

Windows Server 2012 Required and Recommended Settings

This document is presented to IDEXX Cornerstone* Practice Management System customers who will be using Microsoft® Windows Server® 2012 in their practice. This document outlines our recommended settings for using Windows Server 2012 with the Cornerstone system. Cornerstone 8.3 Service Pack 4 or higher is required for use with Windows Server 2012 or Windows Server 2012 R2. Windows Server 2012 R2 is recommended due to the user interface enhancements.

Recommended Server Roles

- Install and configure Active Directory with a user for each workstation.
 - Install and configure DHCP.
 - Install and configure DNS.
 - Configure Group Policy with the following settings:
 - Disable User Account Control.
 - Disable Power Save Settings.
 - Disable Windows Firewall.
 - Disable Screen Saver.
 - Remote Desktop Services (if applicable)
 - Install and configure Remote Desktop Services (formerly known as Terminal Services).
 - To install Remote Desktop Session Host role service, follow the guidelines in Microsoft KB 2833839: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2833839>.
 - Install Remote Desktop Licensing and set licensing mode to **Per User**.
 - Each thin-client (terminal) requires a Remote Desktop license.
 - Printers are required to be networked via IP address and printer pass-through should be **disabled** on the server.

Note: If printer pass-through is not disabled, it will cause issues with printing and Cornerstone in general.
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Required Settings for use with Cornerstone

The settings in this section are required for the best Cornerstone experience.

Set Control Panel to Show All

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click the **View by:** drop-down list and click **Small icons**.
3. Close the Control Panel.

Disable User Account Control

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **User Accounts**.
3. Click **Change User Account Control settings**.
4. Slide the adjustment bar to **Never notify**.
5. Click **OK** and click **Yes** at the User Account Control prompt.

Note: If prompted, click **Yes! Restart the computer**.

Disable IPv6

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Network and Sharing Center**.
3. Click **Change adapter settings**.
4. Right-click the **connected** network connection and click **Properties**.
5. Uncheck **Internet Protocol Version 6 (TCP/IPv6)**.
6. Click **OK** and close the Network Connections window.

Enable File Sharing

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Network and Sharing Center**.
3. Click **Change advanced sharing settings**.
4. In the Domain, Private and All Networks sections select the following settings:

Note: Depending on configuration, some options may not be available.
5. Click **Turn on file and printer sharing**.
6. Click **Save changes** and close the Network and Sharing Center window.

Disable Power Save Settings

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Power Options**.
3. On the left, click **Create a power plan**.
4. In the Create a power plan window, select **High Performance**.
5. In the Plan Name field, type **IDEXX Power**.
6. Click **Next** and click **Create**.
7. Under IDEXX Power, click **Change plan settings**.
8. Click **Change advanced power settings**.
9. In the Power Options window, expand **Hard Disk**.
10. Under **Hard Disk**, expand **Turn off hard disk after**.
11. Click **Setting** and set **Setting (Minutes)** to **0** (zero).
12. Click **OK**, close the Edit Plan Settings window.

Disable Network Card Power Save Settings

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Network and Sharing Center**
3. Click **Change adapter settings**.
4. Right-click the **connected** network connection and click **Properties**.
5. Click the **Configure** button.
6. Click the **Power Management** tab.
7. Uncheck **Allow the computer to turn off this device to save power**.
Note: This check box may not be present on some systems.
8. Click **OK**, and close the Network Connection window.

Disable the Windows Firewall

Note: A hardware firewall (router) is recommended in place of a software firewall.

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Windows Firewall**.
3. Click **Turn Windows Firewall on or off**.
4. In the Domain or Private network location settings section, click **Turn Off Windows Firewall (not recommended)**.
5. Click **OK**, close the Windows Firewall window.

Recommended Settings for use with Cornerstone

The settings in this section are recommended for the best Windows experience.

Set Network Location to Private

1. Press the **Windows key+i**.
2. Click **Change PC Settings**.
3. Click **Network**.
4. Click the connected network connection.
5. Select the **ON** option under Find devices and content.

Set Default Program Photo Viewer

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Default Programs**.
3. Click **Set your default programs**.
4. In the Programs window select **Windows Photo Viewer**, click **Set this program as default** and click **OK**.

Disable Sharing Wizard

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Folder Options**.
3. Click the **View** tab in the Folder Options window.
4. Scroll to the bottom and uncheck **Use Sharing Wizard (Recommended)**.
5. Click **OK** and close the Control Panel.

Show Extensions for Known File Types

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Folder Options**.
3. Click the **View** tab in the Folder Options window.
4. Uncheck **Hide extensions for known file types**.
5. Click **OK** and close the Control Panel.

Display Percentage

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Display**.
3. Check **Let me choose one scaling level for all my displays**.
Note: This is only available in Windows Server 2012 R2.
4. Click **Smaller – 100% (default)**.
5. Click **Apply** and close the Display window.

Configure Action Center

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Action Center**.
3. Click **Change Action Center settings**.
4. Uncheck **User Account Control**.
5. Click **OK** and close the Action Center window.

Add Command Prompt Option to the Context Menu

Note: This is only available in Windows Server 2012 R2. Windows Server 2012 displays the Command Prompt option by default.

1. Right-click the **Task Bar** and click **Properties**.
2. Click the **Navigation** Tab.
3. Uncheck **Replace Command Prompt with Windows PowerShell in the menu when I right-click the lower-left corner or press Windows key+X**.
4. Click **OK** and close the Taskbar Properties window.

Show All Notification Area Icons

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Notification Area Icons**.
3. Check **Always show all icons and notifications on the taskbar**.
4. Click **OK** and close the Control Panel.

Add Critical System Icons to the Desktop

Note: The Desktop Experience feature must be installed.

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Personalization**.
3. Click **Change desktop icons**.
4. Check **Computer, Recycle Bin, User's Files, and Network**.
5. Click **OK** and close the Personalization window.

Setup Automatic Updates

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Windows Update**.
2. Click **Change settings**.
3. In the Important updates section, choose **Download updates but let me choose whether to install them**.
4. Click **OK** and close the Control Panel window.
Note: Updates may start to download right after you click **OK**.

For further assistance, please call IDEXX Support at 1-800-695-2877.



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