

H3C Windows Server Installation and Activation Guide

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Before installation

Follow these restrictions and guidelines before using the product:

- Prepare USB optical drivers.
- The installation requires H3C hardware devices. If your hardware devices are not H3C, do not install this product series and solutions in this document are also not applicable.
- Make sure the network is connected when you use a product key to activate the operating system.
- This document applies to Windows Server 2019 and Windows Server 2022 software.

Install H3C Windows Server

Check manufacturer information

Enter the BIOS to check manufacturer information before the installation.

- For a Hygon series server, the information is displayed as follows:

Figure 1 R4930 G5 Hygon BIOS manufacturer information

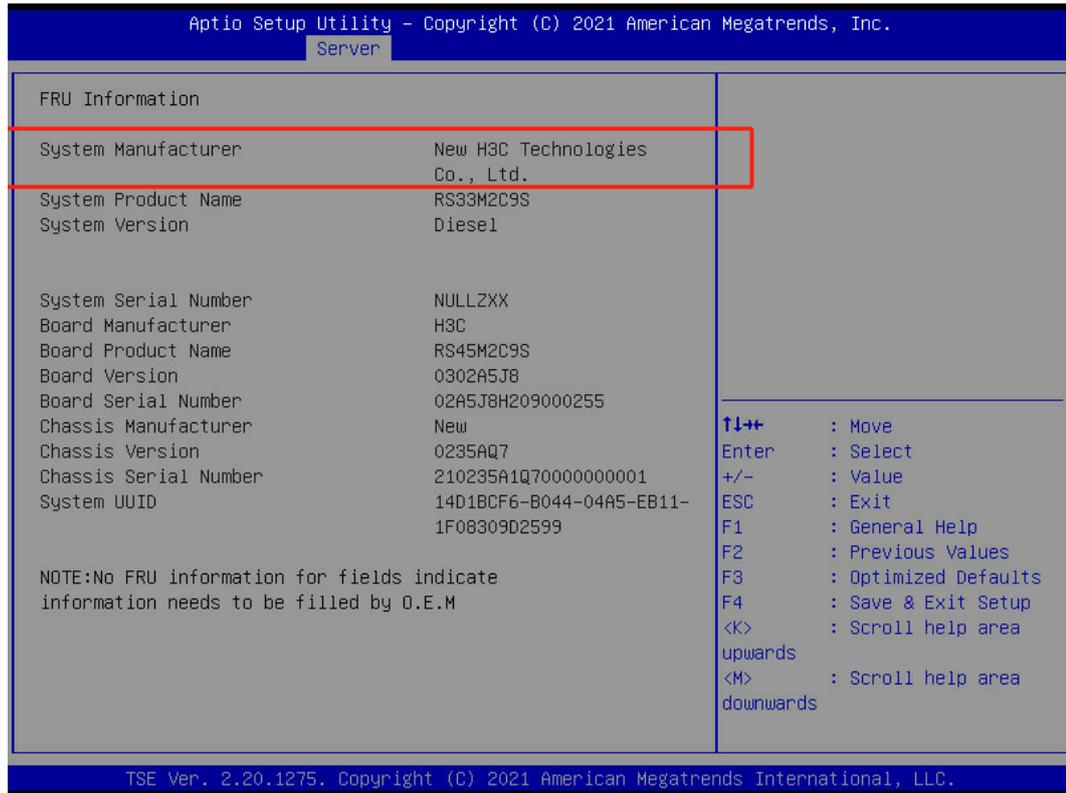
The screenshot shows the Hygon BIOS Setup Utility interface. At the top, it says 'Byosoft BIOS Setup Utility' and 'Main'. Below this is a table with two columns: 'System Summary' and 'Help Message'. The 'System Summary' column contains the following information:

System Summary	
System Manufacturer	New H3C Technologies Co., Ltd.
Product Name	RS33M2C9S
System Serial Number	DEM Define
Asset Tag	N/A
System UUID	6B3F042C-C434-04D2-EA11-772C106894D6
UEFI Spec Version	UEFI 2.6 PI 1.4
OCP Port 1 MAC Address	74-3A-20-29-A0-D5
OCP Port 2 MAC Address	74-3A-20-29-A0-D6
OCP Port 3 MAC Address	74-3A-20-29-A0-D7
OCP Port 4 MAC Address	74-3A-20-29-A0-D8

The 'Help Message' column contains the text: 'Serial Number is a strig of 2 to 20 characters and Only support letters and digits'. At the bottom of the screen, there is a legend for navigation keys: F1 Help, Esc Exit, F4 Select Item, ← Select Menu, ~/+ Change Value, Enter Select Sub-Menu, F3 Setup Defaults, and F4 Save & Exit.

- For an AMD series server, the information is displayed as follows:

Figure 2 R4950 G5 AMD BIOS manufacturer information

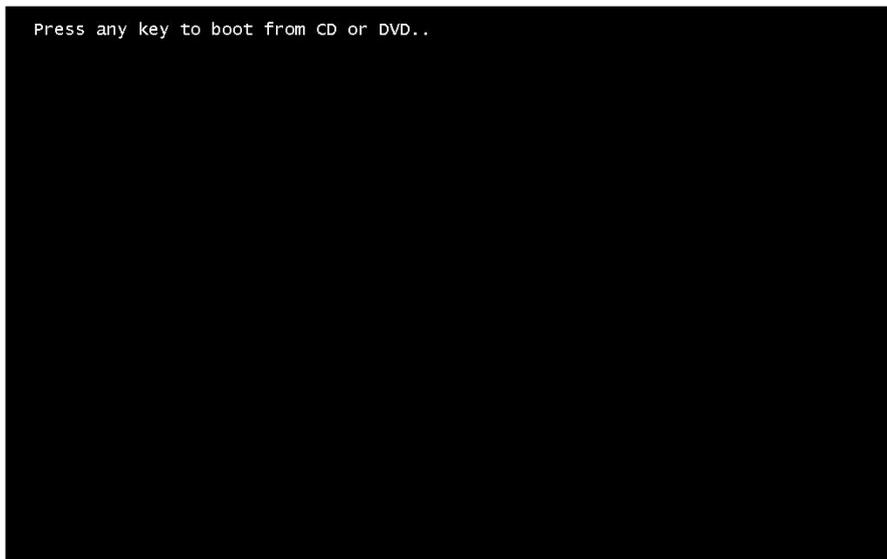


The above information is usually displayed on the BIOS for H3C servers. Make sure the **System Manufacturer** field is **New H3C Technologies Co., Ltd** for your sever. If not, see FAQ 1.

Install the operating system

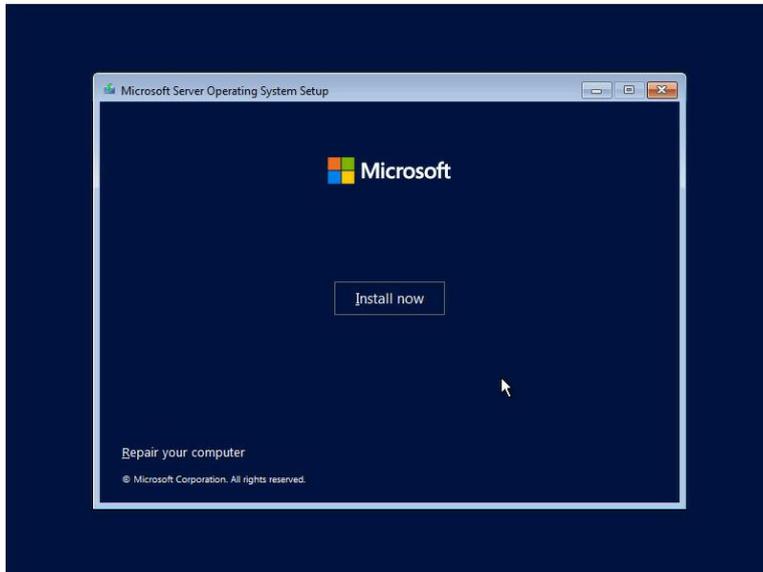
1. Insert the optical drive. The interface shown in [Figure 3](#) prompts. Press any keyboard key immediately to access the installation page. If you fail to access the installation page, see FAQ 2.

Figure 3 Accessing the installation page



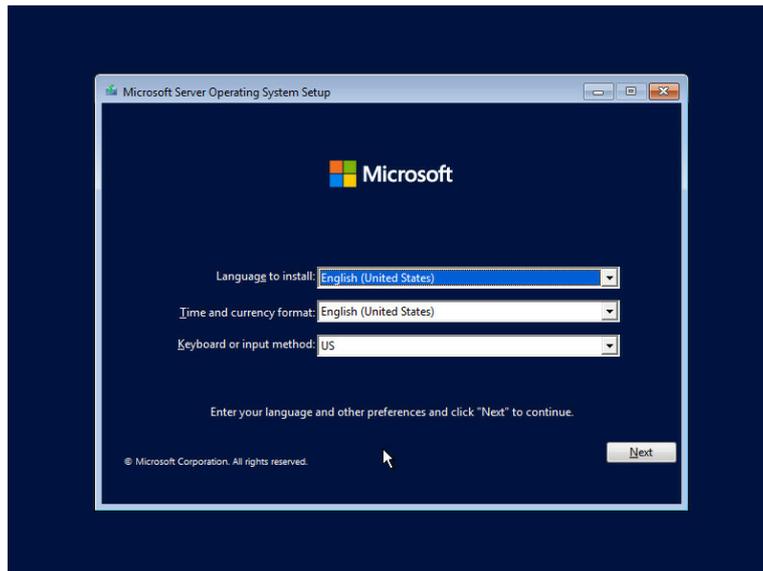
2. On the page that opens, click **Install now**.

Figure 4 Installation page (1)



3. Configure the time and currency format and key board or input method (supporting only simplified Chinese and English) and then click **Next**.

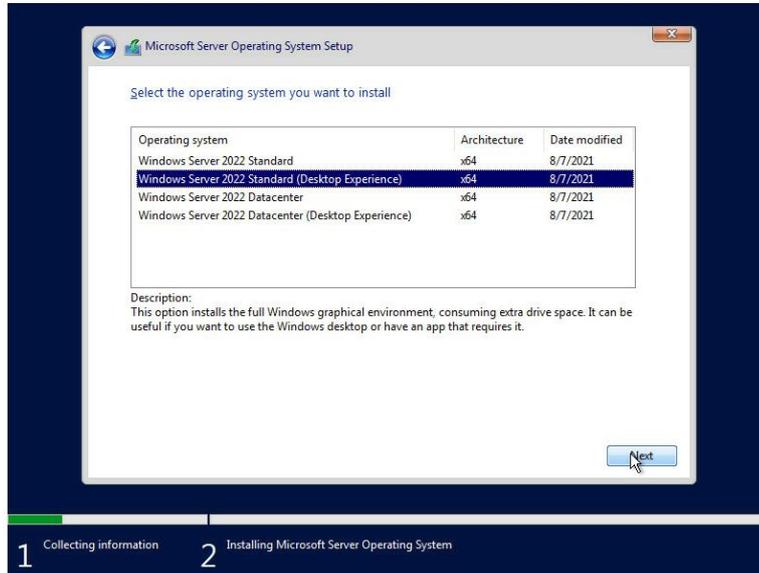
Figure 5 Installation page (2)



4. Select an operating system to install and click **Next**.

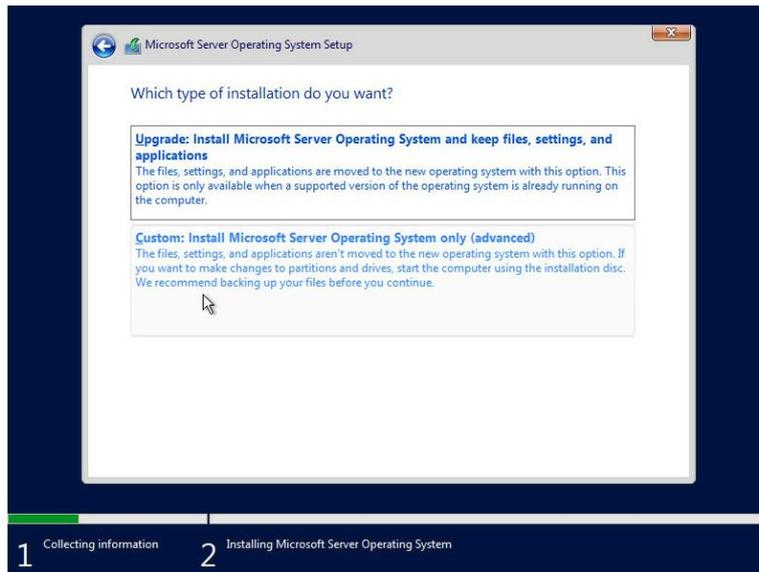
The four operating system options are Windows Server 2022 Standard, Windows Server 2022 Standard (Desktop Experience), Windows Server 2022 Datacenter, and Windows Server 2022 Center (Desktop Experience). For difference between the standard version and datacenter version, visit the version comparison of Windows Server 2022 or Windows Server 2019 at <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/get-started/editions-comparison-windows-server-2022?tabs=full-comparis>. If you have entered the key during the installation, the system will only display information about the purchased version (standard or datacenter). For more information, see "Activate the operating system during installation."

Figure 6 Installation page (3)



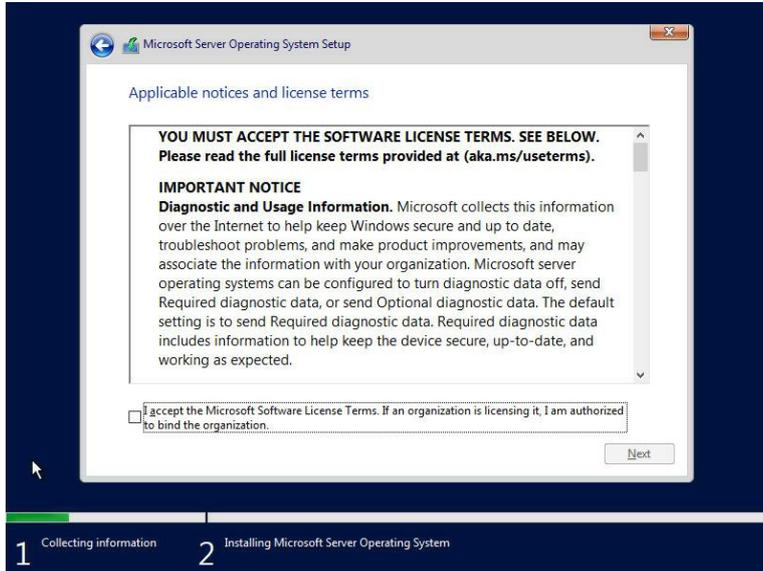
5. Select an installation type.
 - o To upgrade an installed Windows operating system, for example, from Windows 2019 to Windows 2022, select the **Upgrade** option.
 - o To install a new Windows operating system, select the **Custom** option.This document takes installing a new operating system as an example.

Figure 7 Installation page (4)



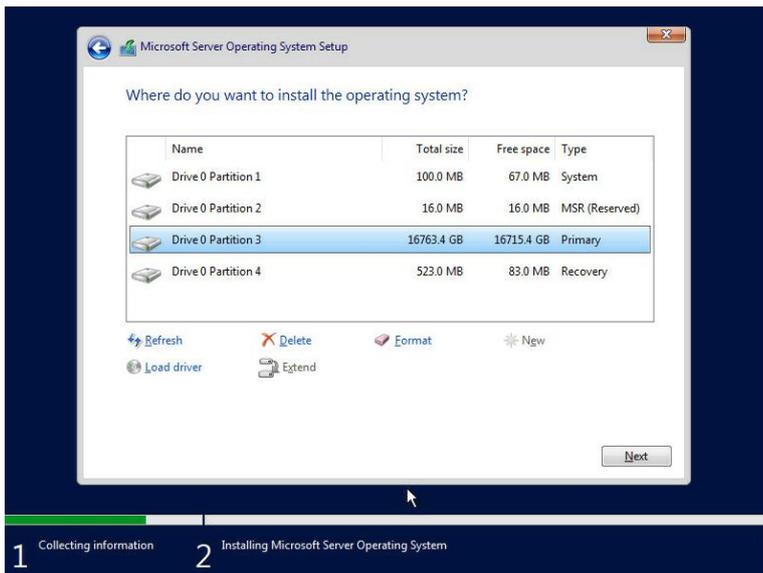
6. Accept the license terms and click **Next**.

Figure 8 Installation page (5)



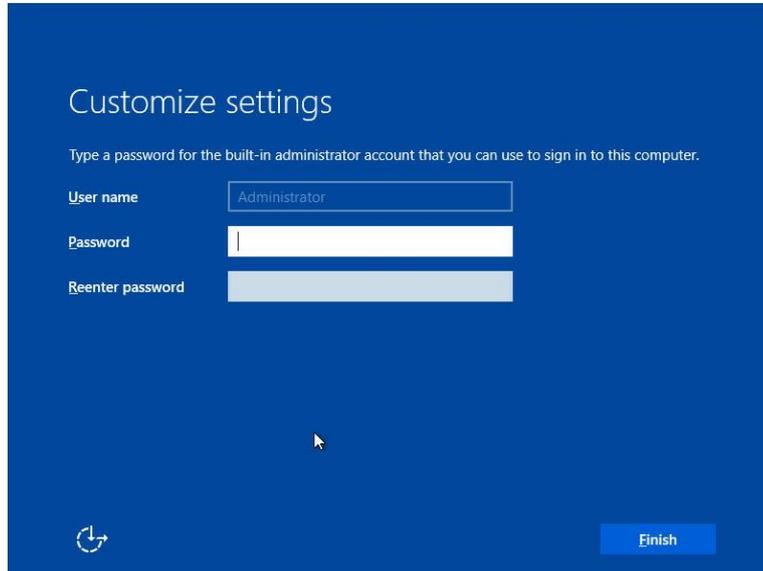
7. Select a drive to install the operating system. You can format a drive or delete partitions for a drive as needed. Click **Next**. The system starts installing the operating system automatically.

Figure 9 Installation page (6)



8. After the installation, configure a password for the built-in administrator account. For security purpose, configure the password as a combination of uppercase letters, lowercase letters, digits, and special characters as a best practice.

Figure 10 Configuring the system password



Activate H3C Windows Server

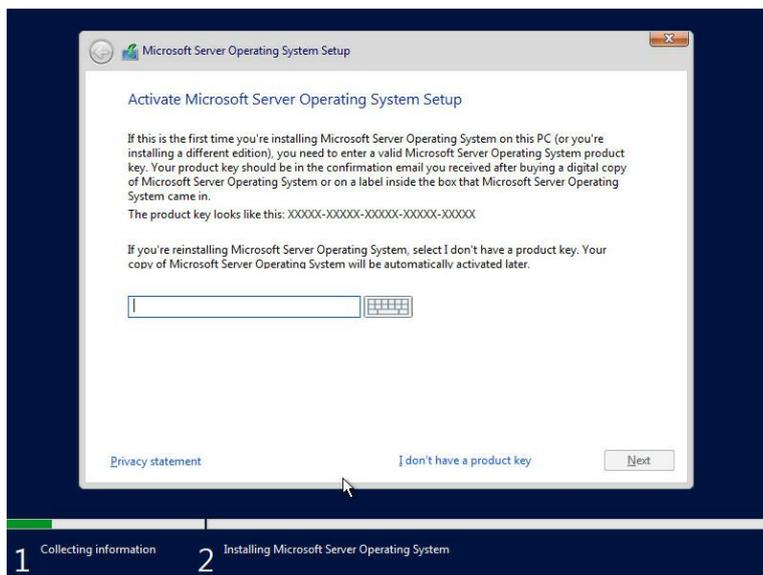
Activate the operating system during installation

1. Select a method to activate the operating system and click **Next**.
 - o If you are installing a new operating system, enter the product key.
 - o If you are reinstalling an operating system, click **I don't have a product key**. The system activates the operating system later automatically.

This document takes installing a new operating system as an example.

To activate the operating system, make sure the network is connected.

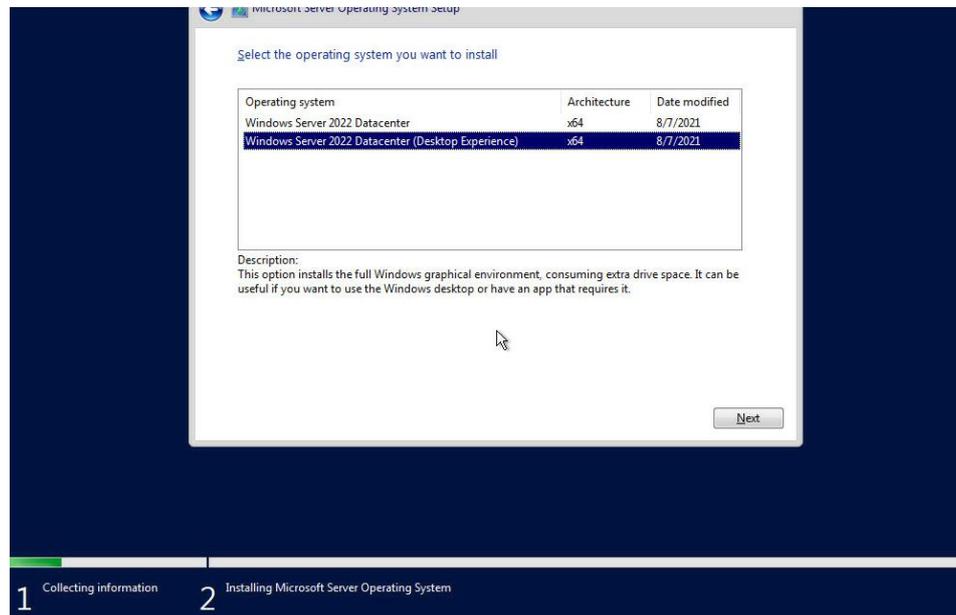
Figure 11 Activating the operating system during installation



2. Select an operating system version and click **Next**.

As shown in Figure 12, the activation code provides the activation for a standard version and a datacenter version and the system will only install the selected version.

Figure 12 Selecting an operating system for installation



Activate the operating system after installation

Check the information

Make sure the server can connect to the network correctly and the time, date, and region are correct. To use a product key to activate the operating system without network connection, see FAQ 10.

Make sure the product matches the product key. The key obtained at purchase can only activate the purchased version of operating system. For example, if you purchase Windows Sever 2022, the obtained key can only activate Windows Sever 2022 and cannot activate Windows Sever 2019. Verify that you use the correct media for Windows Server OEM installation.

Activate the operating system

1. Click the **Start** icon in the lower left corner of the desktop. Select **Settings > Update & Security > Activation**.

Figure 13 Activating the operating system (1)

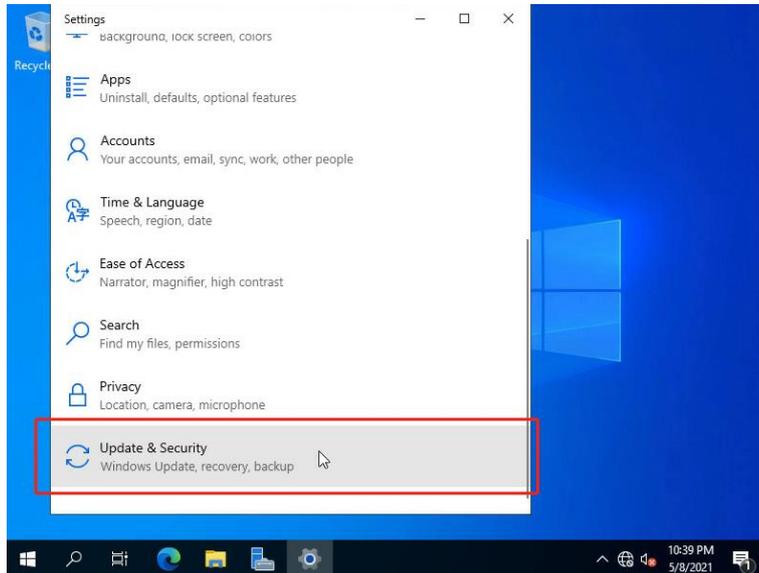
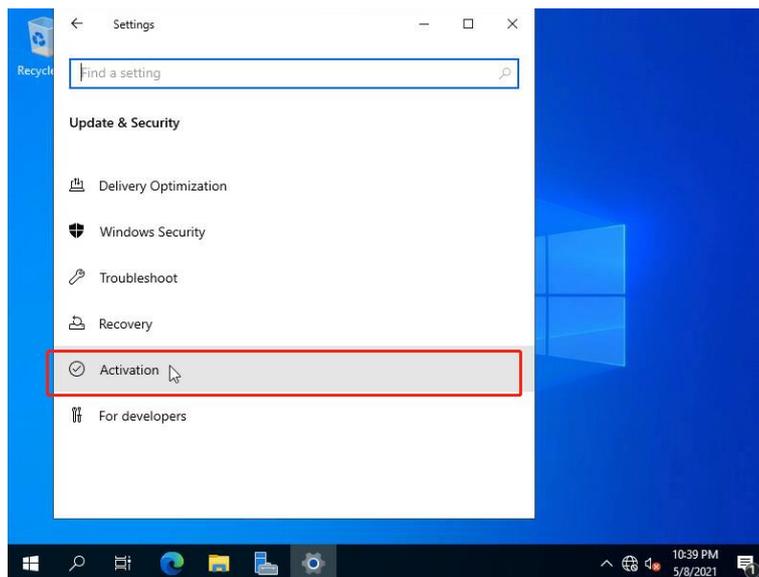
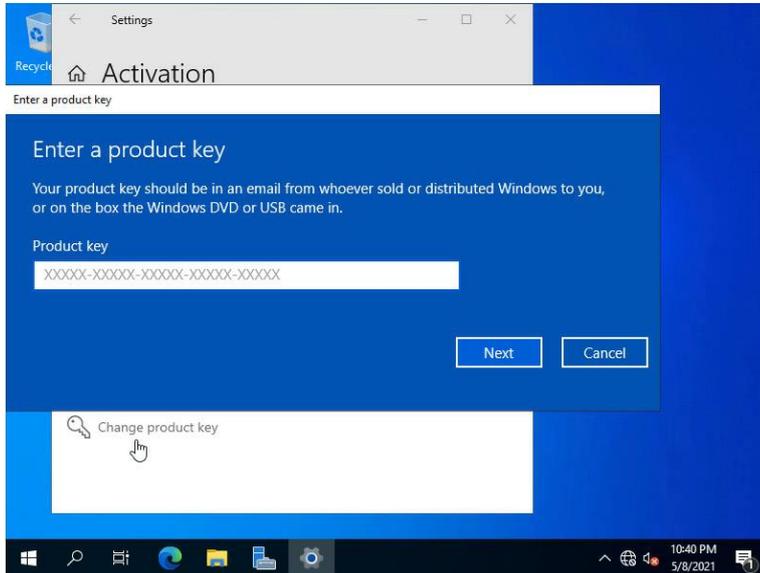


Figure 14 Activating the operating system (2)



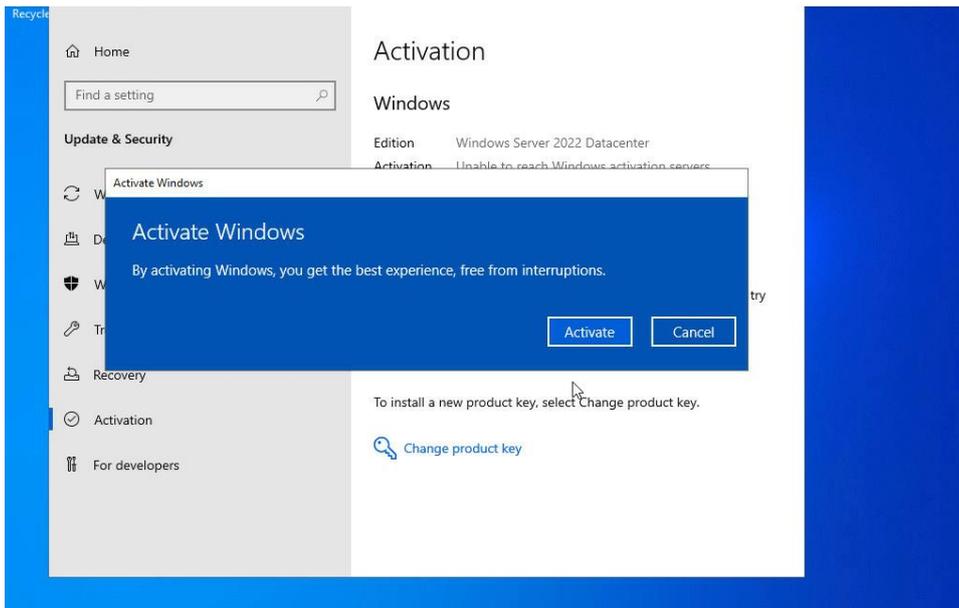
2. Select **Change product key**, enter the product key obtained at purchase, and click **Next**.

Figure 15 Activating the operating system (3)



3. In the confirmation dialog box that prompts, click **Activate**.

Figure 16 Activating the operating system (4)

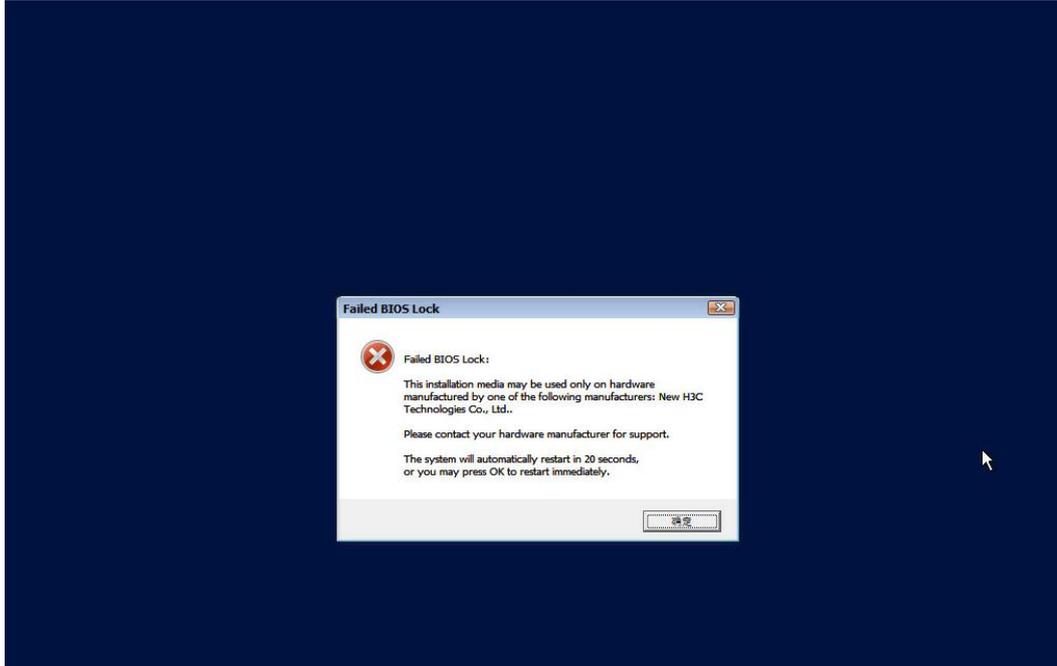


The system connects to the activation server to activate the operating system. If your device cannot connect to the network, see FAQ 11.

FAQs

1. Why the system prompts an error after reading the installation file?

Figure 17 Installation error (1)



The cause of this problem is that you use a non-H3C device that is not compatible for installing the operating system. To verify the hardware information, see "Check manufacturer information."

2. Why the system returns to the BIOS screen or the boot options interface after reading the installation file?

The cause of this problem is that you did not press any keyboard key on the black screen upon finishing reading the installation file. If you do not press any keyboard key, the system returns to your initial boot option. For more information, see "Install the operating system."

3. Can I use the product key for Windows Server 2019 to activate Windows Server 2022?

No. The product key can only activate the corresponding purchased version of operating system. If you want to install a lower version, you can apply for a rollback package that contains the corresponding media and product key. You are still required to follow the terms for the purchased operating system.

4. What should I do for the Windows Server password configuration?

If you purchase a pre-installed Windows Server, you must configure a password when using it for the first time. If you install Windows Server by using media, you must configure a password at first login. A strong password is an eight-character string combination of letters, digits, and special characters.

5. How do I view the activation information of the current operating system?

Right click **Computer**, select **Properties**, and view information in **Windows activation**.

6. How do I set desktop icons?

Right click the desktop, select **Personalize > Themes > Desktop icon settings**.

7. How do I view hardware information?

Press **Win+R**. In the **Run** box, enter **dxdiag**.

Figure 18 Viewing hardware information (1)

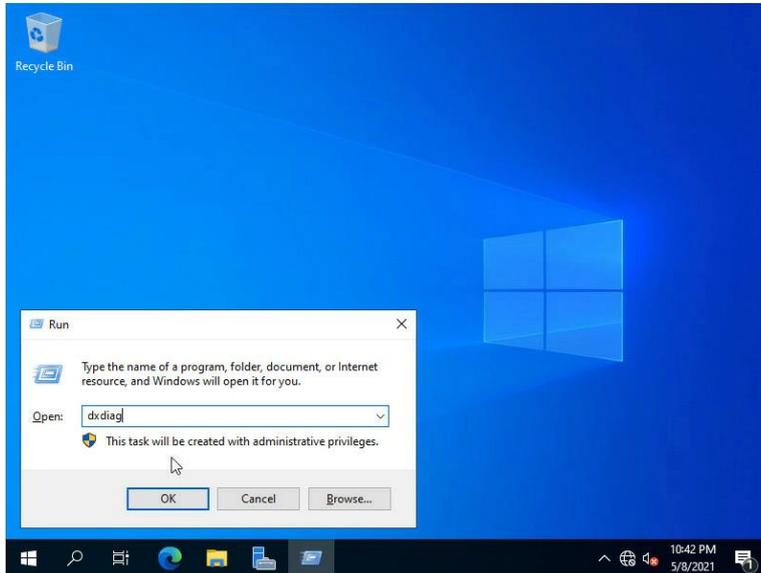
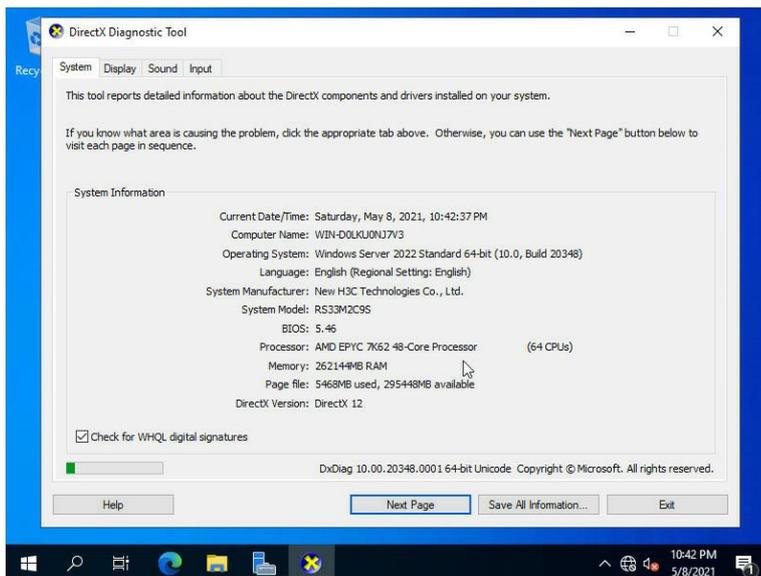


Figure 19 Viewing hardware information (2)



8. Can I switch Windows Server Datacenter to Windows Server Standard directly?
No. The product keys correspond to Windows Server Datacenter and Windows Server Standard, respectively, and cannot be used on each other. If you use the product key of Windows Server Standard to install Windows Server Datacenter, the system prompts the error that the product key is invalid. Verify the key and try again or enter another product key.
9. What can I do if my DVD drive is broken?
Contact with H3C to replace with a new one. You are required to provide your proof of purchase. The replacement package does not contain the product key for activation.
10. Why can't I activate my operating system by using a key without network connection?
When using a key to activate the operating system, you must make sure the network connection, time, date, and region are correct. If the network is not connected, the server will not be able to connect to the activation sever.
11. How do I activate the operating system if my device cannot connect to a network?

You can make a phone call to activate the operating system. Procedures are as follows:

- a. Use the administrator account to open Command Prompt.
- b. Enter **slui 4**.
- c. In the drop-down list, select your country/region.
- d. Click **Next**. The system will provide you with a hotline number and an ID for Windows activation.
- e. Dial the hotline number and provide the ID.
- f. Follow the instructions and you will receive a confirmation ID.
- g. Click the entering confirmation ID button. On the page that opens, enter the confirmation ID.
- h. Click the Windows activation button.

12. How do I activate the operating system if I cannot activate it by making a phone call?

You can perform the following tasks to activate the operating system:

- a. Use the administrator account to open Command Prompt.
- b. Enter **slmgr.vbs /ipk_Product_Key** (enter a space between the keywords and the product key), and press **Enter**. The system binds the operating system with the product key.
- c. Enter **slmgr.vbs /dti** and press **Enter**. The system prompts a window that provides you with an installation ID. Record the ID for activation.
- d. Dial the Microsoft Support number for your country/region. The Microsoft Support has activation hotline for free and event support hotline that is charged for service. Select the activation hotline.
- e. Follow the instructions in the phone to obtain a confirmation ID. The process uses the installation ID obtained previously. Record the confirmation ID.
- f. Enter **slmgr.vbs /apt_Confirmation_ID** (enter a space between the keywords and the confirmation ID) and press **Enter**.

The operating system will be activated.

13. What will happen if I reinstall my operating system?

You are required to verify what type of hardware is replaced. You can use the original product key to activate the operating system as long as you do not replace the system board. To identify the key conveniently, attach the COA to the server. If you replace the system board, you must retain the proof of the system board replacement and resolve issues by using the phone number mentioned in FAQ 12.

Reference

[Microsoft Windows Server 2022](#)

[Windows Server deployment, configuration, and administration](#)

[Windows Server documentation](#)

[Hardware requirements for Windows Server](#)