

Installing and Setting up a Remote Installation Server using VMware

Introduction

To start off I'm assuming you have a "machine" with Windows Server 2003 installed already, and you looking at the desktop now!

To be able to use RIS we need a few components installed:

- Active Directory
- DNS
- DHCP

A free partition of about 3-5 GB – I suggest you create a new drive because this will be used to store the operating systems we will install and they have to be on a different partition to the System files of the Server.

Active Directory Installation

If you already have Active Directory (AD) installed on a Server you can skip this section.

To install AD go to Start → Run → and type dcpromo.

If DNS is not installed you will be prompted to install DNS through the wizard.

DHCP Installation and Setup

The DHCP service needs to be installed as it is not installed by default.

Once installed setup DHCP by creating a IP range, configuring all the network options & authorizing the DHCP service.

RIS Installation

Now that AD, DNS & DHCP have been installed and working it's time to install Remote Installation Services (RIS). Again this is not install by default. Restart your machine once prompted to.

2nd Partition/ 2nd Hard Drive Setup

Make sure you have formatted this partition using NTFS. Since we going to be installing Windows XP using this CD locate its i386 folder and copy it to the partition/driver (NOT THE SYSTEM DRIVE). Once copied open the Properties of the folder and Share it using the default name. Click on permissions and

remove the Everyone group and add the Administrator who will have the Full Control permission – this way only the Administrator will be able to start installations.

RIS Setup

Clicking RIS Setup from the Administrative Tools will bring up a wizard. When prompted for the Remote Installation folder choose your second partition or drive and click Next.

Make sure the Respond to client computers requesting service checkbox is ticked

When giving the Installation Source Files Location – you will browse and find the i386 folder you created earlier containing the Windows XP files.

Setup will install all the files needed.

Client Installation

In VMware to be able to boot from the network you need to press ESC and choose Network boot. Once the DHCP server is discovered press F12 to start the RIS process.

The instructions are pretty easy to read and understand (pressing enter usually does the trick!). Make sure you use your “Administrator name” and its password as they only will have access to the i386 folder.

Once the text –based side of the Windows XP installation is complete the graphic based will start and you will be prompted to enter a key. This is because we didn’t create a Unattended RIS Setup – this will be covered later. In fact entering the key is all you need to do – the rest is all automated.

If you followed these videos and tutorial you should end up with a Windows XP client installed.