

# Configuring SIOS LifeKeeper for Milestone XProtect

## Introduction

By following the steps below, you will be able to build a two-node Milestone XProtect VMS cluster using the SIOS Protection Suite with Microsoft SQL Server. The steps provided in this document assume that the XProtect Management Server, SQL Server, and all the optional XProtect components are running on the same server. However, you can choose to break out the components across many different cluster pairs if you wish to do that. You should adjust the steps below, installing and clustering just the components you wish to run on each cluster pair.

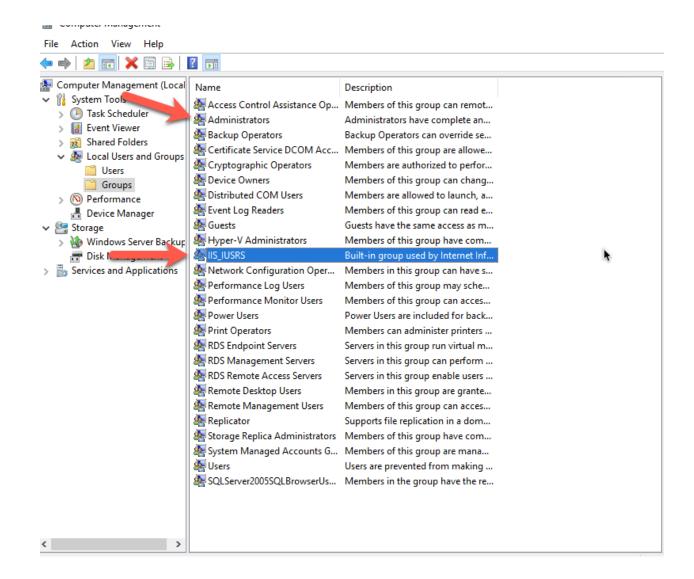
## Pre-Requisites

To create a high availability (HA) cluster, you need at least three servers. Two servers run the XProtect Management Server and all the optional services, and at least one server acts as the XProtect Recording Server. The two XProtect Management Servers will be clustered with SIOS LifeKeeper. The XProtect Recording Server can also be made redundant using the built-in redundancy options. That will not be covered in this guide.

For this guide, we will call these servers XPROTECT1, XPROTECT2 and RECORDING. The following items must be completed.

- When you provision these servers, the names must be in ALL CAPS.
- You must use static IP addresses on these servers.
- XPROTECT1 and XPROTECT2 need host file entries that resolve to one another, even
  if the DNS is in use.
- These servers can be in a Workgroup or an Active Directory domain.
- If in an AD domain, you must create a domain user account that is added to the local Administrators group and IIS\_IUSRS group. This account will be used for both the Milestone XProtect services and the SIOS DataKeeper and LifeKeeper services.
- If in a Workgroup, you need to create a local account on each server and add it to the local Administrators and IIS\_IUSRS group. The same account, with matching passwords, must be created on each server.
- Make sure the user installing and the account running SQL Server is in the Local Administrators Group and the IIS\_IUSRS Group.



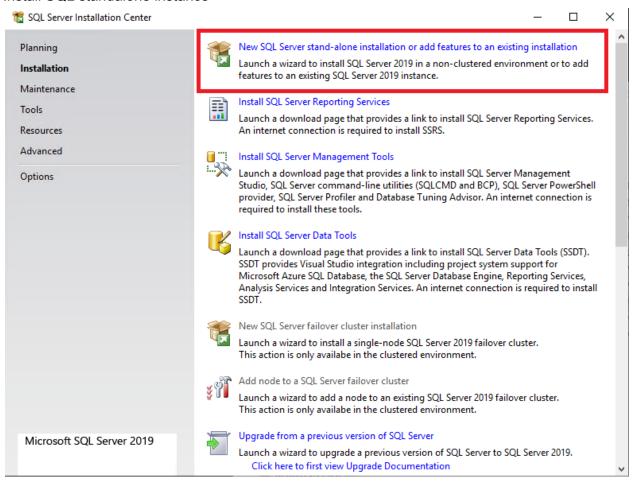


- XPROTECT1 and XPROTECT2 both must have at least one additional partition. The
  partition drive letters and size must match between the servers.
- Dynamic Pagefile must be disabled; no page file should reside on the extra partition(s) for XPROTECT1 and XPROTECT2.
  - See:
     <a href="https://docs.us.sios.com/dkse/8.6.4/en/topic/disable-automatically-manage-paging-file-size-for-all-drives">https://docs.us.sios.com/dkse/8.6.4/en/topic/disable-automatically-manage-paging-file-size-for-all-drives</a>
- Utilizing two distinct network cards on separate networks is highly recommended (though not mandatory) to optimize network functionality. Establishing a Public network for regular communication purposes, alongside a Private network on a distinct subnet specifically designed for data replication, would be ideal. Both networks should be utilized as communication paths within the cluster.



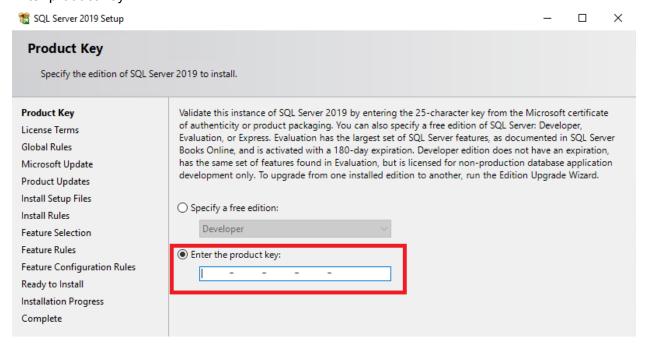
## Step 1 - Install SQL Server

#### 1. Install SQL standalone instance

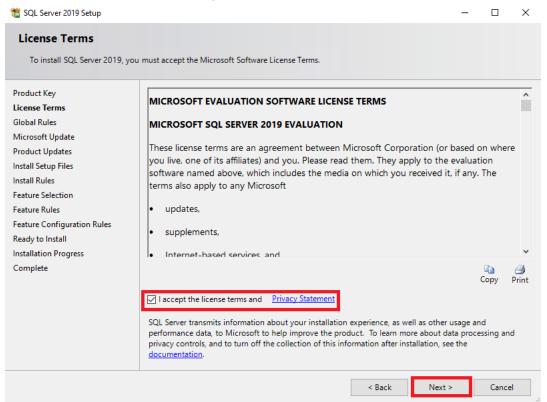




#### 2. Enter product key

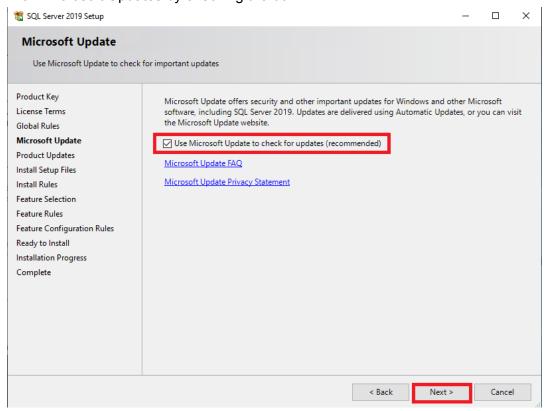


#### 3. Accept license terms and Privacy Statement



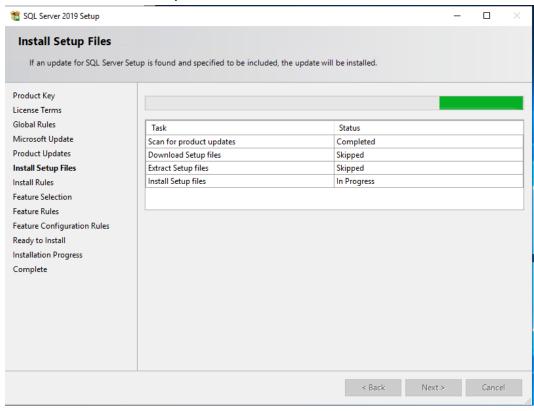


4. Allow Microsoft Updates by checking the box



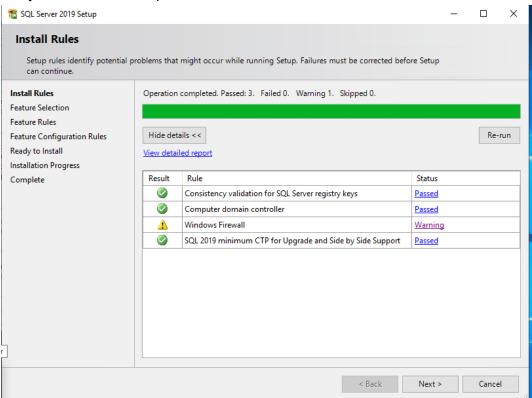


#### 5. Wait for installation of setup files

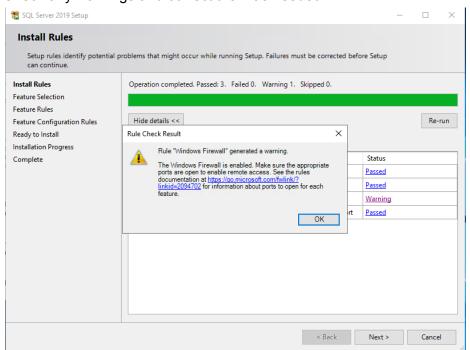




6. Verify installations rules passed

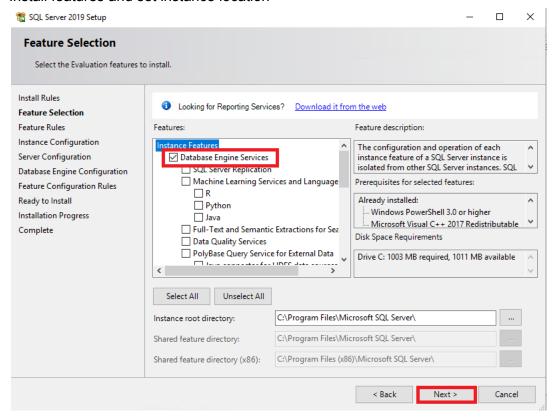


a. Check any warnings and correct them as needed.

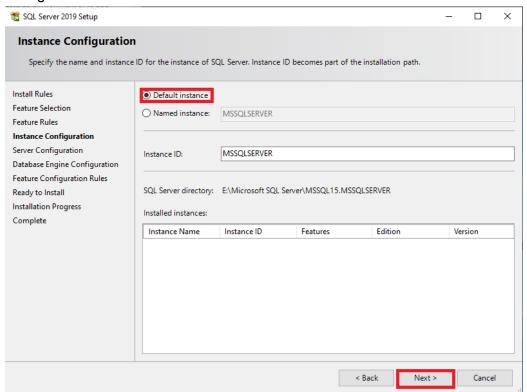




7. Install features and set instance location

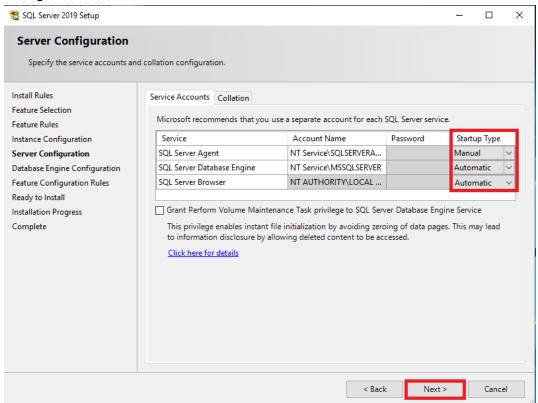


8. Configure Instance with the default instance name

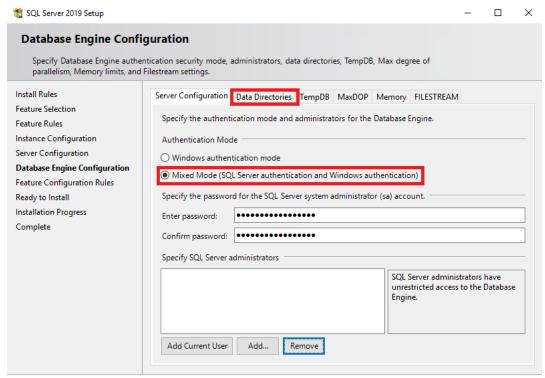




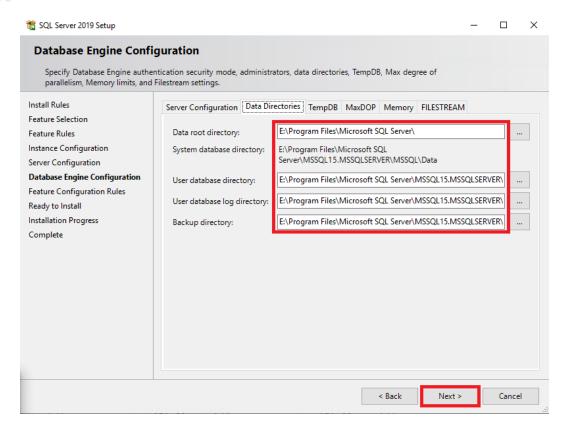
9. Configure server with default service accounts



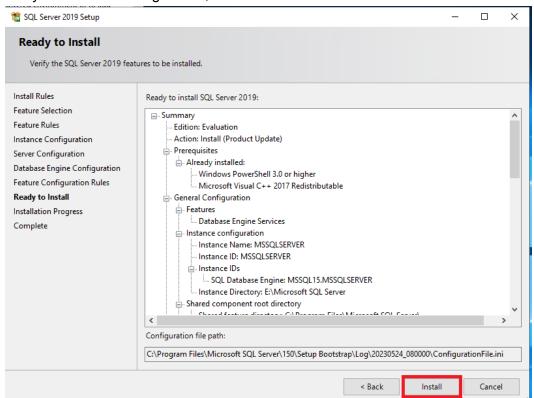
10. Configure Database Engine to have mixed-mode authentication, add necessary users as administrators, and set data directories to use the partition(s) set aside for replication.





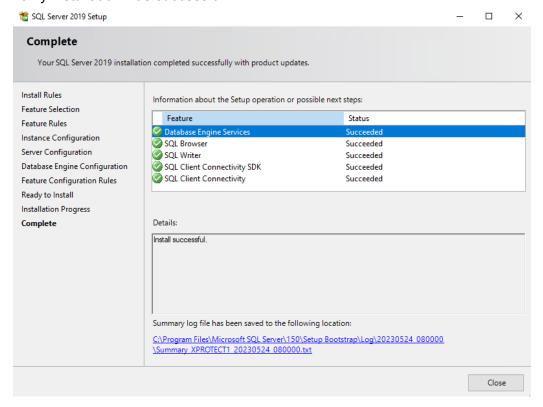


#### 11. Verify Installation Configuration, then install





#### 12. Verify installation was successful

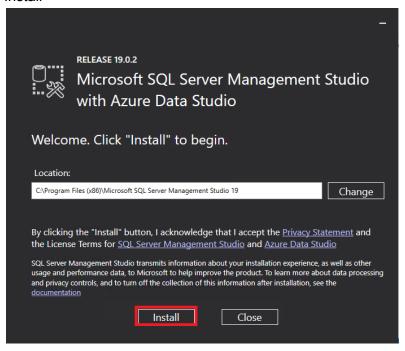


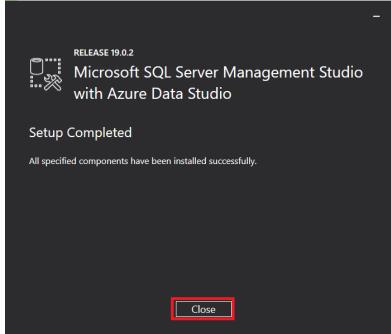
#### 13. Repeat steps 1-12 on XPROTECT2

<u>Download</u> and install SQL Server Management Studio on both XPROTECT1 and XPROTECT2 Install SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS):



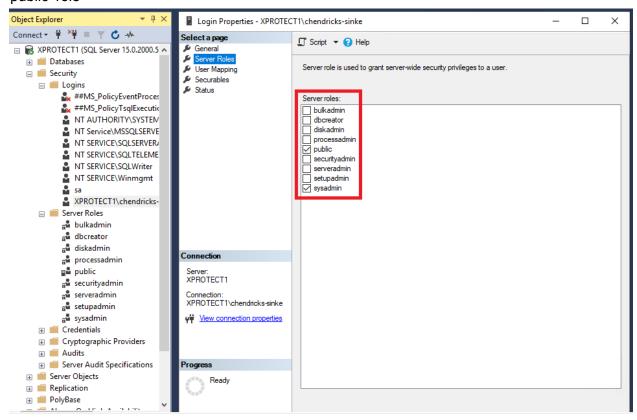
#### 1. Install







2. Connect to each SQL instance and verify that the user account has 'sysadmin' and 'public' role





## Step 2 - Install Milestone XProtect

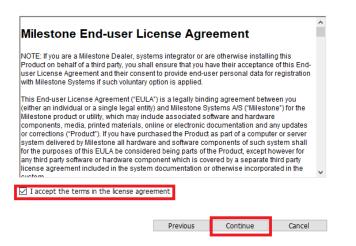
1. Choose language



#### 2. Agree to Terms and Conditions

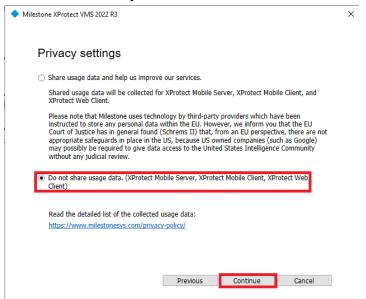
♦ Milestone XProtect VMS 2022 R3

#### Accept the Milestone license agreement

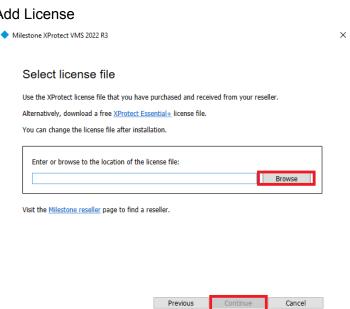




#### 3. Determine whether you want to share data

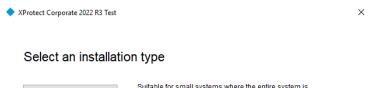


#### 4. Add License





#### 5. Choose custom install



Suitable for small systems where the entire system is managed from one computer.

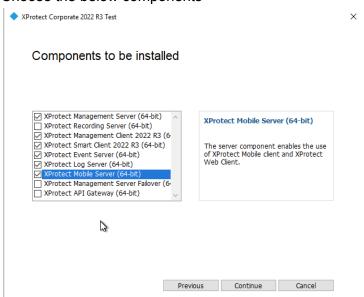
Installs all system components and clients on this computer. After installation, the system is preconfigured and ready for use. Additional configuration may be needed.

Custom

Suitable for large or complex systems, or if the distribution of system components across several computers is needed.

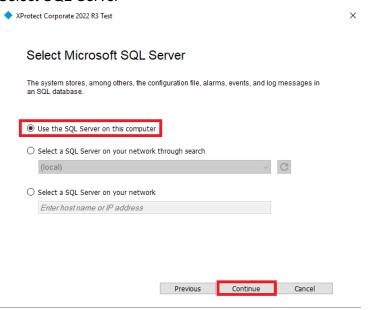
Installs system components and clients of your choice on this computer. After installation, the system needs to be configured.

#### 6. Choose the below components

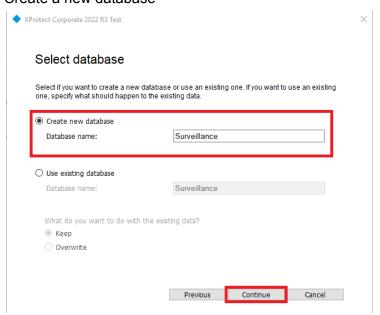




#### 7. Select SQL Server

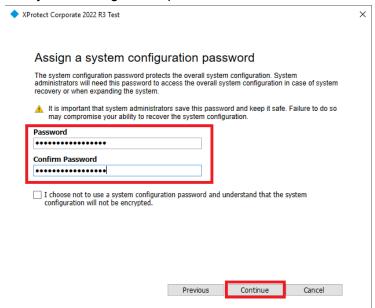


#### 8. Create a new database





#### 9. Set system configuration password



#### 10. Set mobile password

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#### Assign a mobile server data protection password

The mobile server data protection password is used for the encryption of investigations. As a system administrator, you will need to enter this password in order to access the mobile server data in case of system recovery or when expanding your system with additional mobile servers.

It is important that you save this password and keep it safe. Failure to do so may compromise your ability to recover mobile server data.

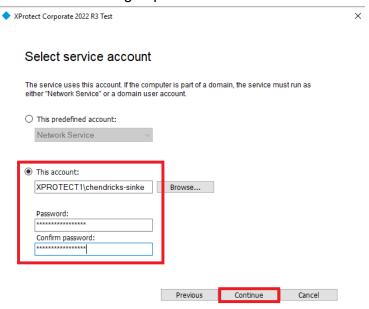


I choose not to use a mobile server data protection password and I understand that investigations will not be encrypted.

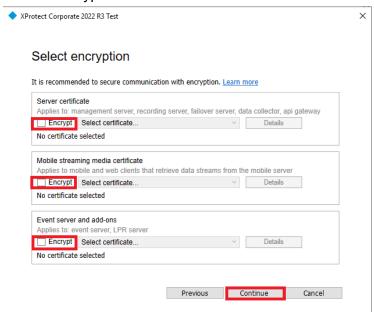




11. Select a service account, using the same account that you set up above that is in the local administrators group on each server and uses the same password across servers.

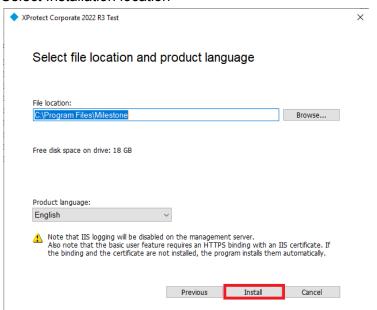


12. Turn off encryption

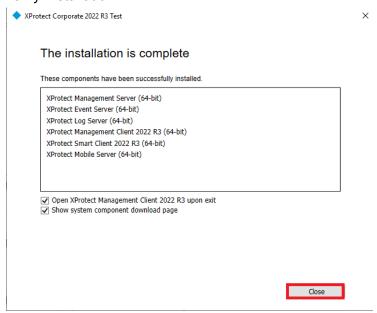




#### 13. Select Installation location



#### 14. Verify Installation



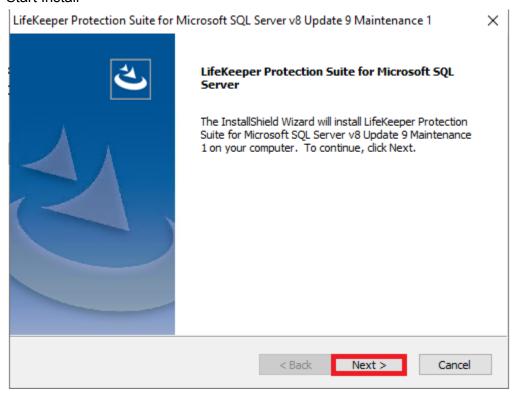
#### 15. Repeat steps 1-14 on XPROTECT2



## Step 3 - Install SIOS Protection Suite w/SQL Server ARK

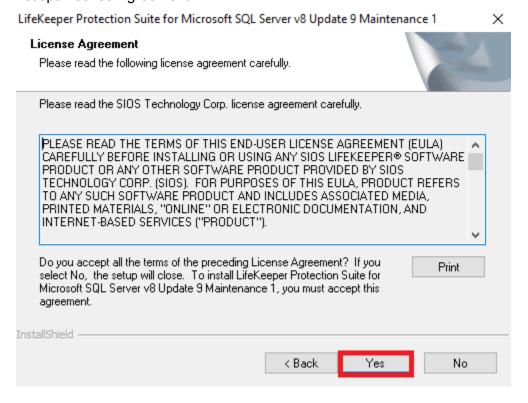
#### **Install SPS:**

1. Start Install

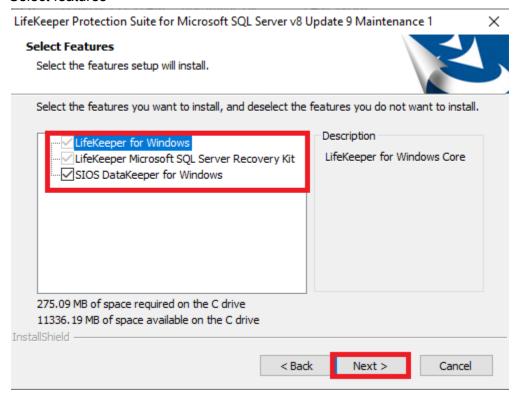




#### 2. Accept License Agreement

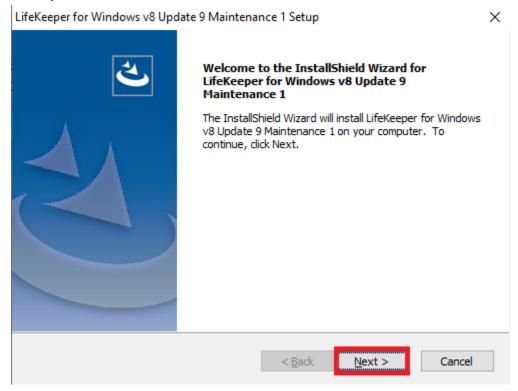


#### 3. Select features

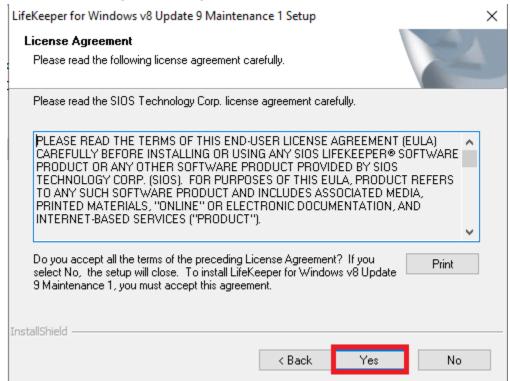




#### 4. Run Update



#### 5. Accept License Agreement (again)



6. Choose installation location.

NOTE: Use the default location C:\LK, or minimally don't use a path that has spaces in

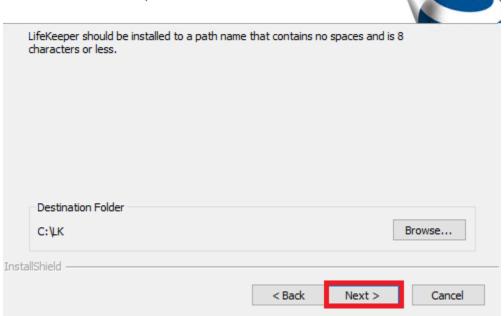


#### the path name.

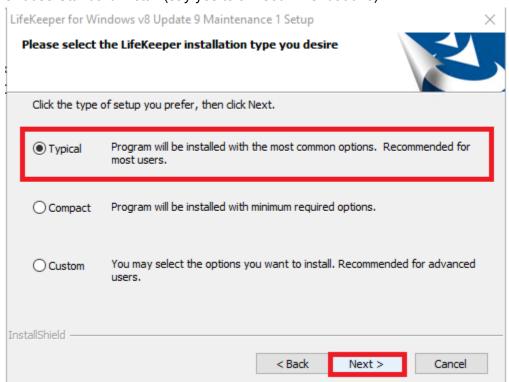
LifeKeeper for Windows v8 Update 9 Maintenance 1 Setup

Choose Destination Location

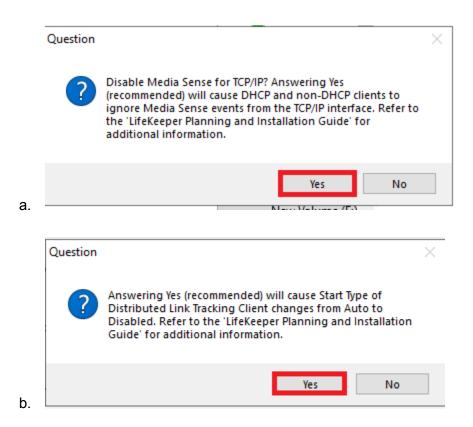
Select folder where setup will install files.



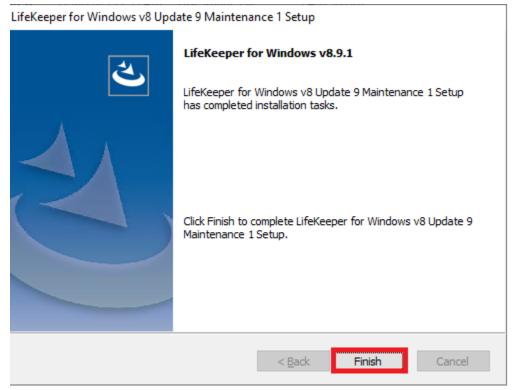
#### 7. Choose Standard Install (say yes to all recommendations)







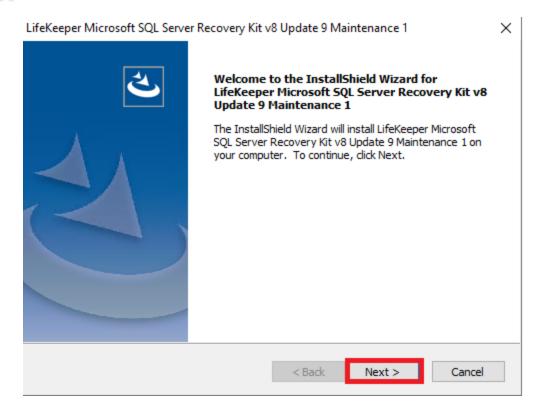
#### 8. Finish update



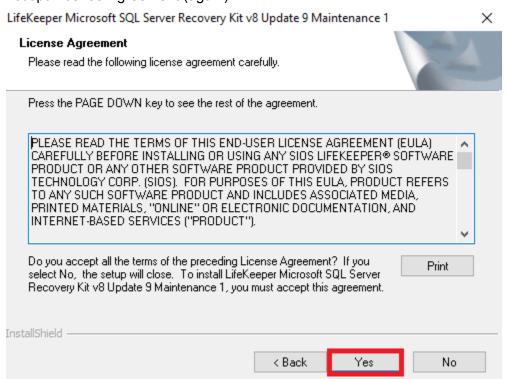
#### 9. Install the Recovery Kit.

NOTE: This step will begin automatically after LifeKeeper finishes installing.



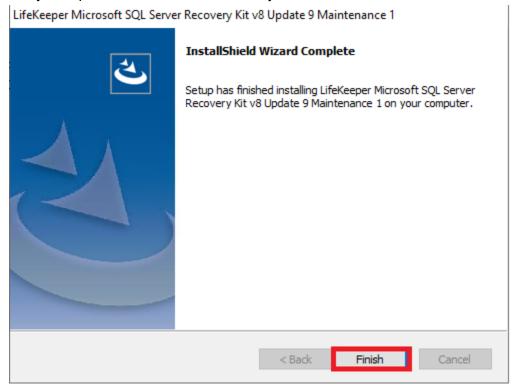


#### 10. Accept License Agreement (again)



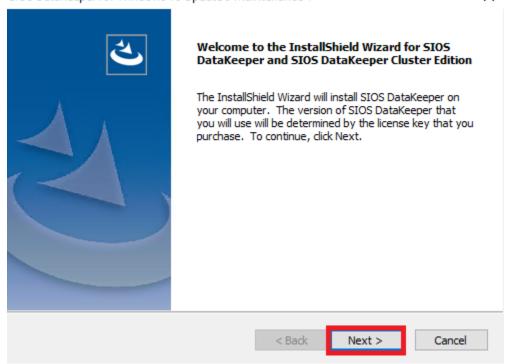


#### 11. Verify Completed Installation of Recovery Kit



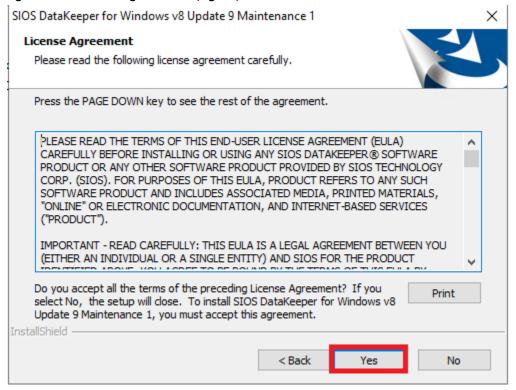
#### 12. Install DataKeeper

NOTE: This step will start automatically after the SQL ARK finishes installing. SIOS DataKeeper for Windows v8 Update 9 Maintenance 1

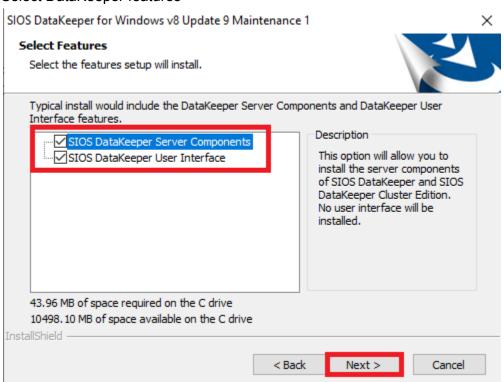




#### 13. Agree to License Agreement (again)

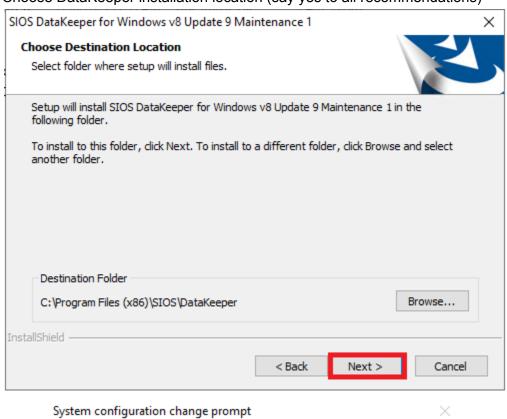


#### 14. Select DataKeeper features





15. Choose DataKeeper installation location (say yes to all recommendations)

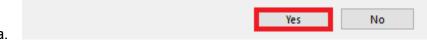


To continue installing and configuring your system for DataKeeper, the following changes are required:

 Firewall exceptions to allow incoming connections on the following ports must be configured:
 137, 138, 139, 445, 9999 and 10000 - 10025

Refer to the SIOS DataKeeper Planning and Install Guide for more information.

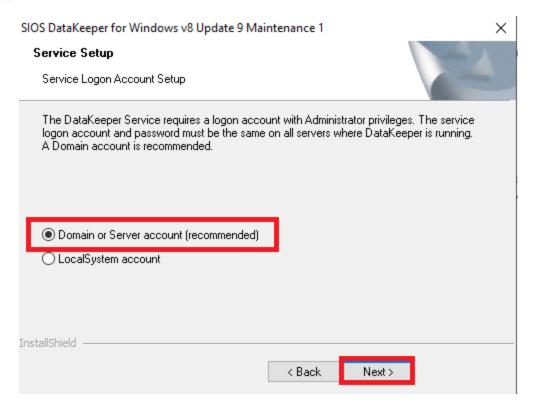
Click YES to perform these changes in system configuration. Click NO to continue the installation without modifying the system configuration, however these changes need to be done later so that DataKeeper can operate properly.

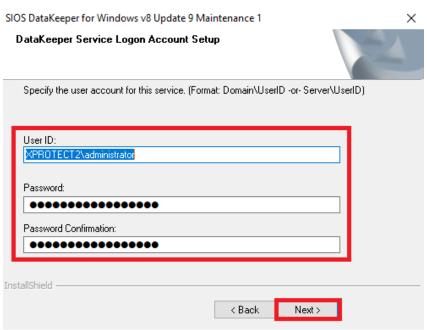


16. Select Service Account (this should be the one you created earlier that is in the local administrators group on each server)



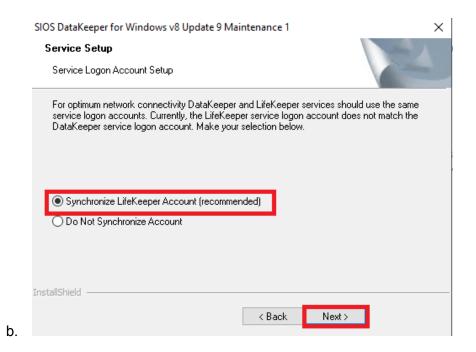
a.





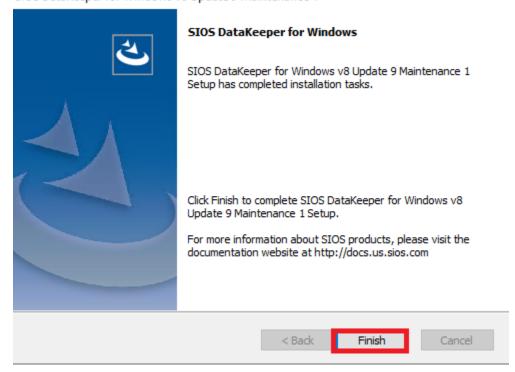
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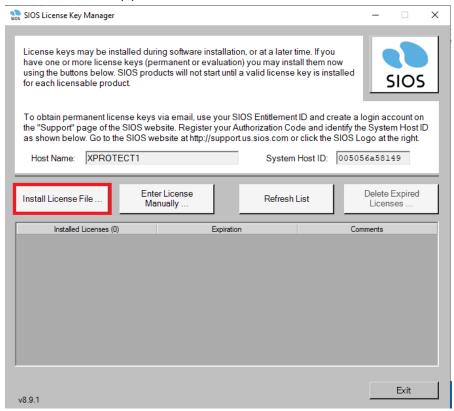
#### 17. Finish Installation

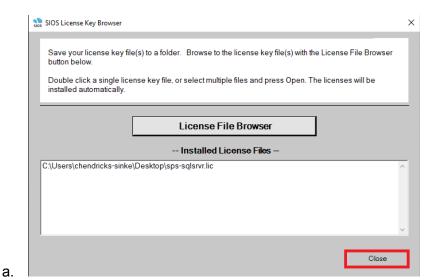
SIOS DataKeeper for Windows v8 Update 9 Maintenance 1





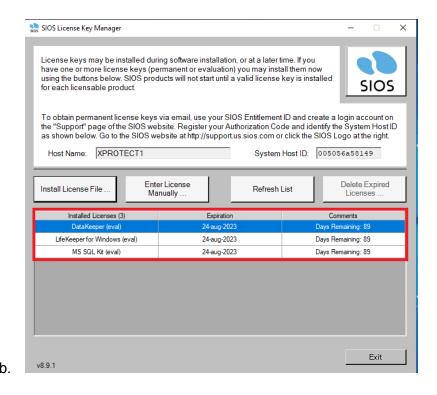
#### 18. Install License file(s)





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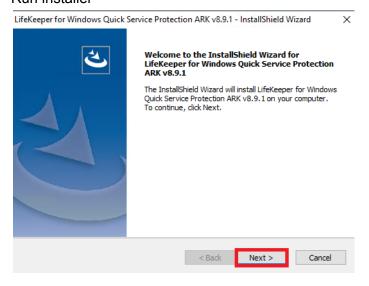




#### Install the Quick Service Protection (QSP) Recovery Kit:

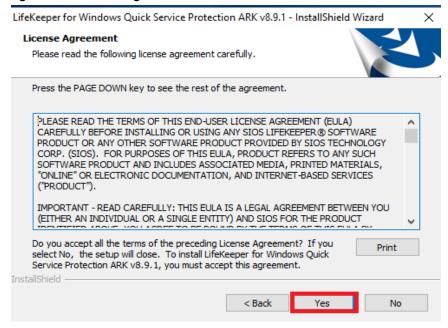
**NOTE:** If you do not have the QSP installer, the installer and relevant documentation for the QSP Recovery Kit can be found <u>HERE</u>

1. Run installer





#### 2. Agree to License Agreement



#### 3. Verify install and restart LifeKeeper



#### 4. Repeats steps 1-3 on XPROTECT2

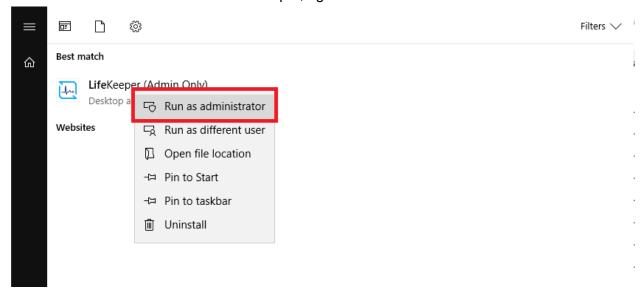


## Step 4 - Create the LifeKeeper Core Cluster Resources

Now that we have installed SIOS software, it's time to configure the resources needed for the cluster via LifeKeeper

#### Open LikeKeeper GUI:

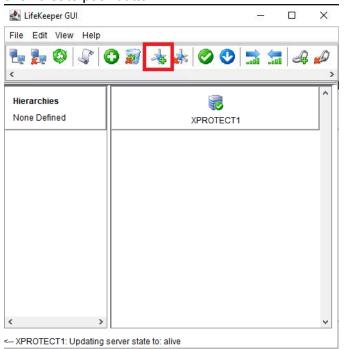
1. From the Windows bar search for LifeKeeper, right click and run as administrator



#### **Create Comm Path(s):**



### 1. Click create path button

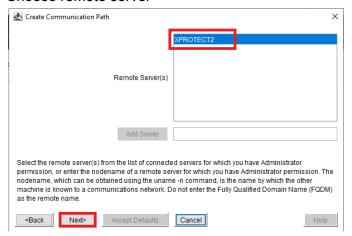


#### 2. Choose local server





#### 3. Choose remote server



#### 4. Set device type



Select the device type from the list. If the communication path between the local and remote servers will be a TCP/IP network, choose TCP. If the communication path between the servers will be a serial port connection, choose TTY. For a communication path using a shared volume, select DISK. The default device type is TCP.

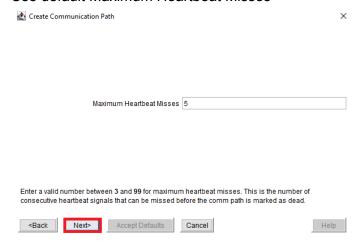


#### 5. Use default Heartbeat Interval

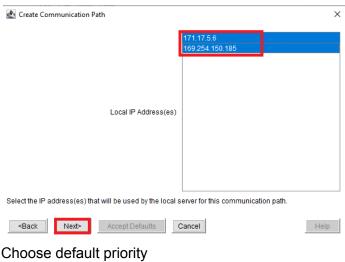


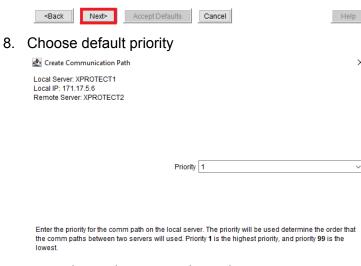


#### 6. Use default Maximum Heartbeat Misses



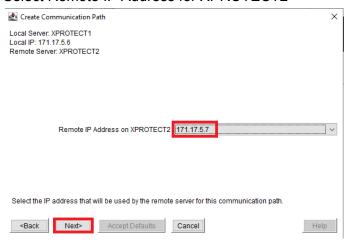
# 7. Choose both local IP addresses for redundant comm paths







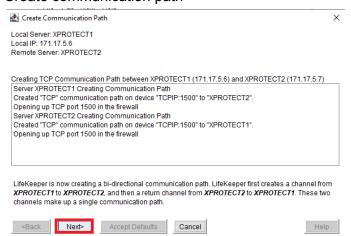
#### 9. Select Remote IP Address for XPROTECT2



#### 10. Choose default port

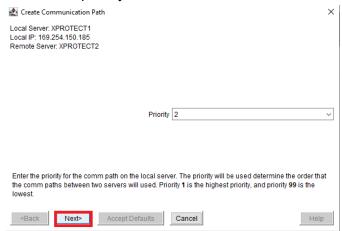


#### 11. Create communication path

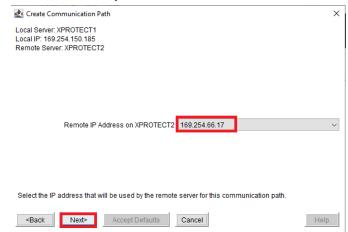




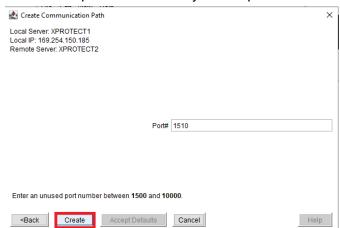
#### 12. Use default priority



# 13. Select secondary Remote IP Address for XPROTECT2

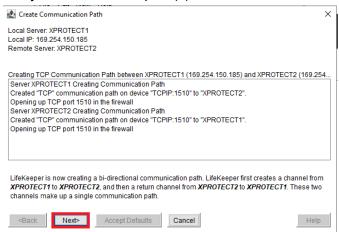


#### 14. Use default port for secondary comm path





#### 15. Verify communication path(s) creation was successful



#### 16. Initialize communication path(s)



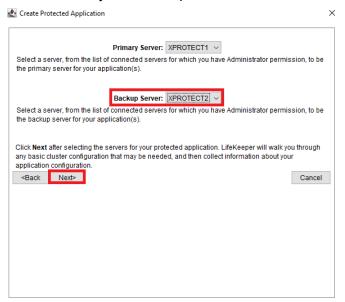
#### **Create IP Resource:**

Choose create new resource





2. Choose Primary and Backup Server

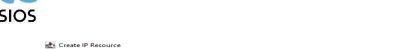


3. Choose IP Address



4. Type in the IP you want to use for client connections to the cluster. This is commonly called the virtual IP address.. This address can be any available address on your Public subnet and should not be in use anywhere else.



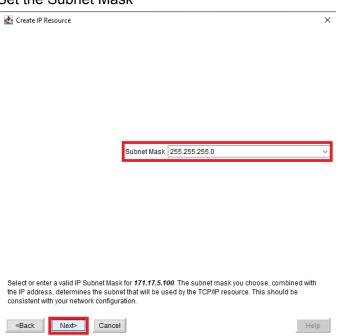


IP Address 171.17.5.100

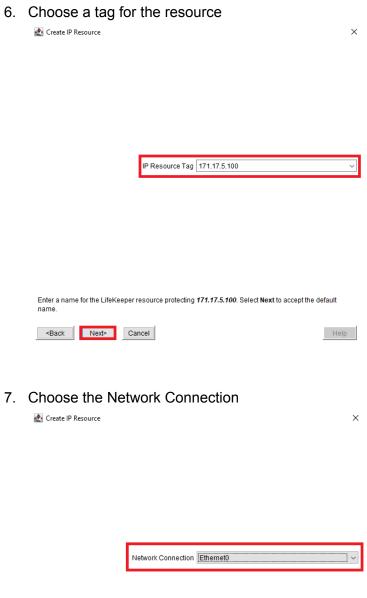
Enter a valid IP address to protect. Verify that the switchable IP address you plan to use is unique using the ping command.



#### 5. Set the Subnet Mask







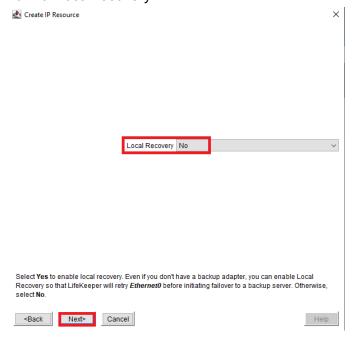
Select the Local Area Connection for 171.17.5.100 from the drop-down box.

<Back Next> Cancel

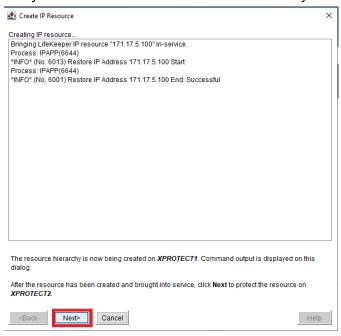
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#### 8. Turn off local recovery

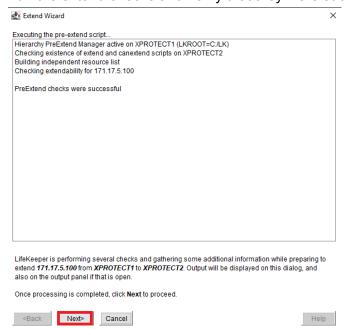


# 9. Verify the IP resource was created successfully

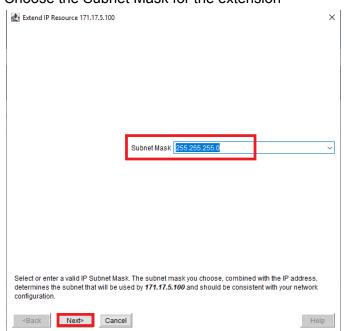




# 10. Run the extend checks and verify that they were successful



#### 11. Choose the Subnet Mask for the extension





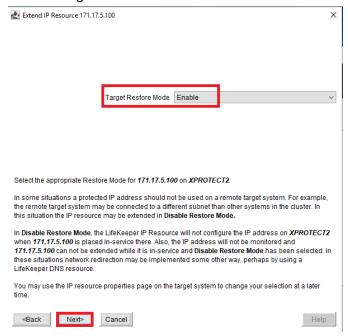
#### 12. Choose the Network Connection for the extend



Select the Local Area Connection for 171.17.5.100 on XPROTECT2 from the drop-down box.

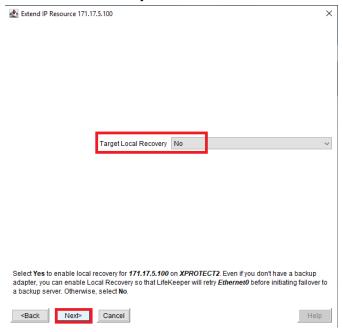


#### 13. Enable Target Restore Mode

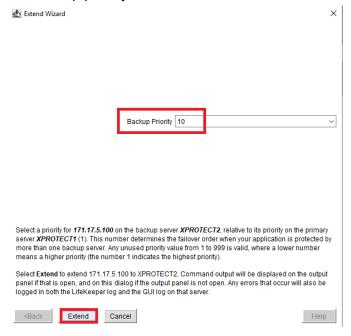




# 14. Turn off local recovery for the extend

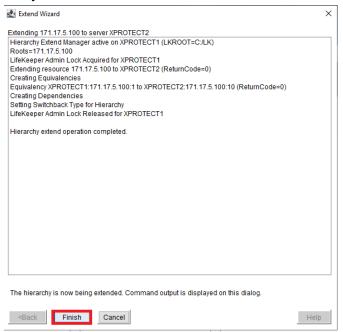


#### 15. Set backup priority

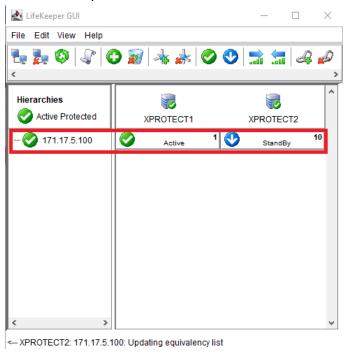




#### 16. Verify extend was successful



#### 17. What LifeKeeper should look like once finished



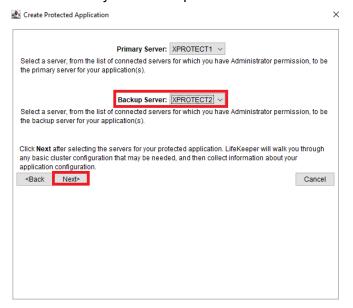


#### **Create Volume resource:**

1. Choose create new resource



2. Choose Primary and Backup Server



3. Choose Volume resource to protect

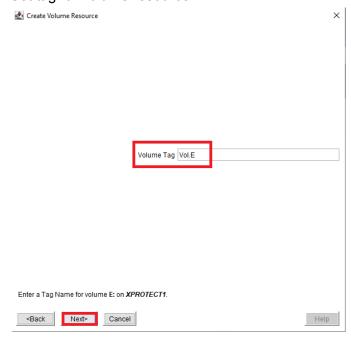




4. Select which volume to protect



# 5. Set tag for volume resource

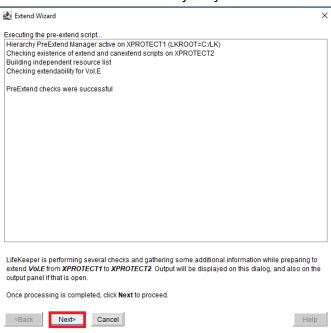




#### 6. Verify volume resource creation was successful

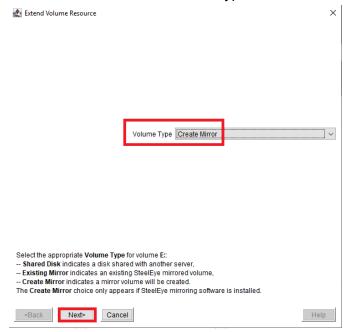


#### 7. Run extend checks and verify they were successful





# 8. Select Create Mirror for Volume Type

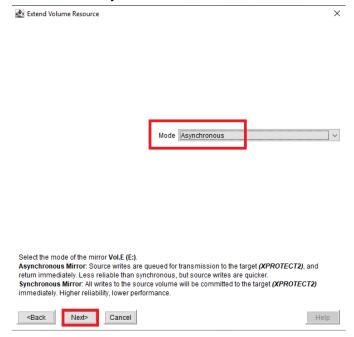


#### 9. Choose end points

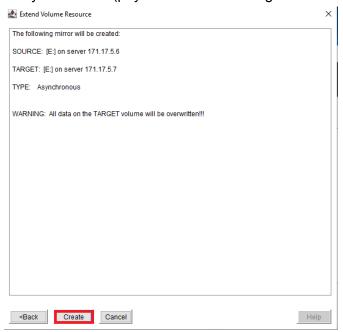




# 10. Set mode to Asynchronous

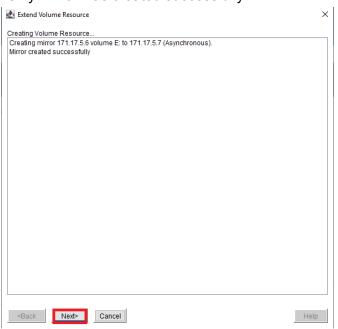


11. Verify mirror info (pay attention to warning about volume being overwritten)

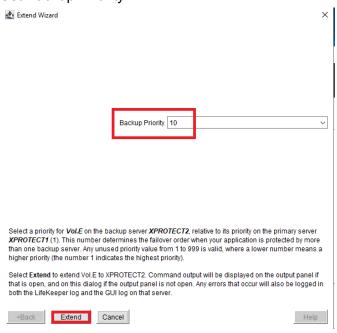




# 12. Verify mirror was created successfully

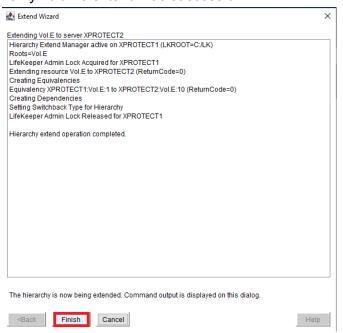


#### 13. Set Backup Priority

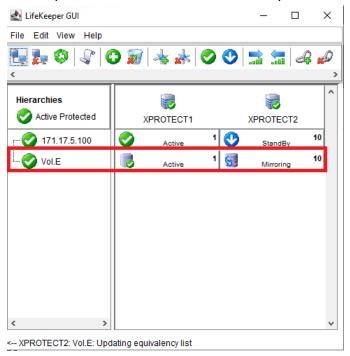




#### 14. Verify volume extend was successful



#### 15. LifeKeeper should look like this when completed





# Step 5 - Cluster SQL Server with LifeKeeper

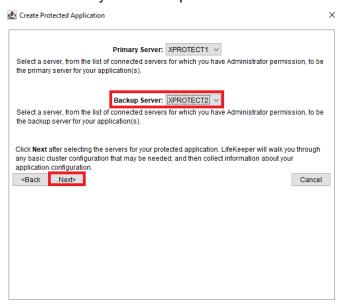
Cluster SQL Server following the SIOS documentation. Create a Virtual IP address first, and then Disk resources. Finally the SQL resource. No NetBIOS name is required. Make sure the SQL Server Service is set to Manual start.

#### **Create SQL resource:**

1. Choose create new resource

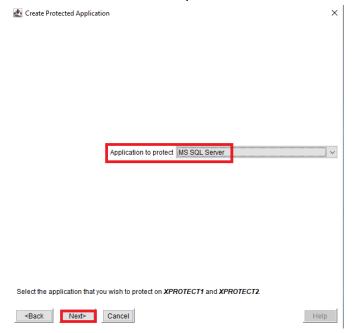


2. Choose Primary and Backup Server

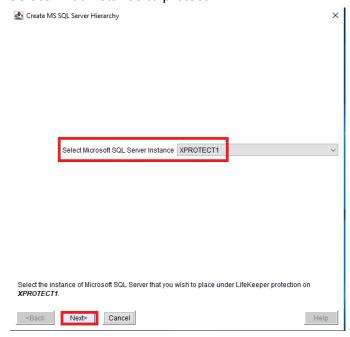




3. Choose MS SQL Server to protect

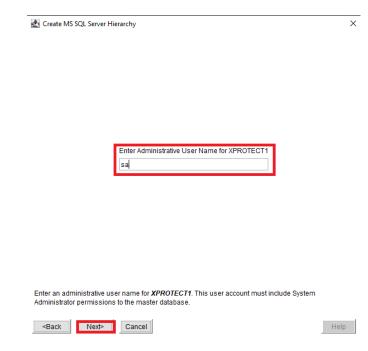


4. Select what instance to protect

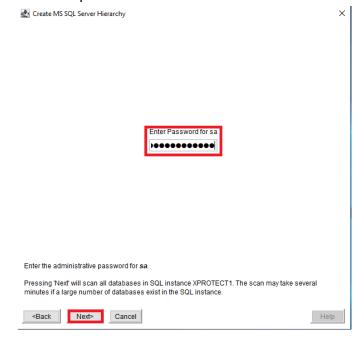


5. Administrative name should be the one you used when you installed SQL Server. The default account is 'sa'



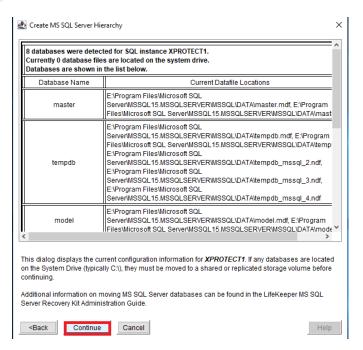


6. Enter the password for the 'sa' account.

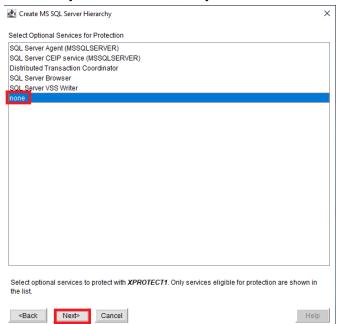


7. Verify database location(s) looks correct
Note: If during installation of SQL Server you failed to relocate the system databases to
the partition designated for replication, you will be given an option here to allow
LifeKeeper to relocate them automatically for you.



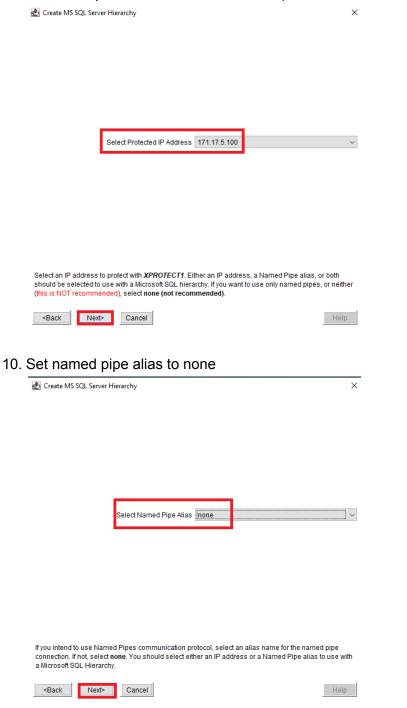


#### 8. Protect any additional services you wish to cluster.





### 9. Select the protected Virtual IP address (the one we created earlier)





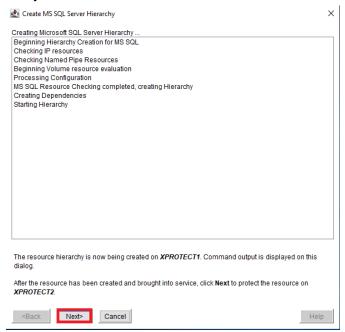
#### 11. Set the resource name



# 12. Verify resource creation was successful

Cancel

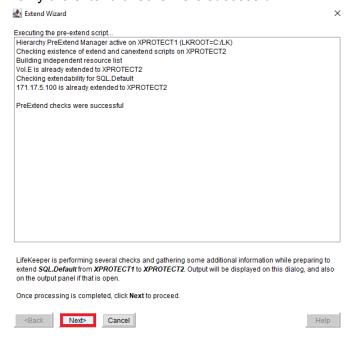
<Back Create



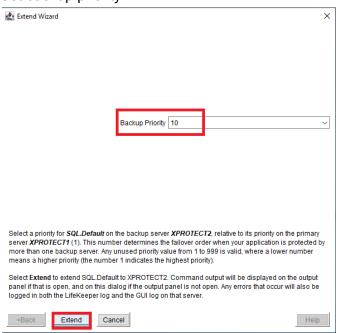
Help



#### 13. Verify the extend checks were successful

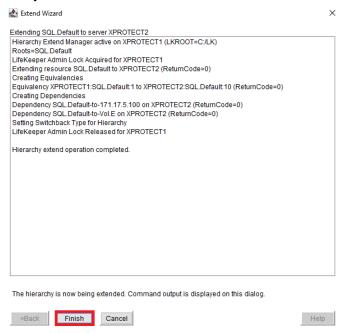


### 14. Set backup priority

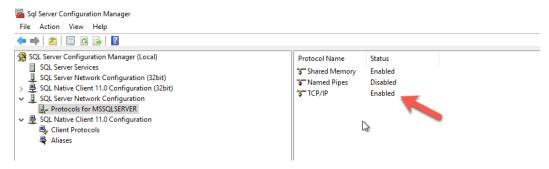




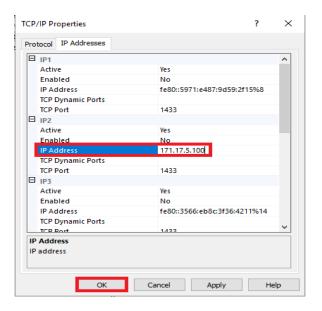
15. Verify extend was successful



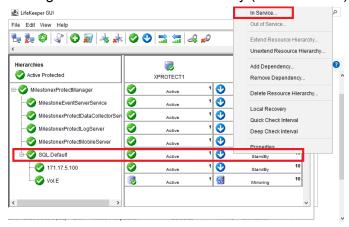
16. Enable SQL to listen on TCP and the Virtual IP address. Do this on XPROTECT1 and XPROTECT2





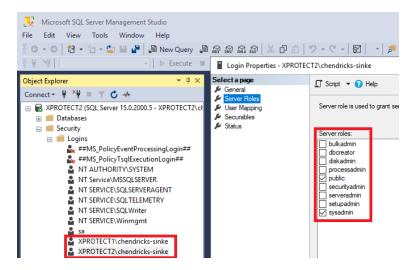


17. Perform a switchover of the SQL Resource using LifeKeeper by right clicking and clicking 'In Service' on the secondary (XPROTECT2)



18. Add the account you created earlier for XPROTECT1 to the sql users while SQL is switched over to XPROTECT2. Make sure to add the appropriate server roles as shown



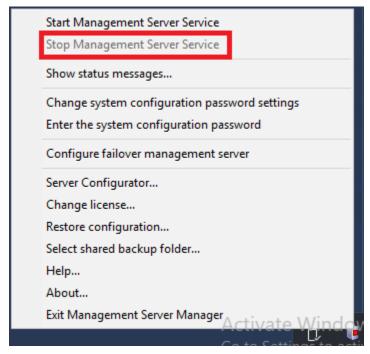


# Step 6 - Cluster XProtect with LifeKeeper

#### **Setup for XProtect:**

On XPROTECT1

 Stop the service by right clicking the system tray icon and clicking 'Stop Management Server Service'

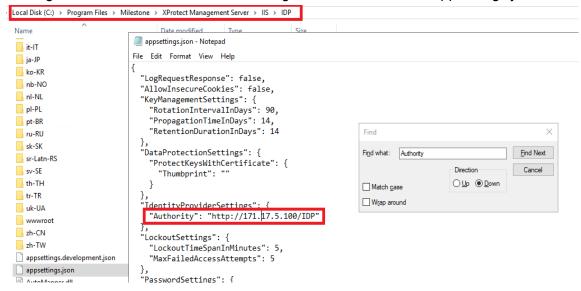


- 2. Modify the below config files accordingly, using the Virtual IP address address in place of the local computer name in the indicated URLs.
  - a. C:/ProgramData/Milestone/xProtect Management Server/ServerConfig

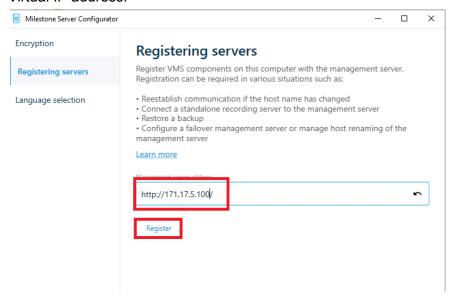




3. C:/Program Files/Milestone/XProtect Management Server/IIS/IDP/appsettings.json

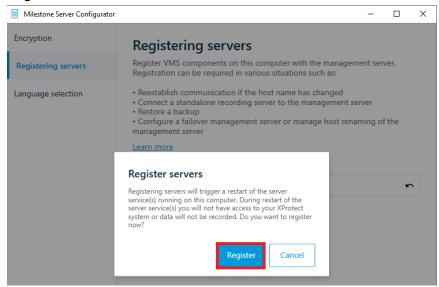


4. From the system tray icon right click and choose 'Server Configurator' and type in the Virtual IP address.

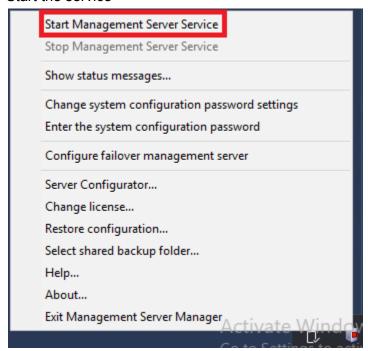




5. Register the Virtual IP address



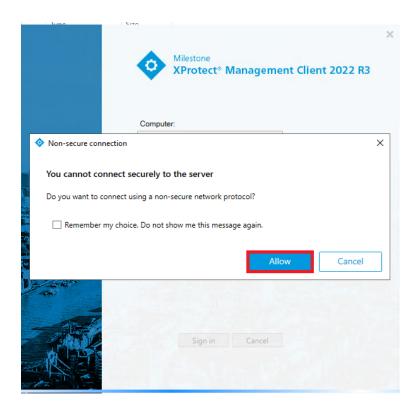
6. Start the service



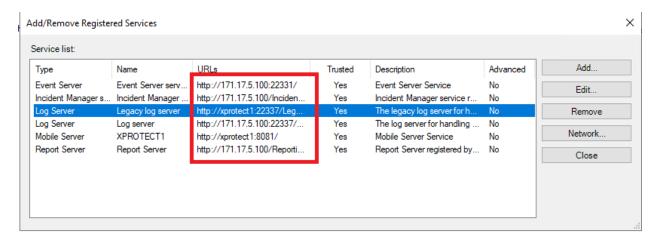
#### 7. Set the Virtual IP address for the URLs

a. Open XProtect Management client (click allow for security prompt as shown) and click 'Add Remove Registered Services'



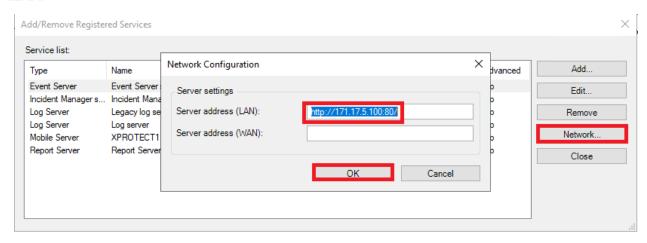


b. Replace all 'XPROTECT1' with the Virtual IP address you created earlier for the URLs highlighted



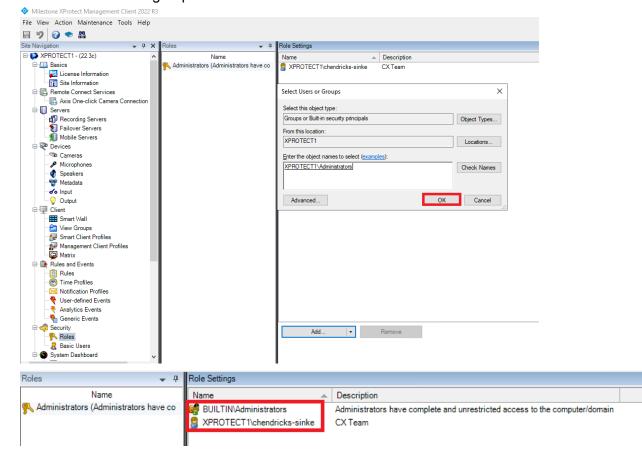
c. Click on 'Network' and add the Virtual IP address to the Server address (LAN):





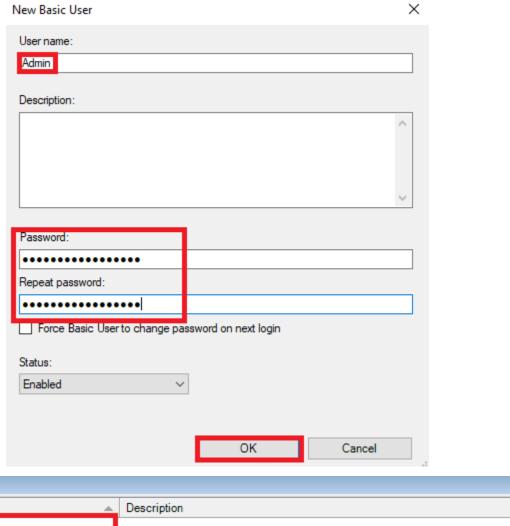
#### 8. Add Administrator roles for failover

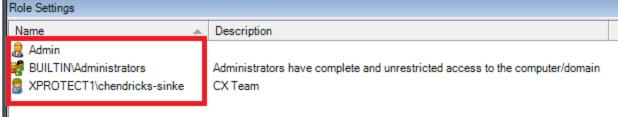
a. Add 'Administrators' group from windows





b. Click 'New Basic User' and add a local 'admin' account





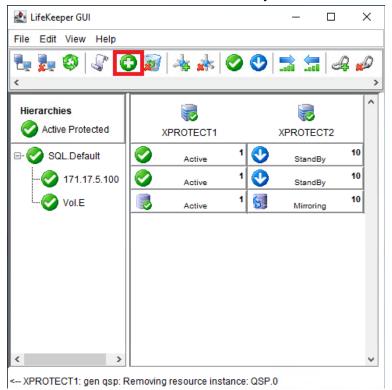
9. Repeat steps 1-5 on XPROTECT2

#### **Using LifeKeeper to cluster XProtect:**

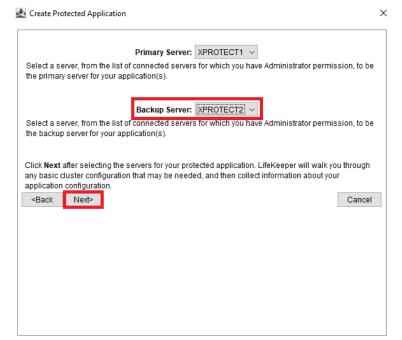
Make sure all XProtect services are running on XPORTECT1 before following the below steps



#### 1. Choose Create New Resource Hierarchy

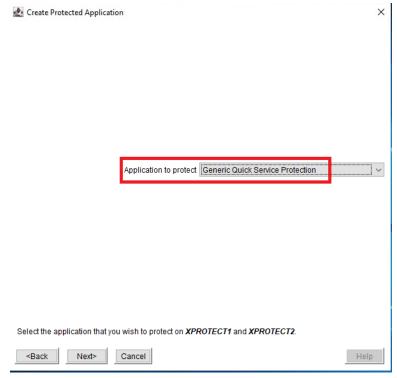


#### 2. Choose backup server

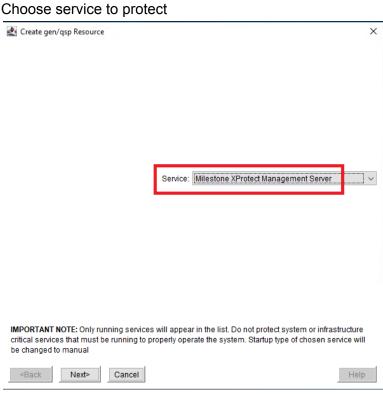




3. Choose Generic Quick Service Protection for application to protect

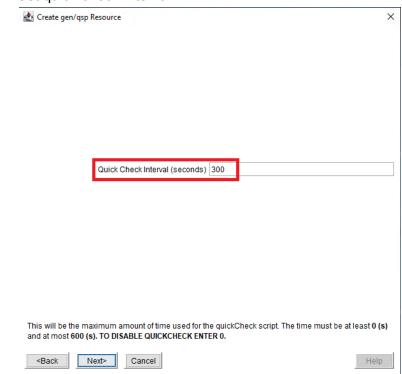


4. Choose service to protect





## 5. Set quick check interval



# 6. Set startup interval



This will be the maximum amount of time used to start the service during the restore process. The time must be at least 300 (s) and at most 900 (s)





#### 7. Set shutdown interval

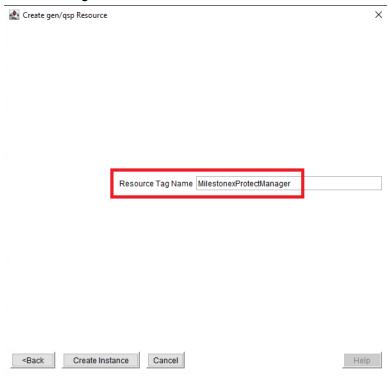


### 8. Enable local recovery

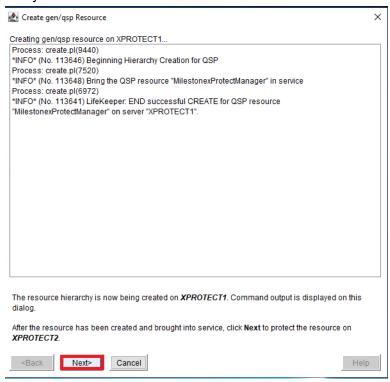




#### 9. Choose a tag name

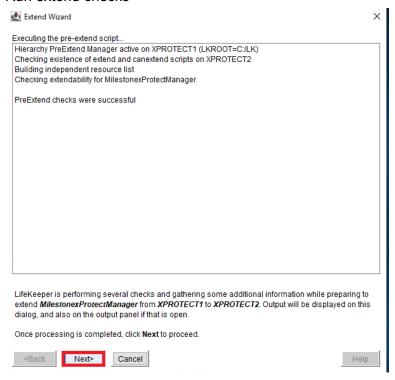


#### 10. Verify the creation of the resource was successful

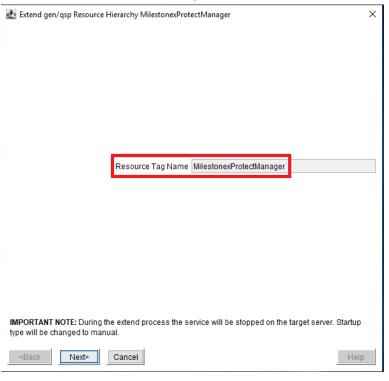




#### 11. Run extend checks



### 12. Choose extended resource tag name

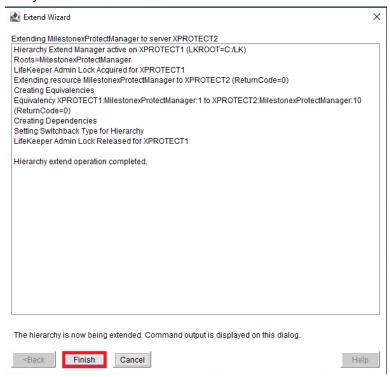




#### 13. Set backup priority

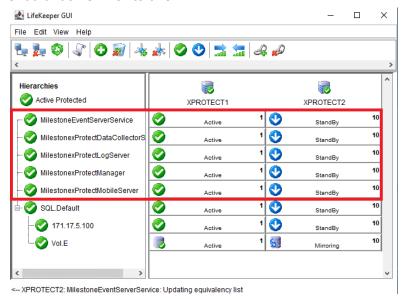


## 14. Verify extend was successful

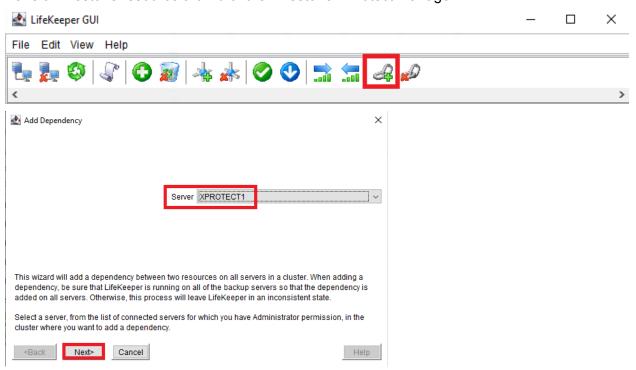




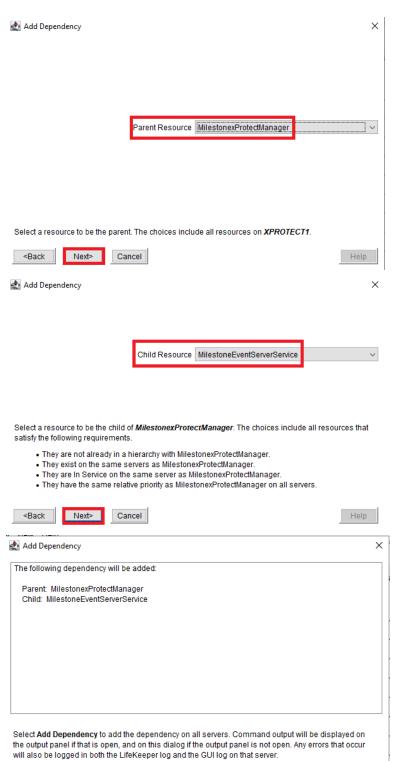
15. Repeat steps 1-14 for each of the Milestone services you wish to protect end result should look similar to this



16. Make a milestone resource a child of the Milestone XProtect Manager





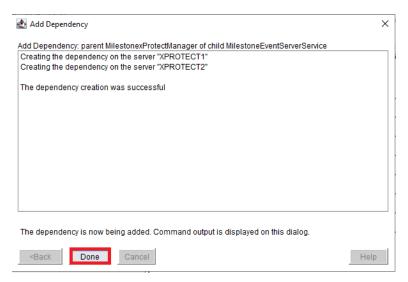


Add Dependency

Cancel

<Back





17. Repeat this process for every Milestone resource as well as the SQL resource, the end result should look like below



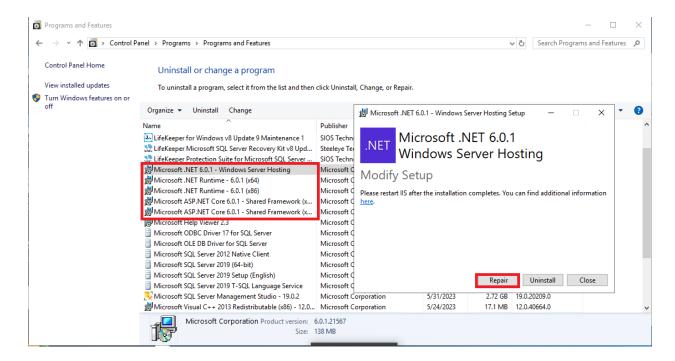
NOTE: If your first switchover fails with XPROTECT2 being stuck in the 'starting' stage in



the system tray icon, please follow the below instructions.

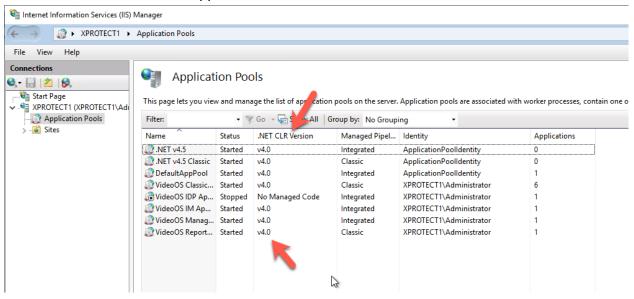


 Run a repair on each of the Microsoft ASP.Net modules on XPROTECT2 as shown below





2. You must also ensure all the Application Pools use .Net v4.0, as shown below

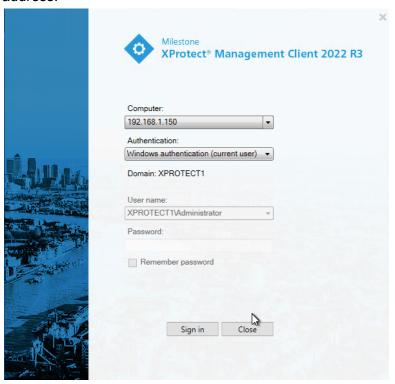


3. Reset IIS on XPROTECT2





4. When you open the XProtect Management Client, connect directly to the Virtual IP address.



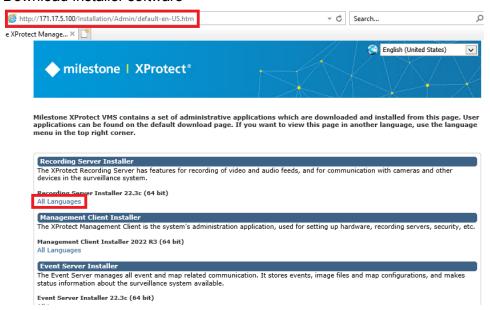


# Step 7 - Install the Recording Server

#### Follow the given instructions

 $\underline{https://developer.milestonesys.com/s/article/XProtect-Corporate-How-to-install-the-recording-server\ .$ 

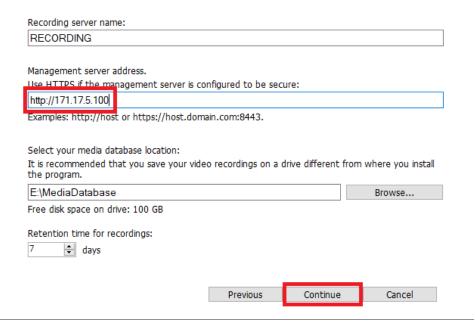
#### Download Installer software



Also, install the recording server, specifying the virtual IP address in the installation URL.

Milestone XProtect® Recording Server

## Specify recording server settings





# Step 8 - Test failover

The minimum requirements for testing the cluster are as follows:

- Perform a manual switchover of the cluster from XPROTECT1 to XPROTECT2, and back to XPROTECT1
- Pull the power cord on the active cluster node. The backup cluster node should recover
  the protected resources. NOTE: Performing a planned shutdown, or pushing the power
  button to cause a shutdown, is not the same. The default behavior of a server being
  shutdown is to NOT failover the resources. This is controlled by the <a href="Shutdown Strategy">Shutdown Strategy</a>
  settings of the cluster.
- Manually stop one of the protected Windows services. The default behavior is that LifeKeeper will automatically restart that service.
- Temporarily disable and stop one of the protected Windows services on the active cluster node. LifeKeeper will detect the failure, and with local recovery not being able to successfully restart the service, a failover to the secondary node will be initiated.

In all of the above test, you should be able to open the XProtect Management Client, and connect directly to the Virtual IP address.

#### **About SIOS Technology**

SIOS Technology Corp. high availability and disaster recovery solutions ensure availability and eliminate data loss for critical Windows and Linux applications operating across physical, virtual, cloud, and hybrid cloud environments. SIOS clustering software is essential for any IT infrastructure with applications requiring a high degree of resiliency, ensuring uptime without sacrificing performance or data – protecting businesses from local failures and regional outages, planned and unplanned. Founded in 1999, SIOS Technology Corp. (https://us.sios.com) is headquartered in San Mateo, California, with offices worldwide.

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