

This article describes the setup of a generic high-performance test-lab. You can use this generic high-performance test-lab...

- ...on a laptop (optionally with a usb-disk for extra-performance).
- ...for testing terminalserver-deployments.
- ...for testing profile-management-deployments.
- ...for testing all kinds of windows services.

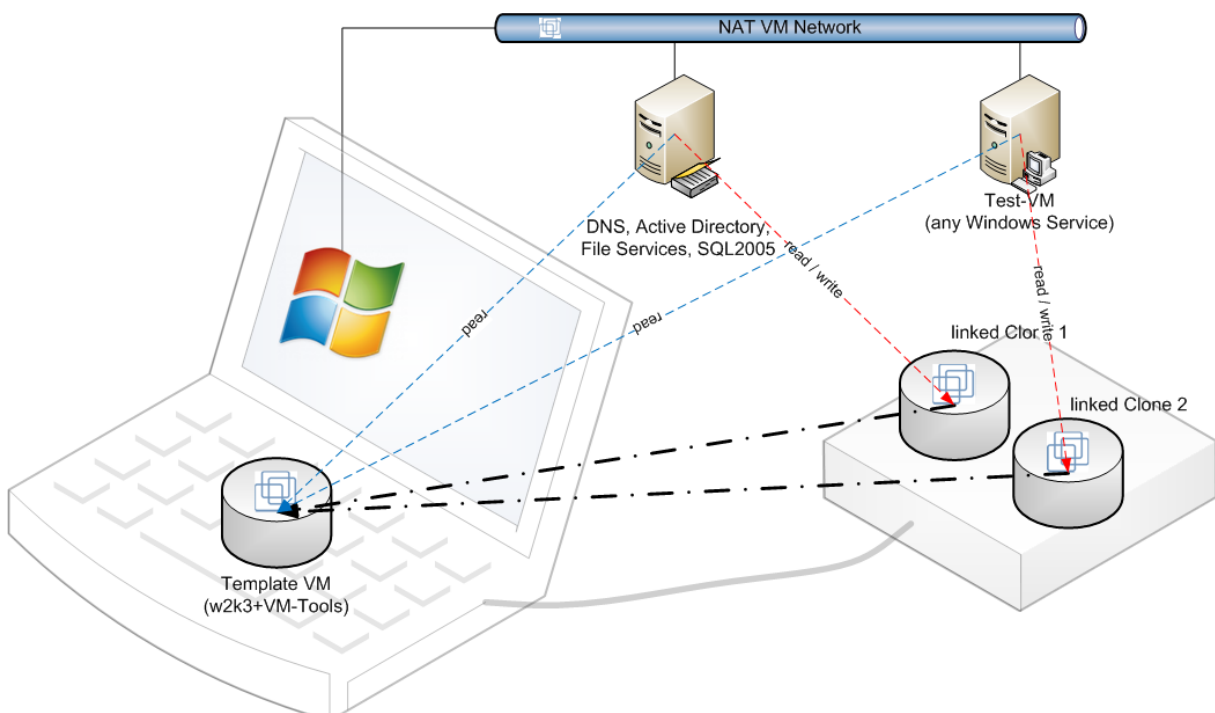
prerequisites: a windows laptop with vmware workstation installed (+ optional usb-harddisk)

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1. Test-Lab overview

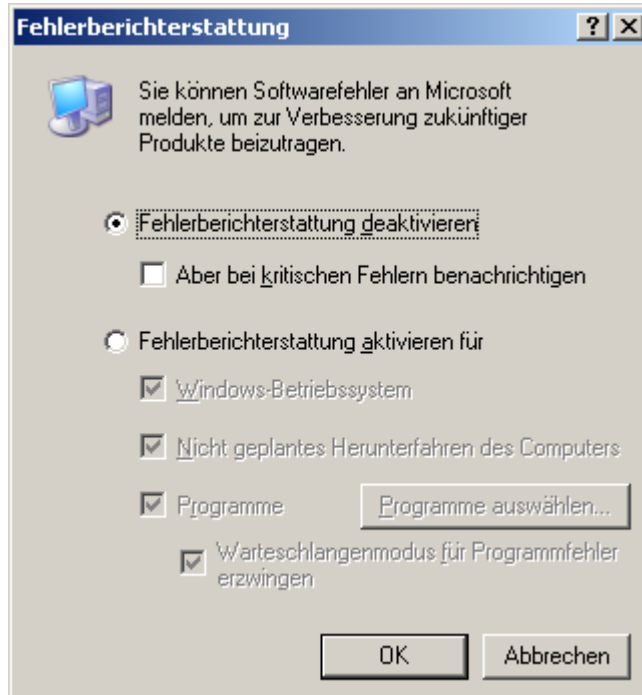
The Test-Lab uses the given hardware in a optimal way – it uses the io-performance of the harddisk in the laptop plus the io-performance of the plugged-in usb-harddisk all the time without losing safety for the data.

Furthermore it contains an Infrastructure-VM which provides an Active Directory, Domain Name Services, File Services and a SQL-Server. These services are everything most Windows Server Products need.

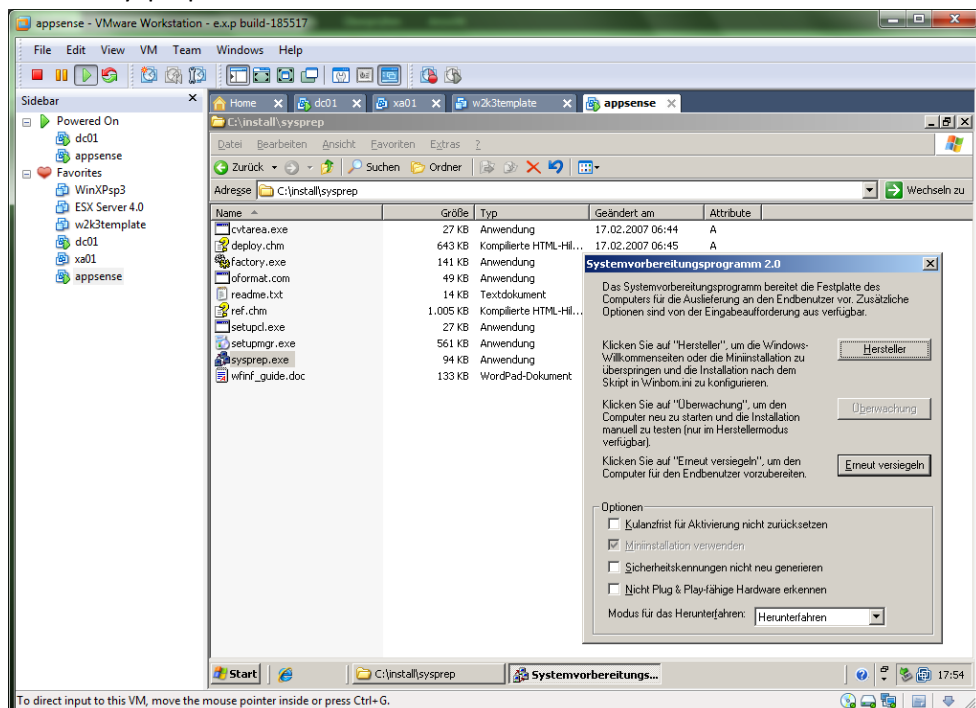


2. Build the Windows Server Template (incl. Optimizations)

- a. Create a VM and install Windows Server 2003 (32bit)
- b. Install all Windows Updates into the VM
- c. Install VMware-Tools into the VM
- d. Uninstall internet explorer security
- e. Disable Windows error-reporting

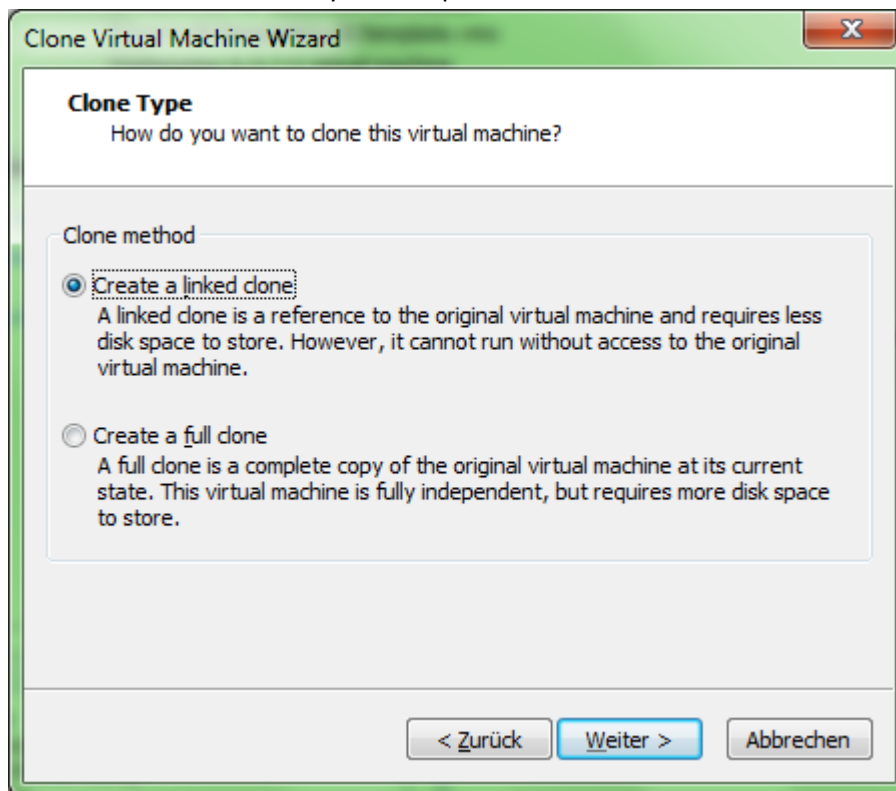


- f. Set the following Reg-Key for best Disk-Performance
`HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\FileSystem\`
`DWORD NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate = 1`
- g. Perform Sysprep and let the VM shutdown

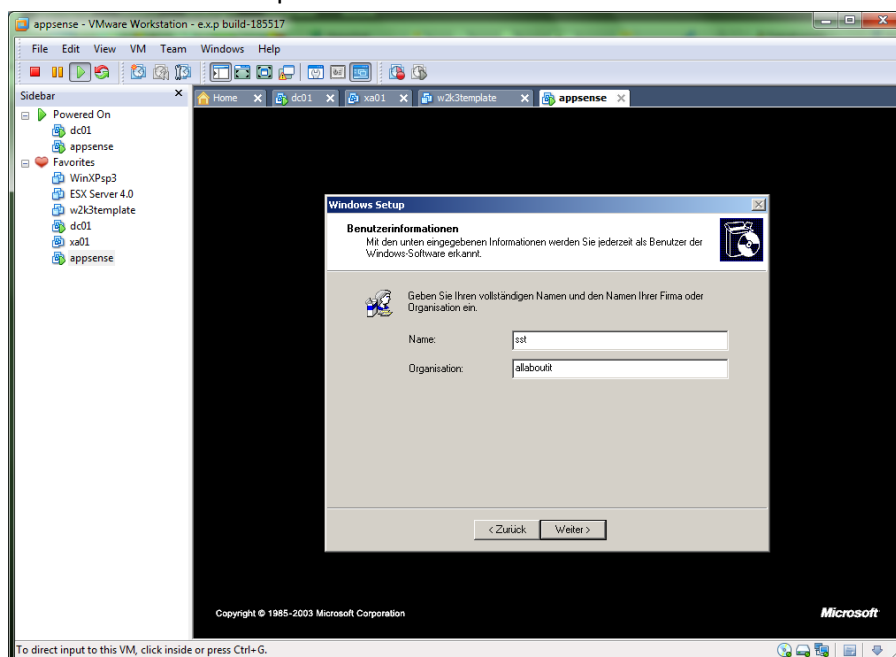


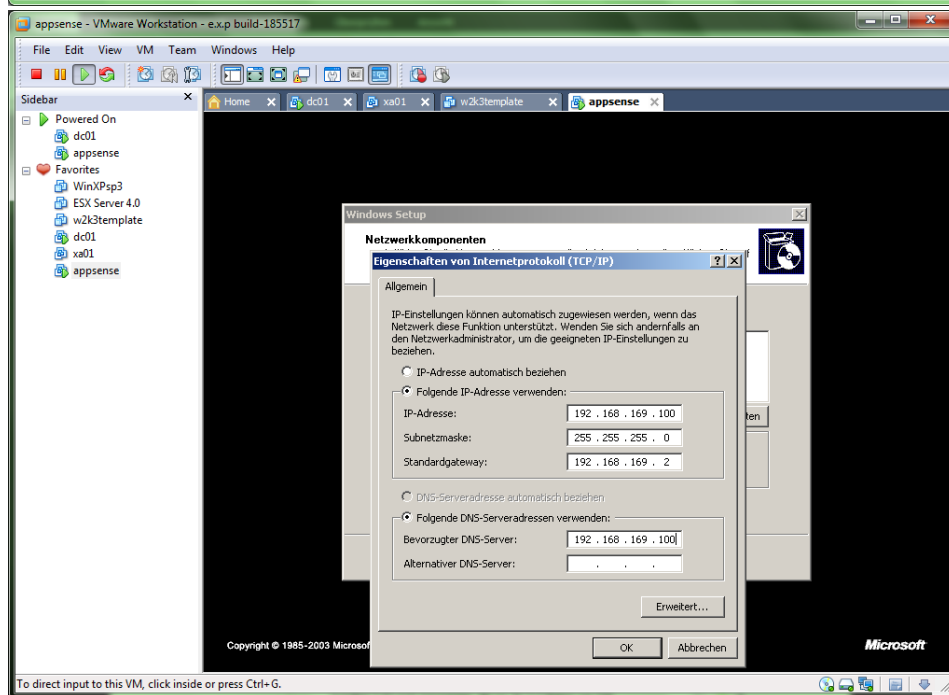
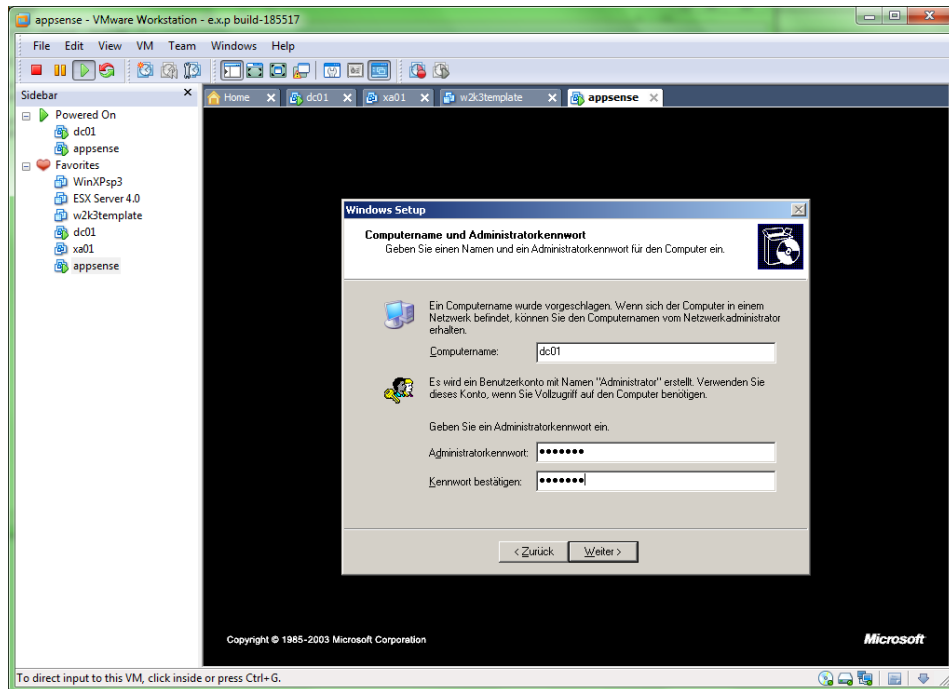
3. Build the Infrastructure-VM (DNS, AD, FS, SQL)

- a. Create a linked Clone from your TemplateVM and save it to the USB-drive

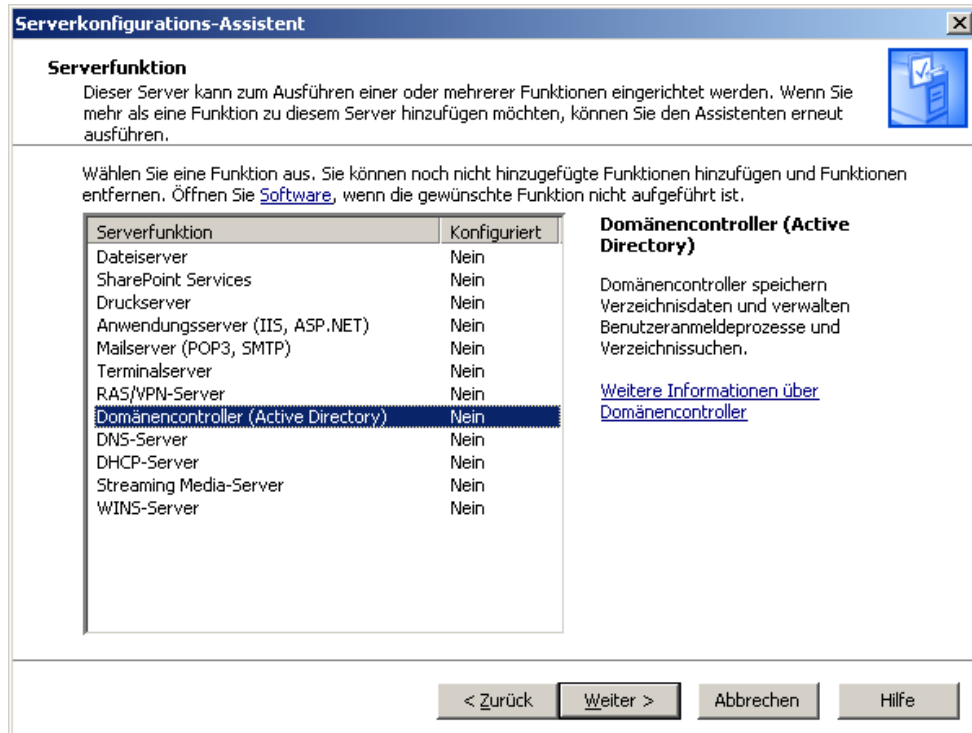


- b. Give it a name and an ip-address

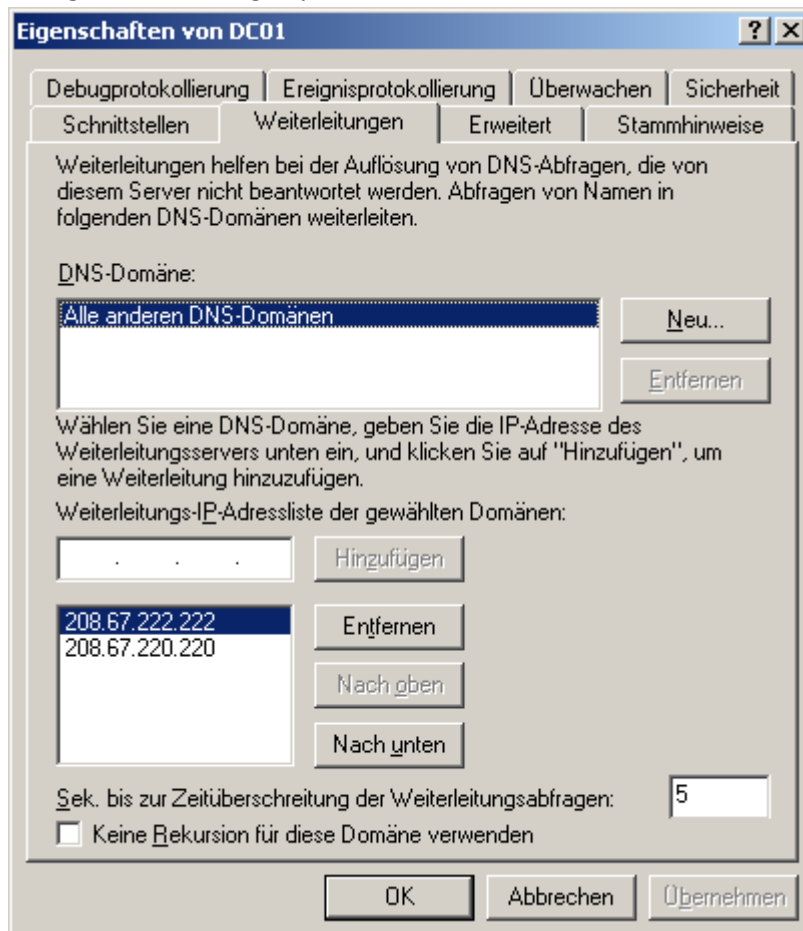




- c. Install Active Directory services and let the wizard do the installation of DNS for you...

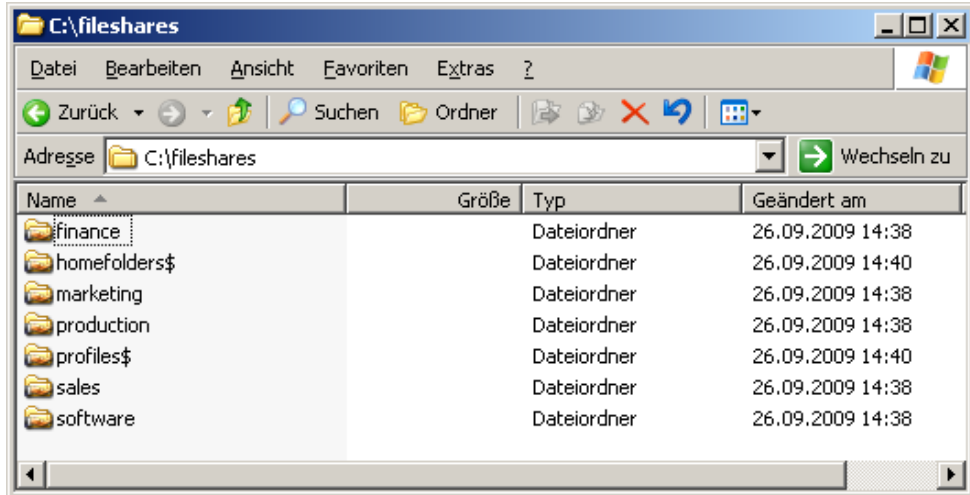


- d. Configure Forwarding in your DNS-Server

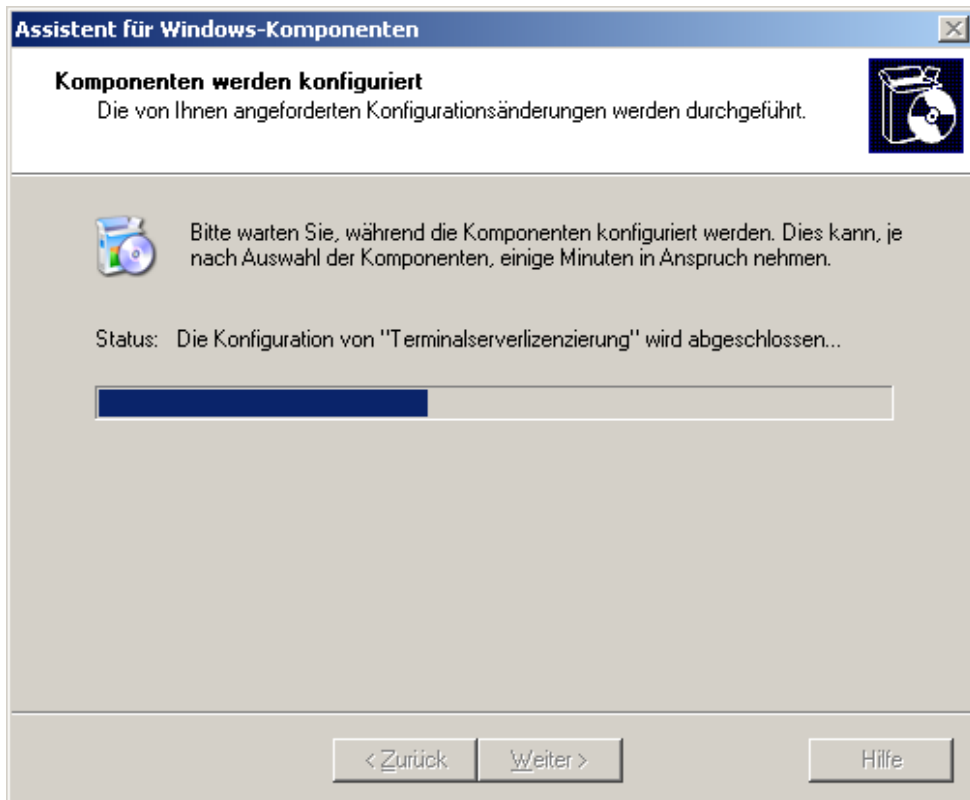


just use the shown openDNS servers...

- e. Create usual file shares



- f. Install Terminalserver License Server



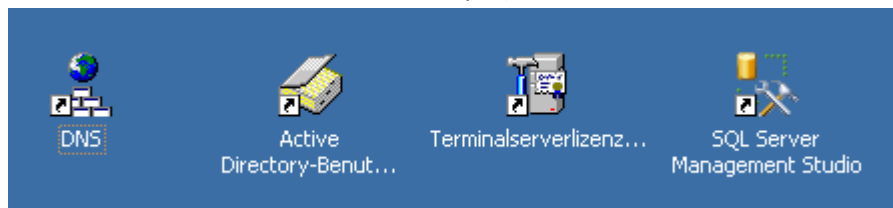
Install some Volume Licenses ;-)

- g. Install MS SQL Server 2005 (32bit)



Don't forget to install SQL Server Management Studio ;-)

- h. Put the often used icons on the desktop ;-)



4. How to use the Test-Lab for testing

Now that we have a Template-VM we can rapidly create Windows Servers from and we have all Windows Infrastructure Services available in our Test-Lab it is easy to setup any Test-Environment – For example I will describe a XenApp Environment now:

- a. Create a linked Clone of the Template-VM and give it a name and an ip-address
- b. Join the new Windows Server to your AD-domain
- c. Install terminal services into the VM
- d. Create a DataBase on your Infrastructure-VMs SQL-Server for the Citrix DataStore
- e. Install XenApp into your new VM (with the use of the new DataStore)
- f. Publish Applications and start to use it...

- g. Furthermore you could...
 - i. ...use the file-shares as profile-store.
 - ii. ...use the active directory for group policy objects.
 - iii. ...use another db as configuration-logging-db.