

Windows Server 2012/2016 On-Site Cheat Sheet

IMMEDIATE HEALTH CHECK

- Server Manager: Check alerts.
- Event Viewer (eventvwr): System and Application logs.
- Services (services.msc): RDP, VPN, DNS, DHCP, IIS running.
- Network Test:
 - ipconfig /all
 - ping 8.8.8.8
 - ping [gateway IP]

REMOTE ACCESS PREPARATION

- RDP Settings (systempropertiesremote): Enable Remote Desktop.
- Firewall Check (firewall.cpl): Allow RDP, VPN (1723/TCP, GRE 47), SSH (22).

VPN SETUP (IF MISSING)

- Install RRAS:
 1. Server Manager > Add Roles and Features
 2. Install Remote Access > Routing and Remote Access Services
 3. Configure VPN (PPTP)
- Alternative: WireGuard.

SSH SETUP (OPTIONAL)

- Server 2016: Install OpenSSH Server (Settings > Apps > Add Feature).
- Server 2012: Install Win32-OpenSSH or Bitwise SSH Server.

ULTRA QUICK COMMANDS

systempropertiesremote

services.msc

eventvwr

firewall.cpl

ipconfig /all

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ping 8.8.8.8

Get-WindowsFeature

Add-WindowsFeature -Name OpenSSH.Server

MINIMUM EXIT CHECKLIST

- Server healthy (no alerts)
- RDP functional
- VPN access tested or documented
- SSH functional (optional)
- Admin credentials documented

EMERGENCY BACKUP

- Install AnyDesk or RustDesk if VPN fails.
- Set strong password.
- Document paths.

REMINDERS

- Always use RDP over VPN.
- Change default SSH port if enabling SSH.
- Test remote login before leaving.