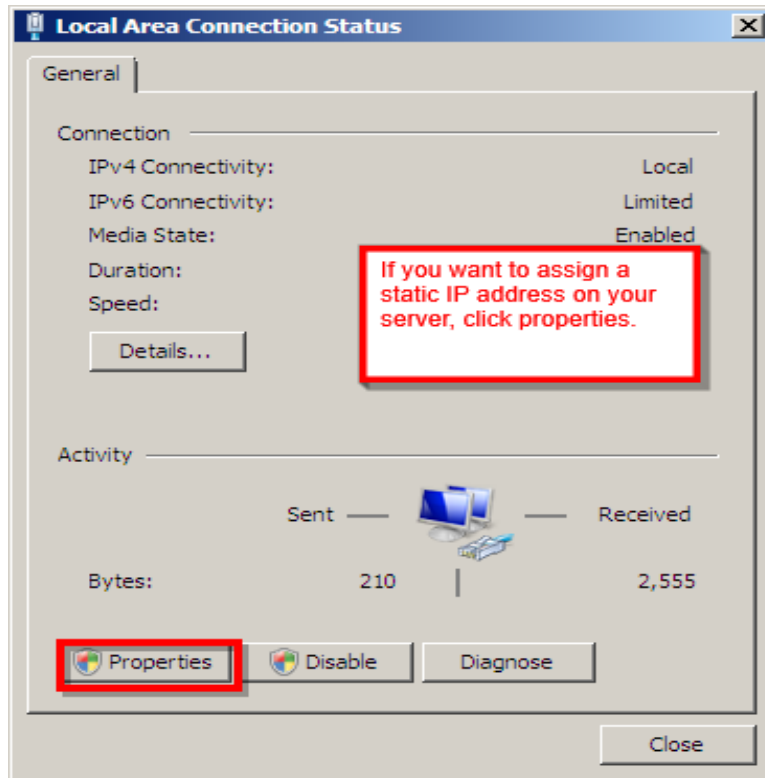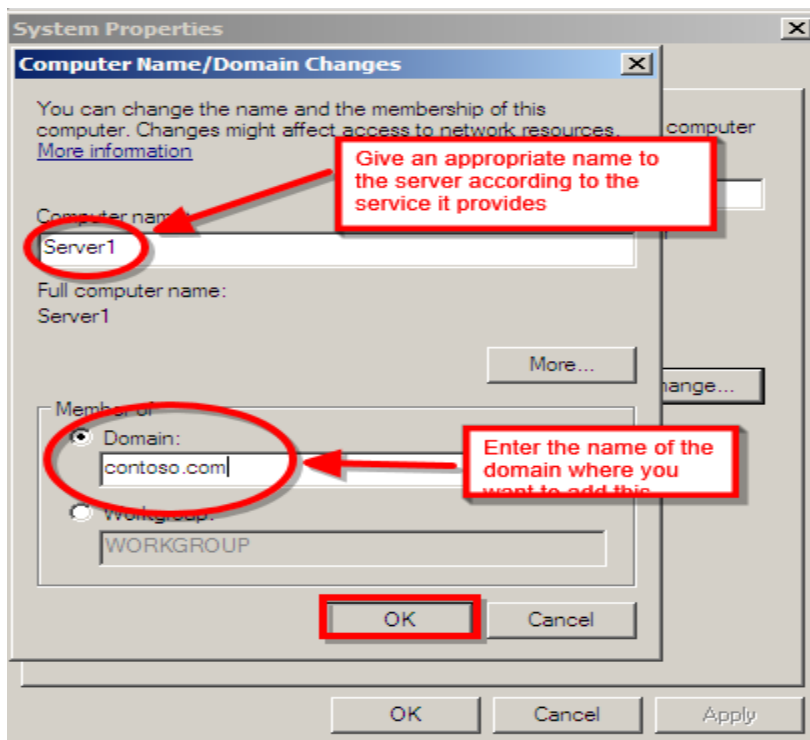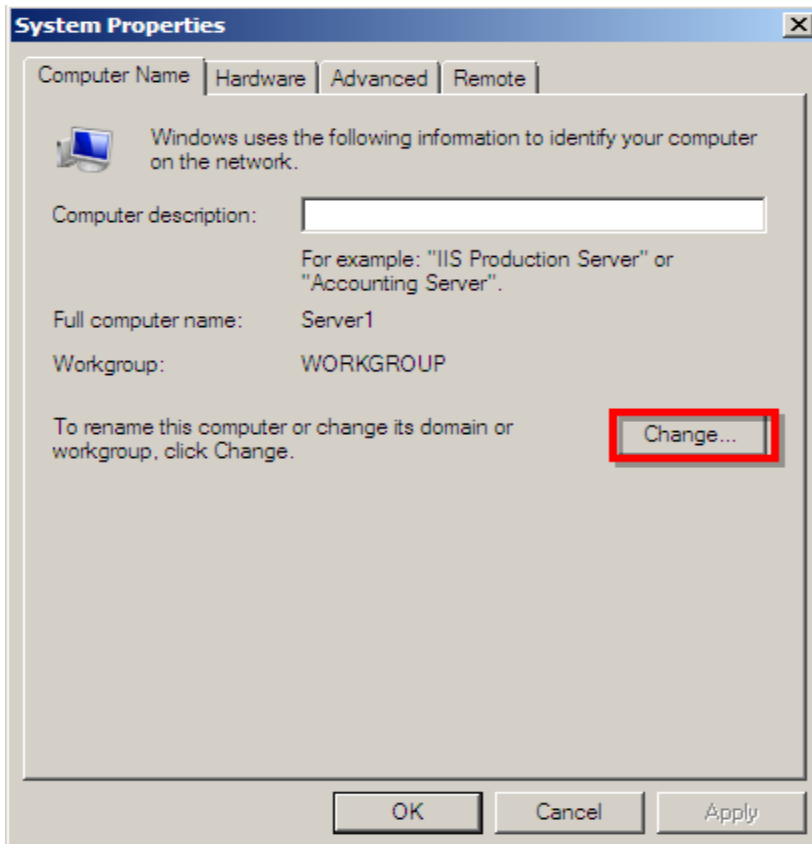

Configure the IP address, subnet mask, gateway and DNS in the respective fields. Click 'Ok'. You have just configured the static IP address on the server NIC.

Providing computer name and domain name:

This option is used to provide a name to the server and add the server into a particular domain. A server is always incomplete without its name and the domain to which it belongs.

Click the 'Change' button to change the default server name and add the computer into a domain.

System Properties

Computer Name | Hardware | Advanced | Remote

Windows uses the following information to identify your computer on the network.

Computer description:

For example: "IIS Production Server" or "Accounting Server".

Full computer name: Server1

Workgroup: WORKGROUP

To rename this computer or change its domain or workgroup, click Change.

[Change...]

[OK] [Cancel] [Apply]

System Properties

Computer Name/Domain Changes

You can change the name and the membership of this computer. Changes might affect access to network resources.
More information

Give an appropriate name to the server according to the service it provides

Computer name:
Server1

Full computer name:
Server1

[More...]

Member of
● Domain:
contoso.com

Enter the name of the domain where you want to add this

○ Workgroup:
WORKGROUP

[OK] [Cancel]

[OK] [Cancel] [Apply]

Provide a suitable server name in the 'Computer name' field. Enter the name of the domain in which you want to add the server. Click 'Ok'. Click 'Apply' and click 'Ok' again. The server will ask to restart for the changes to take place. Click 'Restart Now'.

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Enable Remote Desktop:

In most case the main server is located in a Datacenter which is locked and kept in a very low temperature. It is always preferred not to touch the server physically as much as possible. So it is a good idea to configure remote desktop on the server so that the server administrator can access the server from his computer.
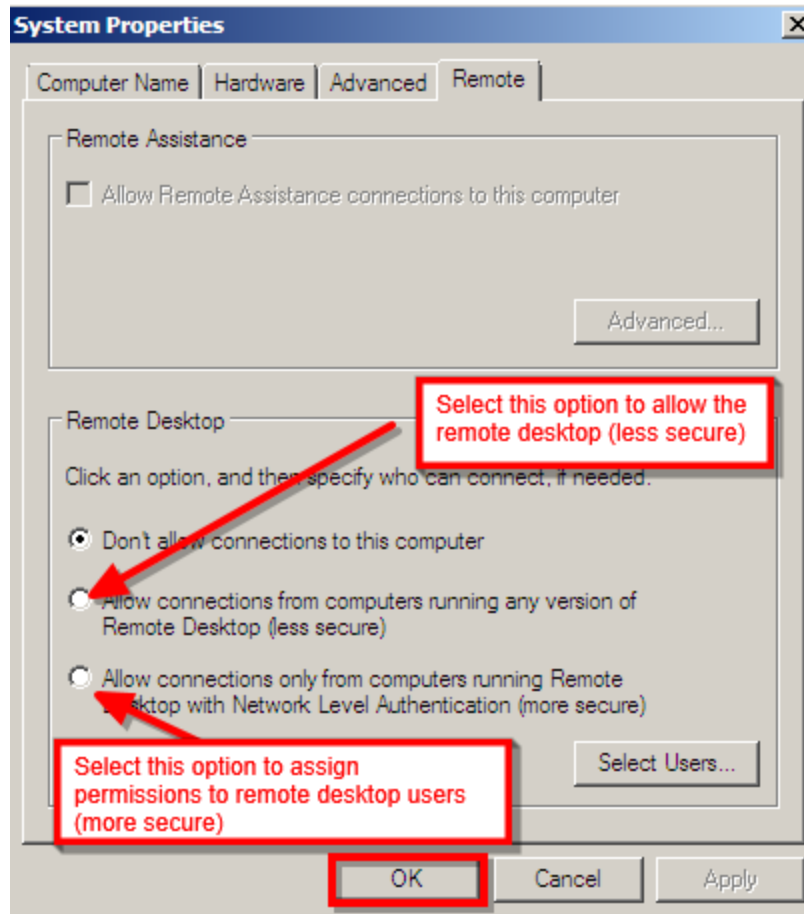

Select the 'Allow connections from computer running any version of Remote desktop (less secure)' radio button. You may also want to select 'Allow computers running Remote Desktop with network level authentication (more secure) radio button if you want to assign only certain users to remotely access the server.

Remote desktop is a handy tool which comes to aid while working on different servers from a remote place. However, it is very important to assign permissions appropriately for accessing the server or it can be misused very easily.

Configuring Windows Firewall:

Firewall is an important security tool to protect your server from the private and public network. Use this option to configure the appropriate firewall settings based on your corporate security policies. Click the 'Configure Windows Firewall' option. Here you can turn the firewall OFF or ON. You can also allow a particular program to pass from the firewall when it is ON. It is always recommended to keep the default settings of Windows Firewall to ON. Additionally you can also configure the firewall by using 'Change settings' option.
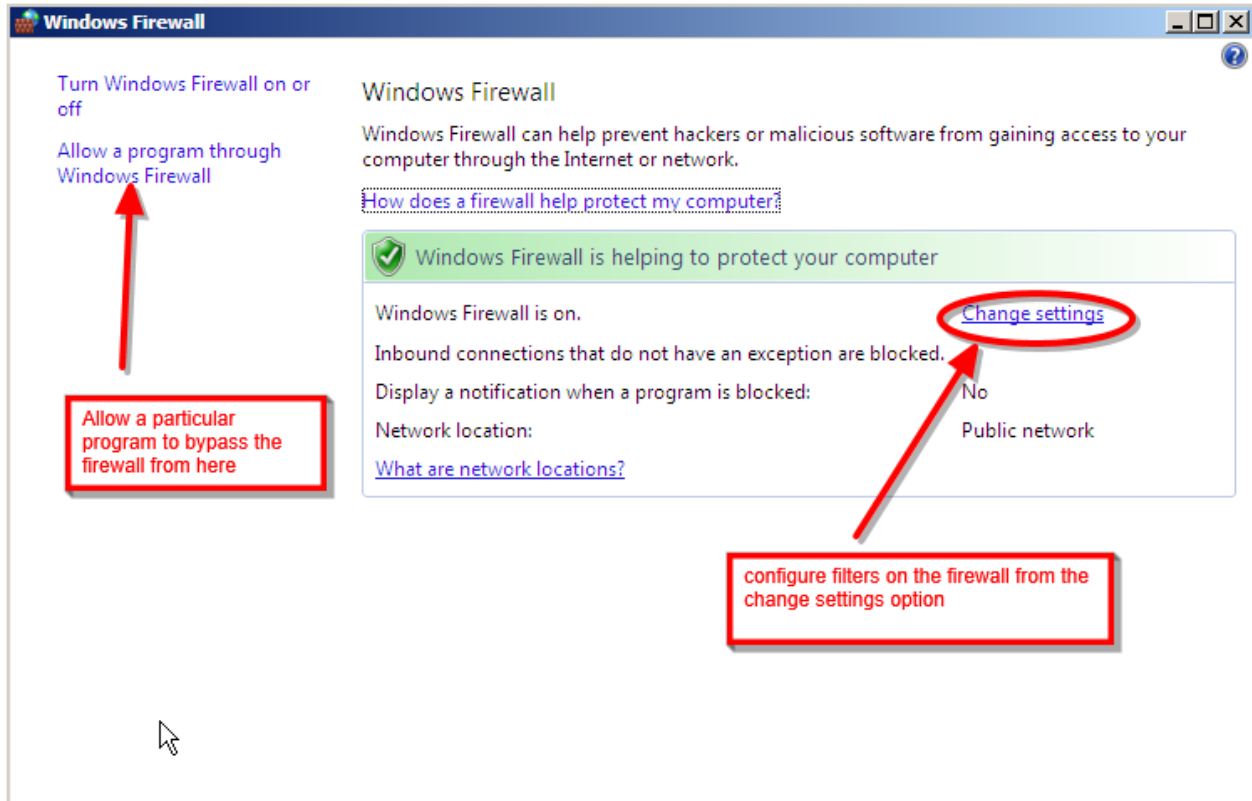
These are the Initial Configuration Tasks (ICT) which is essential to be configured on the server. ICT window can also be accessed any time by typing oobe (Out Of Box Experience) in the search box.

_____Happy Ending_____