**Step By Step configuring Windows 2012 R2 fail over cluster**

One of my client requirement is to install Always on availability groups for SQL databases. You don't require shared storage to setup Always on availability. it can be configured in local disks.
AlwaysOn Availability Groups rely on the Windows Server Failover Cluster for failure detection and management of the Availability Group replicas.

### Prerequisites required to install Windows 2012 R2 failover cluster feature.

* Get the operating system installed, patched and configured on all participating nodes
* See either Windows Update or an internal Windows Server Update Services (WSUS) server to get all of the required Windows Updates downloaded and installed
* All the participating servers should be added to active directory
* Domain user account must have administrator rights on the computers that are becoming part of the new cluster and the Create Computer Objects permission on the container where computer accounts are created in the domain.
* Ensure the password not temporary and there is complex password
* Both OS Editions, Versions should be at same level on all participating nodes
* You need to install 3.5.1 or greater on all participating nodes
* Make sure you have a separate NIC's for public and private communication
* Make sure you have free IP for windows cluster

**How to configure Windows 2012 R2 Failover cluster**
 **Step 1:**

Failover Clustering feature has to be installed onto each cluster node
Open server manager and select Add Roles and Features. Next, Add Roles and Features Wizard and Select the Failover Clustering feature. click Next and install.

**Step 2:**
Validate your hardware configuration to make sure that it meets the requirements for building a failover cluster. Launch failover cluster manager console and click on the Validate Configuration option, found in the Actions pane. This will cause Windows to launch the Validate a Configuration Wizard.



**Step 3:**

Testing Options dialog box, make sure that the option Run only tests I select. Click Next.



**Step 4:**

Exclude add eligible storage cluster check box and click Next.

In the Confirmation dialog box, click Next.



click Next. This will run all the necessary validation tests.

In the Summary dialog box, click Finish to create the Windows Failover Cluster.

**Step 5:**

The length of time that the tests take to complete varies depending on the number of servers in your cluster and on your hardware's performance.

the test results may result few warnings. However, if you see any Error messages, you need to fix those first prior to creating the Windows Server Failover Cluster.

**Step 6:**

Launch the Create Cluster Wizard. Click Next and In the Select Servers dialog box, enter the host names of the nodes that you want to add as members of your cluster and click Next.

**Step 7:**

In the Access Point for Administering the Cluster dialog box, enter the virtual hostname and IP address that you will use to administer the cluster. Click Next

**Step 8:**

In the Confirmation dialog box, Exclude add eligible storage cluster check box and click Next. This will configure Failover Clustering on both nodes of the cluster.

There is no need to use shared storage to create the Windows Server Failover Cluster that we will use for our Availability Group.





**Step 9:**

In the Summary dialog box, verify that all the report returns successful.

In below screenshot, AONTESTWFCS01 cluster is successfully setup on SQL1 and SQL2 nodes.

Note:

We do require a quorum configuration. In my case it is always on and i'm using Dynamic Quorum configuration which allows the Windows Cluster to dynamically recalculate the quorum requirement based on the state of the active voters in the cluster.

[https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2012-R2-and-2012/jj612870(v=ws.11)?redirectedfrom=MSDN](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2012-R2-and-2012/jj612870%28v%3Dws.11%29?redirectedfrom=MSDN)

If you want to separate network for replication to reduce latency, you can have separate network.