

AI-03119 Window Server Core CLI

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Windows Server 2016 Core questions. How can I activate or it is already activated post installation? How do I install ssh server so that I can manage it remotely? How do I install hyper-v? How to install windows admin center from another windows to manage the server core? How to set a static ip using cli?

Excellent — those are the right questions when setting up **Windows Server 2016 Core**. Let's walk through each part clearly and step-by-step.

1. Activation – How to check and activate Windows Server 2016 Core

Check activation status:

```
slmgr /xpr
```

 This shows if Windows is permanently activated or if the trial period remains.

If not activated:

You can use either KMS or MAK key methods.

Using KMS key:

```
slmgr /ipk <Your-KMS-Client-Key>  
slmgr /skms <Your-KMS-Server>
```

```
slmgr /ato
```

Using retail or MAK key:

```
slmgr /ipk XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX  
slmgr /ato
```

Check again:

```
slmgr /dlv
```

That displays activation channel, remaining time, and license status.

⚠ If it's installed from a volume licensed ISO, it may auto-activate once it connects to your org's KMS server.

🔑 2. Installing OpenSSH Server (for remote management)

Server Core doesn't have GUI, so use PowerShell:

```
Add-WindowsCapability -Online -Name OpenSSH.Server~~~~0.0.1.0  
Start-Service sshd  
Set-Service -Name sshd -StartupType 'Automatic'
```

Allow SSH through the firewall:

```
New-NetFirewallRule -Name sshd -DisplayName 'OpenSSH Server (sshd)' -E  
nabled True -Direction Inbound -Protocol TCP -Action Allow -LocalPort 22
```

✅ Test from another machine:

```
ssh administrator@<server-ip>
```

3. Installing Hyper-V on Windows Server Core

Check if the server hardware supports virtualization (Intel VT-x or AMD-V):

```
systeminfo | find "Hyper-V"
```

Then install Hyper-V role:

```
Install-WindowsFeature -Name Hyper-V -IncludeManagementTools -Restart
```

After reboot, use PowerShell or Hyper-V Manager from another Windows machine to connect to the Core server.

4. Installing **Windows Admin Center (WAC)** on another Windows machine

Steps:

1. On a **Windows 10/11 or Server 2019+ machine**, download WAC:

👉 <https://aka.ms/WACDownload>

2. Install it locally:

```
msiexec /i WindowsAdminCenter.msi /qn SME_PORT=6516 SSL_CERTIFICATE_OPTION=generate
```

3. Once installed, open from browser:

```
https://localhost:6516
```

4. Add your Server Core machine:

- Click **Add** → **Add Server**
- Enter the **Core server's hostname or IP**
- Provide **Administrator credentials**

- Ensure **WinRM (5985/5986)** is open:

```
Enable-PSRemoting -Force
```

Now you can manage Hyper-V, firewall, updates, storage, etc. via the WAC GUI.

5. Set a Static IP using Command Line (CLI)

You can do this via PowerShell or `netsh`.

Option A – PowerShell:

```
Get-NetAdapter  
New-NetIPAddress -InterfaceAlias "Ethernet" -IPAddress 192.168.1.100 -Prefix  
Length 24 -DefaultGateway 192.168.1.1  
Set-DnsClientServerAddress -InterfaceAlias "Ethernet" -ServerAddresses ("8.  
8.8.8","1.1.1.1")
```

Option B – netsh (legacy but still works):

```
netsh interface ipv4 show interfaces  
netsh interface ipv4 set address name="Ethernet" static 192.168.1.100 255.25  
5.255.0 192.168.1.1  
netsh interface ipv4 set dns name="Ethernet" static 8.8.8.8  
netsh interface ipv4 add dns name="Ethernet" 1.1.1.1 index=2
```

Check:

```
ipconfig /all
```

Quick Summary

Task	Command / Tool	Notes
Check activation	<code>slmgr /xpr</code>	Confirms license status

Task	Command / Tool	Notes
Install SSH	<code>Add-WindowsCapability -Name OpenSSH.Server~~~~0.0.1.0</code>	Enables remote PowerShell/SSH
Install Hyper-V	<code>Install-WindowsFeature -Name Hyper-V -Restart</code>	Needs VT-x support
Manage remotely	Windows Admin Center	Installed on another Windows machine
Set static IP	<code>New-NetIPAddress</code> or <code>netsh</code>	Persistent static configuration

Would you like me to include a **one-time post-install PowerShell script** that does all of these (activation check, SSH, static IP, Hyper-V prep, firewall rules) automatically? It's very handy for future server setups.