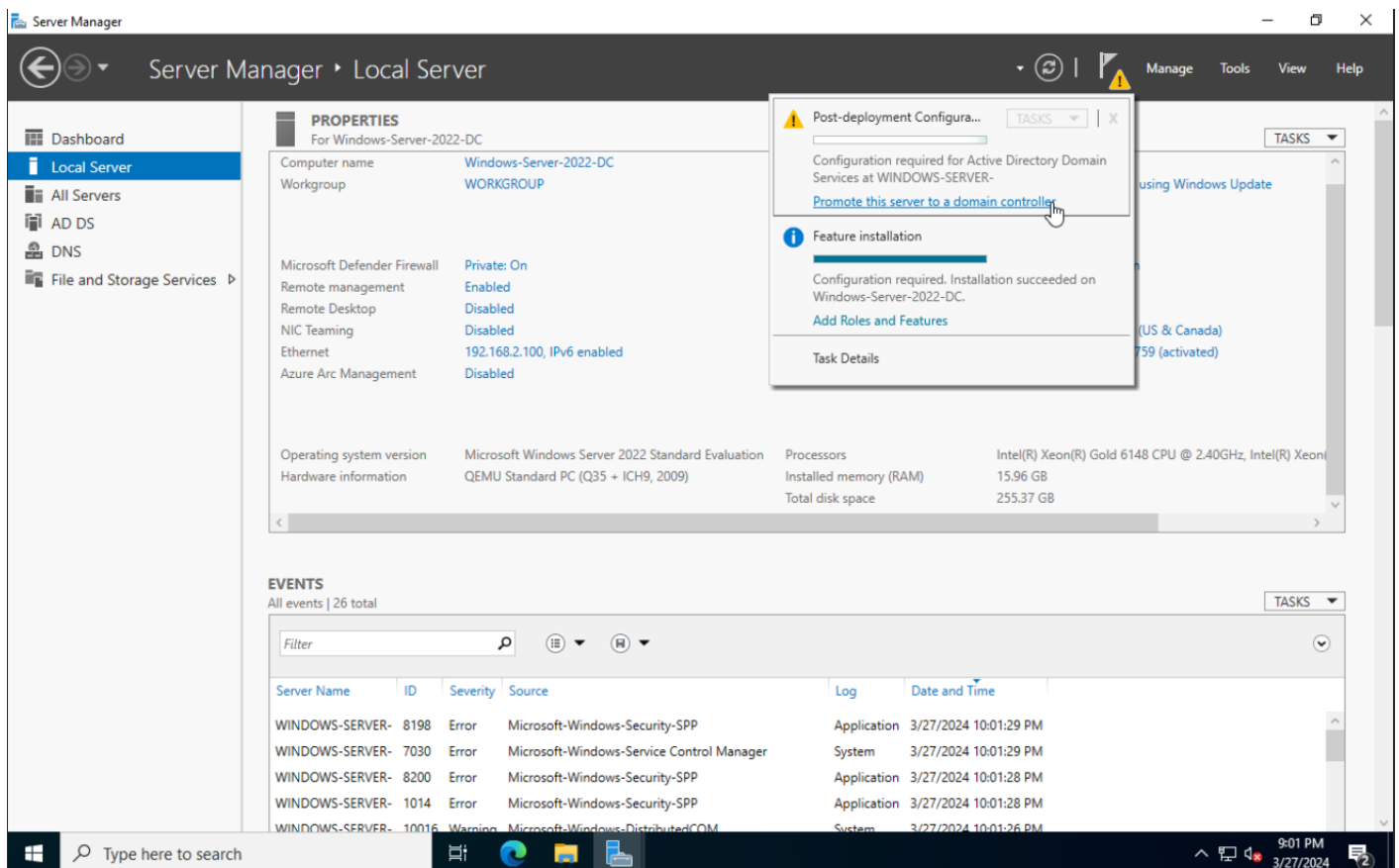


# Setting Up Server as Active Directory Domain Controller

Keeping it simple, select install Active Directory Domain Services and DNS Server, via Manage ---> Add Roles and Features.

After installation, promote your Windows server to a Domain Controller :



A Deployment Configuration Wizard screen will pop-up. This step is important to properly setting up active directory services! Select Add a new Forest to begin the configuration wizard:

Active Directory Domain Services Configuration Wizard

Deployment Configuration

TARGET SERVER  
Windows-Server-2022-DC

Deployment Configuration

Domain Controller Options

Additional Options

Paths

Review Options

Prerequisites Check

Installation

Results

Select the deployment operation

☐ Add a domain controller to an existing domain

☐ Add a new domain to an existing forest

☒ Add a new forest

Specify the domain information for this operation

Root domain name:

[More about deployment configurations](#)

< Previous

Next >

Install

Cancel

- Here you can see I've entered AD.testlab.home as my Root Domain Name

The screenshot shows the 'Active Directory Domain Services Configuration Wizard' window. The title bar includes the application name and standard window controls. The main heading is 'Domain Controller Options'. In the top right corner, it indicates the 'TARGET SERVER' is 'Windows-Server-2022-DC'. On the left, a navigation pane lists the steps: 'Deployment Configuration', 'Domain Controller Options' (which is highlighted in blue), 'DNS Options', 'Additional Options', 'Paths', 'Review Options', 'Prerequisites Check', 'Installation', and 'Results'. The main content area is titled 'Select functional level of the new forest and root domain'. It contains two dropdown menus: 'Forest functional level:' and 'Domain functional level:', both set to 'Windows Server 2016'. Below these, the section 'Specify domain controller capabilities' has three checkboxes: 'Domain Name System (DNS) server' (checked), 'Global Catalog (GC)' (checked), and 'Read only domain controller (RODC)' (unchecked). Further down, the section 'Type the Directory Services Restore Mode (DSRM) password' has two password fields labeled 'Password:' and 'Confirm password:', both filled with dots. A blue link 'More about domain controller options' is located at the bottom of the main content area. The bottom of the window features a navigation bar with four buttons: '< Previous', 'Next >' (highlighted in blue with a mouse cursor), 'Install', and 'Cancel'.

Active Directory Domain Services Configuration Wizard

Domain Controller Options

TARGET SERVER  
Windows-Server-2022-DC

Deployment Configuration  
Domain Controller Options  
DNS Options  
Additional Options  
Paths  
Review Options  
Prerequisites Check  
Installation  
Results

Select functional level of the new forest and root domain

Forest functional level: Windows Server 2016

Domain functional level: Windows Server 2016

Specify domain controller capabilities

☒ Domain Name System (DNS) server  
☒ Global Catalog (GC)  
☐ Read only domain controller (RODC)

Type the Directory Services Restore Mode (DSRM) password

Password: .....

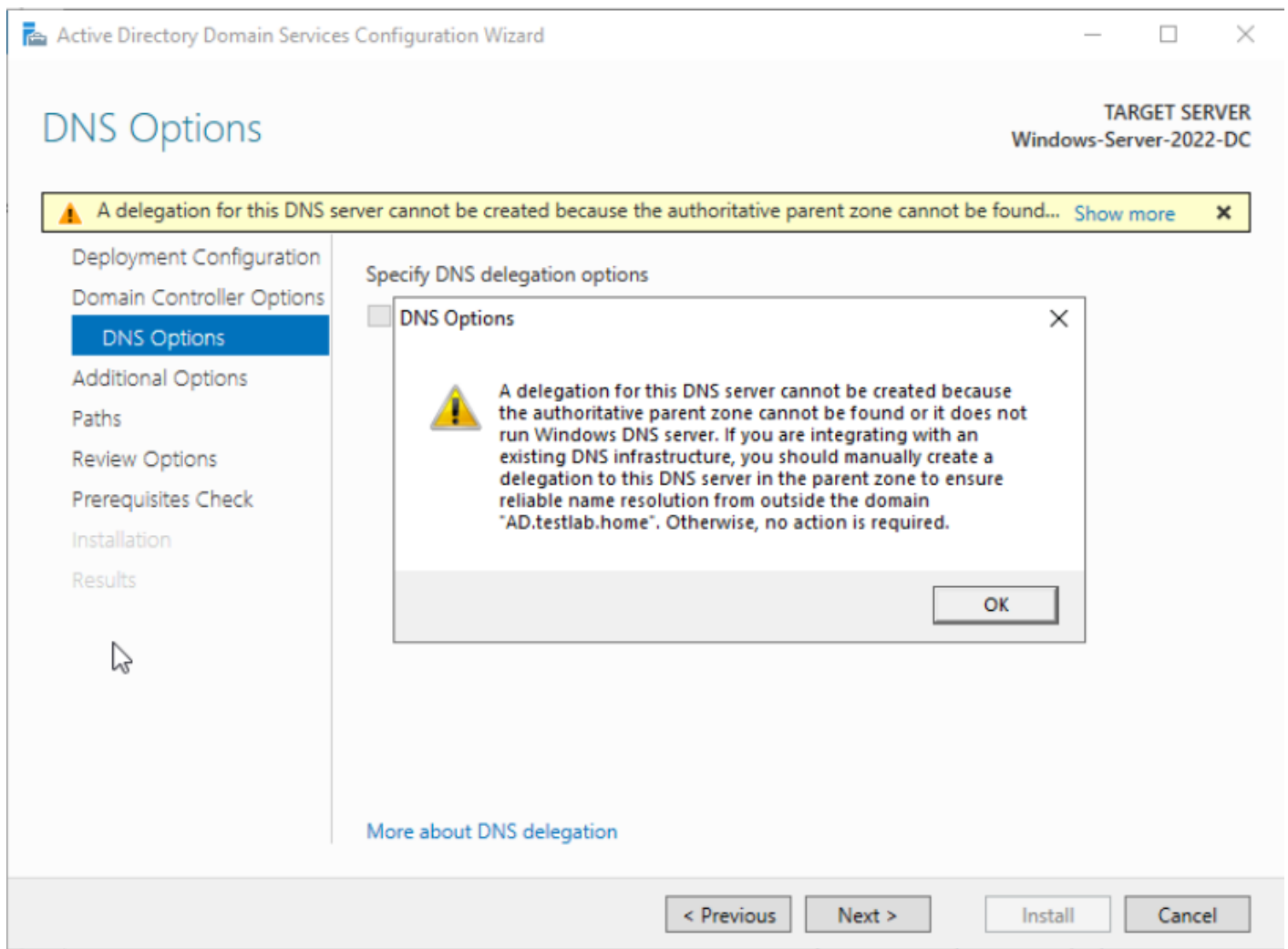
Confirm password: .....

[More about domain controller options](#)

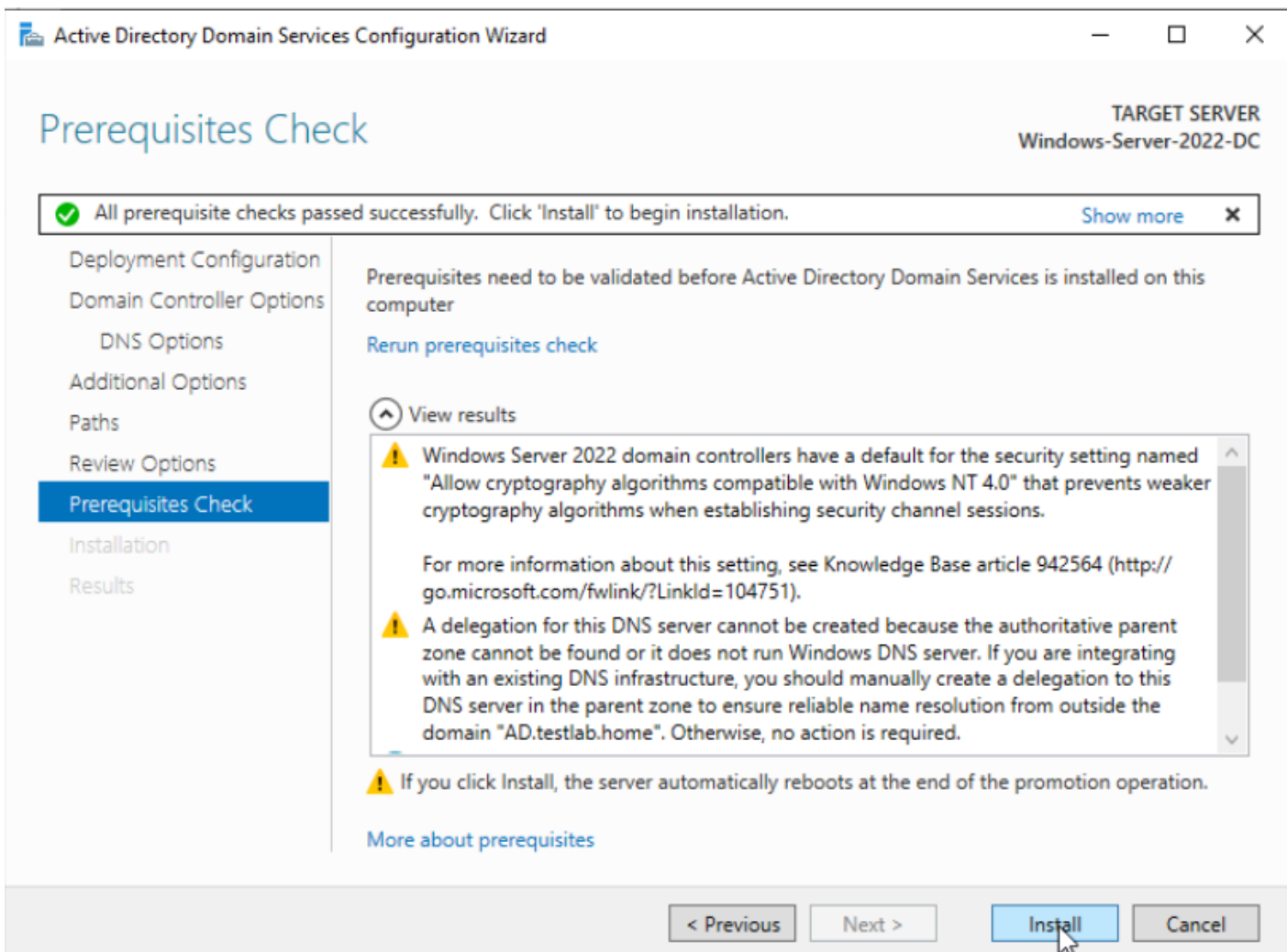
< Previous Next > Install Cancel

- Here you can set levels if you plan on connecting other Windows Servers. For my purposes, I'll be keeping it at its default of Windows Server 2016
- Set your DSRM password and store it safely.

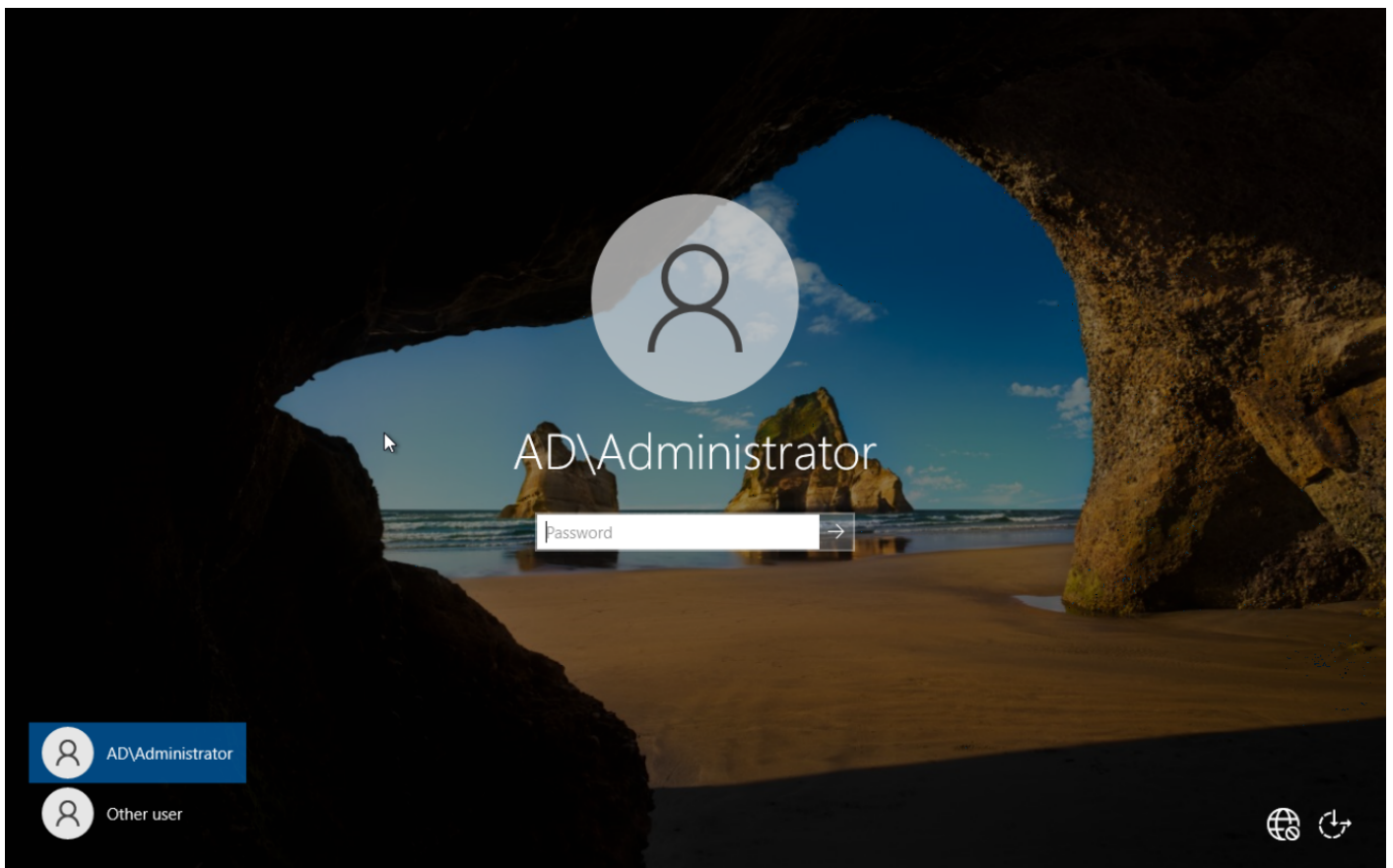
If you're setting this up in a test environment, you'll likely see the following warning pop-up. For our purposes, this is okay:



Click through Additional Options, Paths, and Review Options to get to the prerequisite checks:



- Again, these warnings are okay for test environments. For production, you'll want to acknowledge them and make changes accordingly.
- After installation, the server will need to restart, and you should now be able to log in as Domain Administrator, which should say AD/administrator:



#### Useful Tips:

- If you're like me, you're using an evaluation copy of Windows and don't have any plans of purchasing a costly license anytime soon. To rearm the license and reset the count back to 180 days, run the following command in PowerShell:

- `slmgr -rearm`

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