

How to move a Virtual Machine to Microsoft Failover Cluster

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StarWind Documents



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StarWind is a pioneer in virtualization and a company that participated in the development of this technology from its earliest days. Now the company is among the leading vendors of software and hardware hyper-converged solutions. The company's core product is the years-proven StarWind Virtual SAN, which allows SMB and ROBO to benefit from cost-efficient hyperconverged IT infrastructure. Having earned a reputation of reliability, StarWind created a hardware product line and is actively tapping into hyperconverged and storage appliances market. In 2016, Gartner named StarWind “Cool Vendor for Compute Platforms” following the success and popularity of StarWind HyperConverged Appliance. StarWind partners with world-known companies: Microsoft, VMware, Veeam, Intel, Dell, Mellanox, Citrix, Western Digital, etc.

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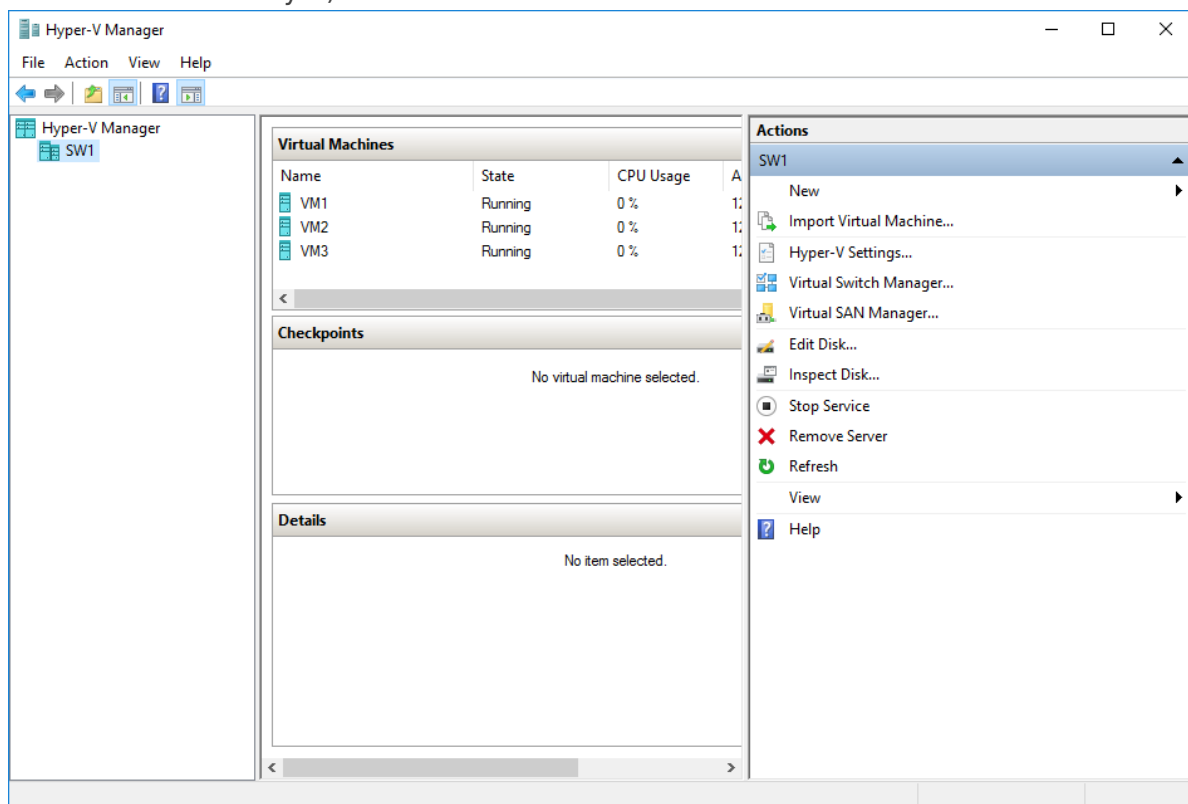
Description

There are several ways to add VMs into a newly configured cluster. Besides creating a new VM from scratch (applicable mostly for new deployments), an administrator might need to migrate an existing VM to the cluster. This article covers the scenario when VMs are already located on a Hyper-V host that is a part of the cluster and they should be added to that cluster and moved to the cluster shared volume so the VMs can live migrate between the cluster nodes.

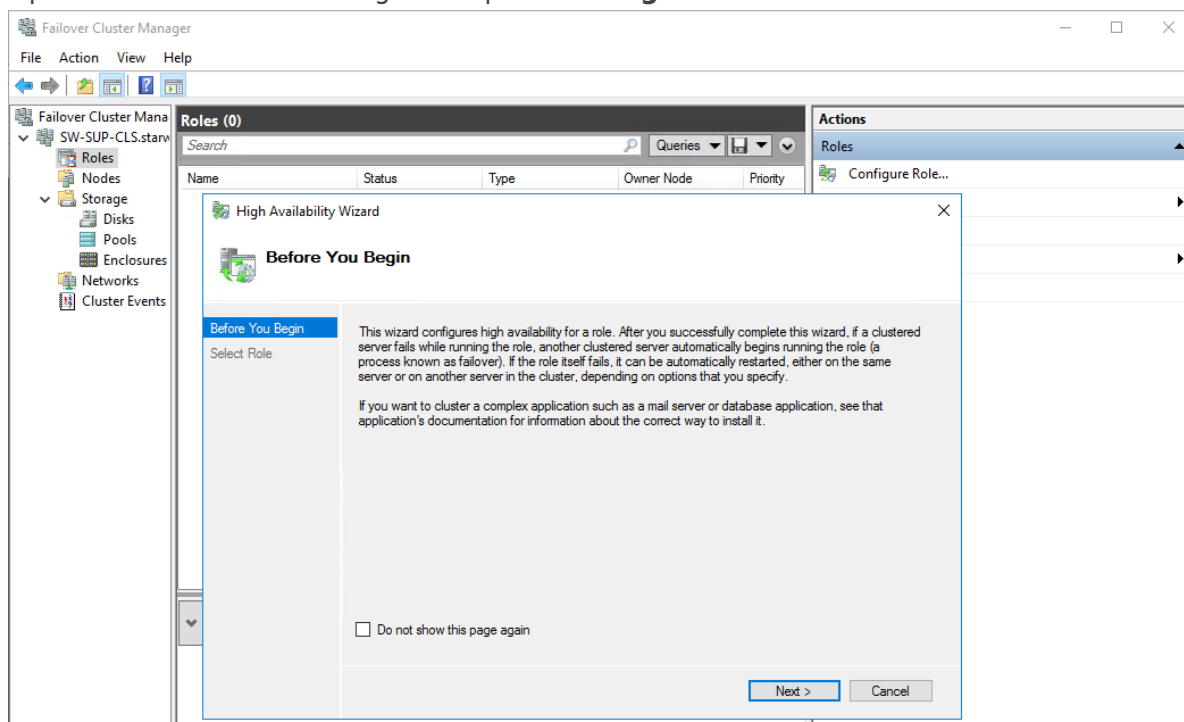
Steps

NOTE: Before the migration starts, please make sure that VMs have no checkpoints created and are backed up. VMs can be migrated from one Hyper-V host to a clustered one as discussed in this article:

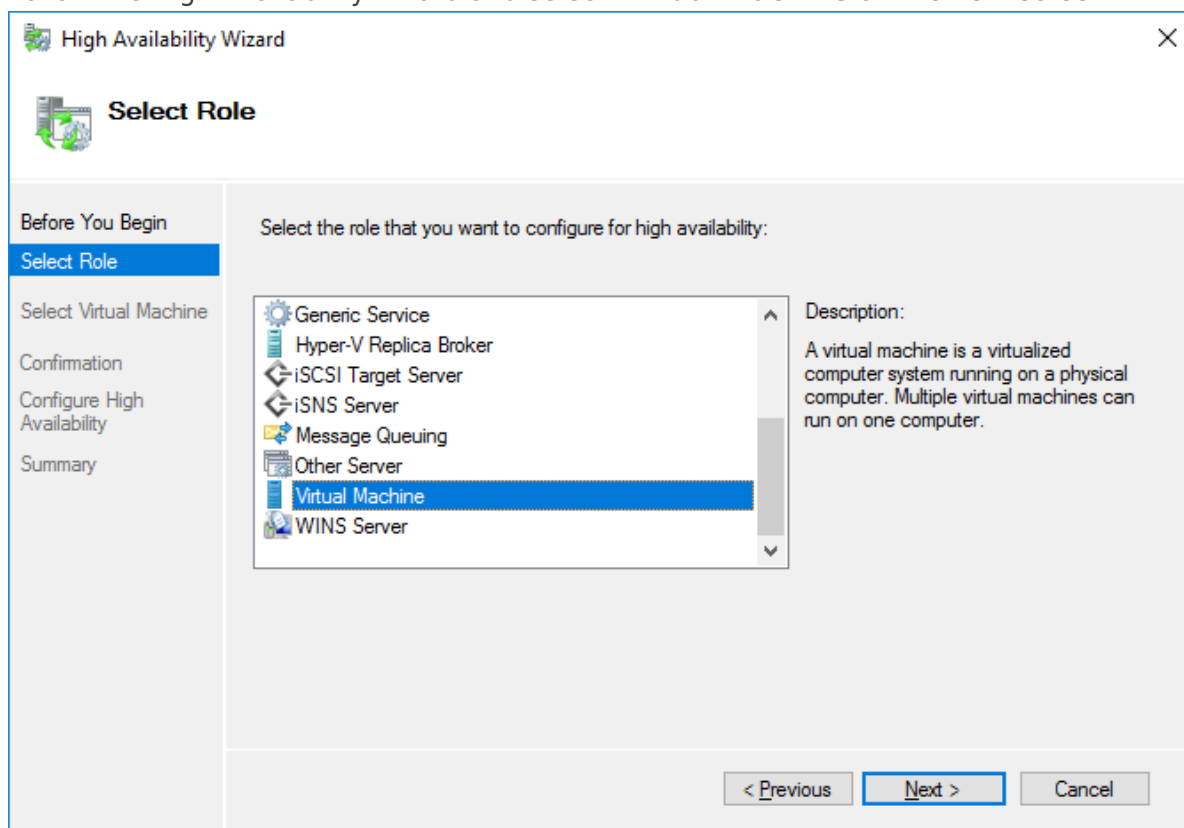
<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/virtualization/hyper-v/manage/use-live-migration-without-failover-clustering-to-move-a-virtual-machine> The approach from the article above, can be used to migrate VMs directly to cluster shared volume. Herein, we describe a Failover Cluster feature that allows to move VM files from the local storage to the cluster shared volume (i.e., VMs are running on a clustered host, but they are not added to the cluster yet) and between the cluster shared volumes.



Open Failover Cluster Manager and press **Configure Role...** under the **Roles** section.

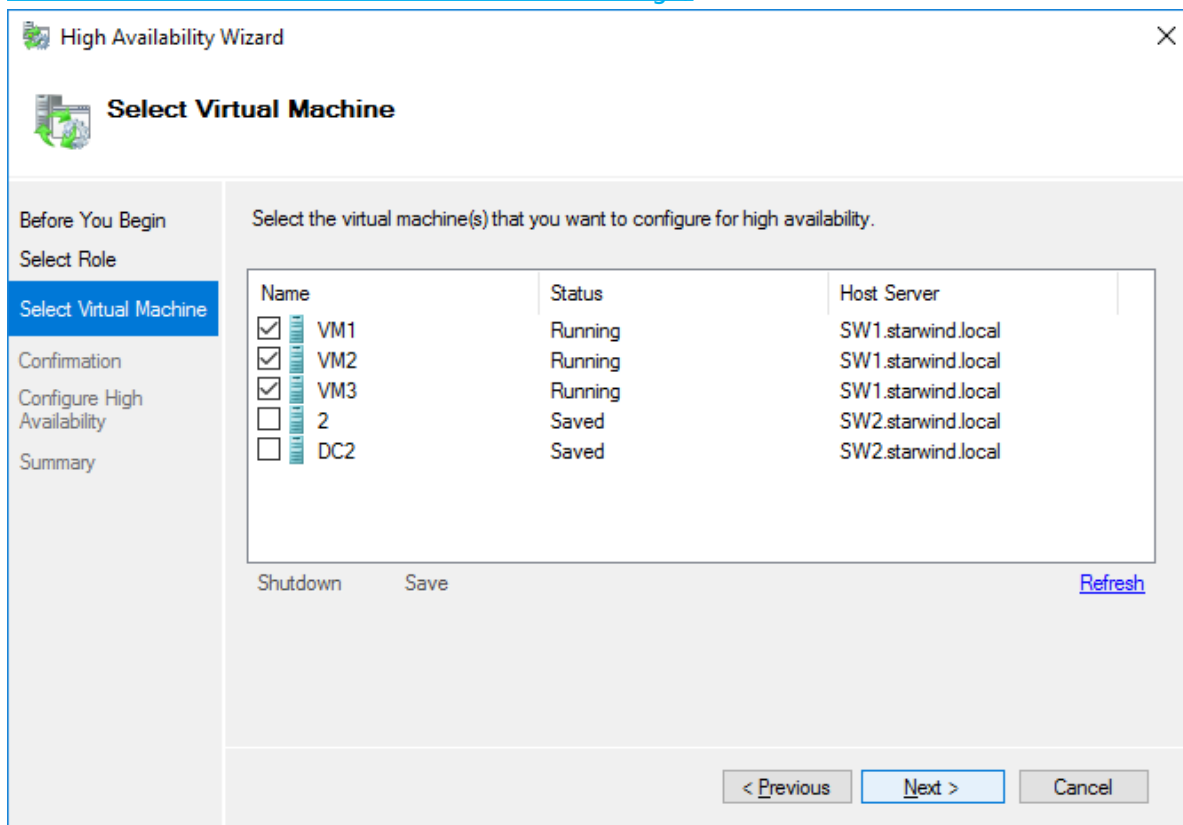


Follow the High Availability wizard and select **Virtual Machine** on the next screen.



The High Availability wizard lists the VMs located on clustered nodes. Select the VMs that should be clustered and click **Next**. **NOTE:** Please do not add to the cluster a single Domain Controller VM. See more details in this KB:

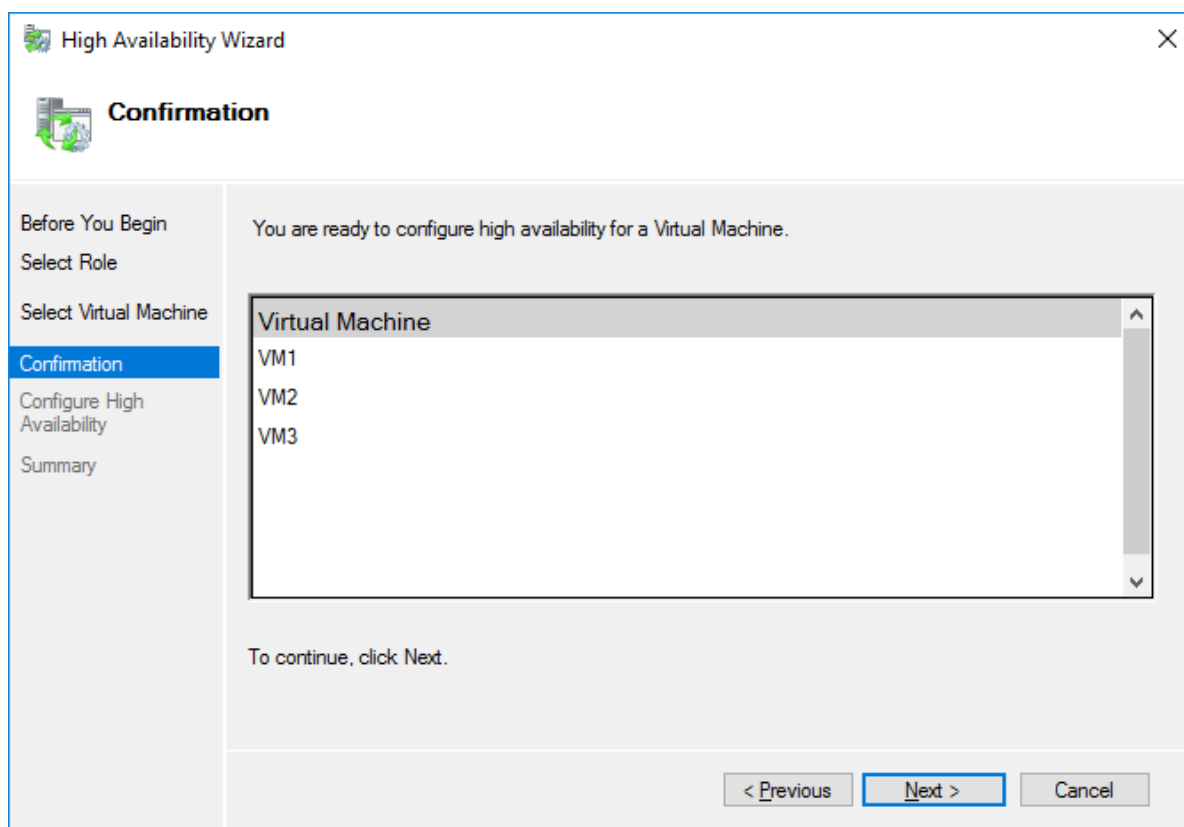
<https://knowledgebase.starwindsoftware.com/explanation/advice-on-how-to-place-a-domain-controller-in-case-of-starwind-virtual-san-usage/>



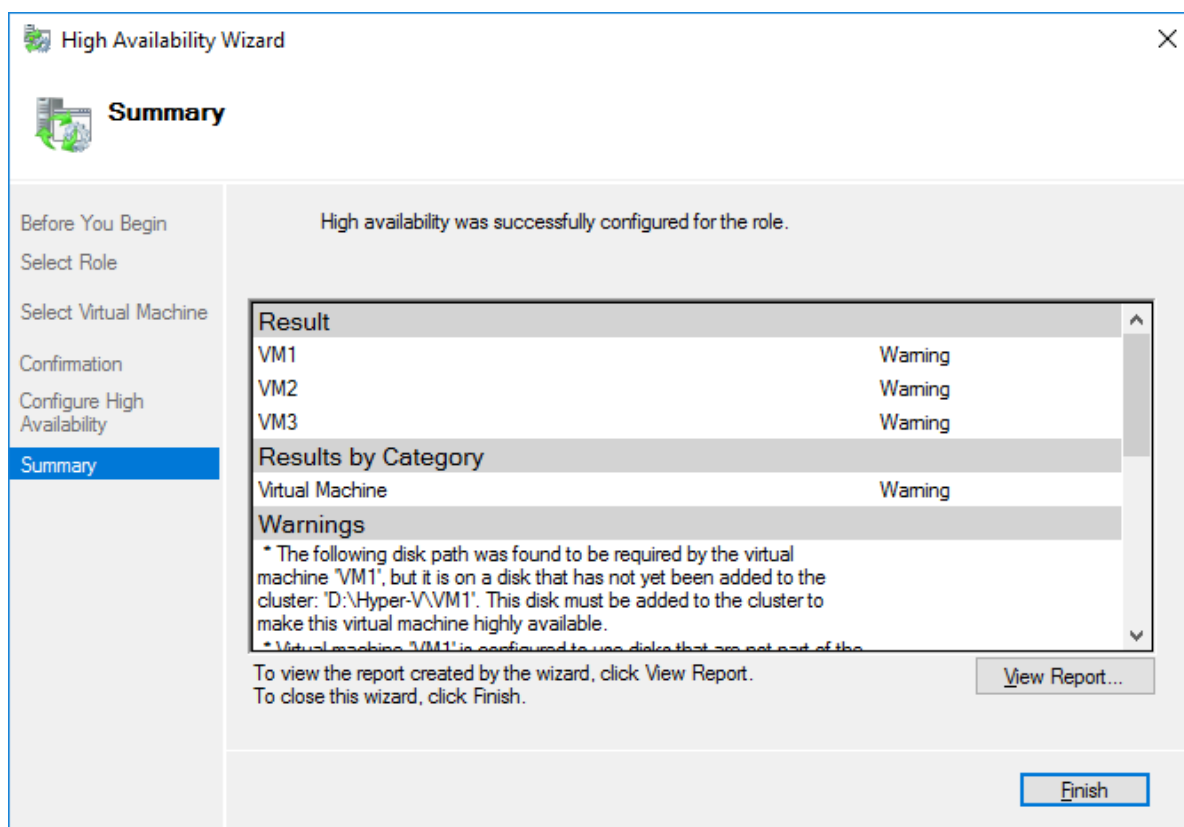
The screenshot shows the 'High Availability Wizard' window, specifically the 'Select Virtual Machine' step. The window has a sidebar on the left with steps: 'Before You Begin', 'Select Role', 'Select Virtual Machine' (highlighted), 'Confirmation', 'Configure High Availability', and 'Summary'. The main area contains the instruction 'Select the virtual machine(s) that you want to configure for high availability.' Below this is a table with three columns: 'Name', 'Status', and 'Host Server'. The table lists five VMs: VM1, VM2, VM3, 2, and DC2. VM1, VM2, and VM3 are checked and have a status of 'Running', all on host 'SW1.starwind.local'. VM '2' is unchecked and has a status of 'Saved' on host 'SW2.starwind.local'. VM 'DC2' is unchecked and has a status of 'Saved' on host 'SW2.starwind.local'. Below the table are buttons for 'Shutdown', 'Save', and a 'Refresh' link. At the bottom right are navigation buttons: '< Previous', 'Next >' (highlighted), and 'Cancel'.

Name	Status	Host Server
☒ VM1	Running	SW1.starwind.local
☒ VM2	Running	SW1.starwind.local
☒ VM3	Running	SW1.starwind.local
☐ 2	Saved	SW2.starwind.local
☐ DC2	Saved	SW2.starwind.local

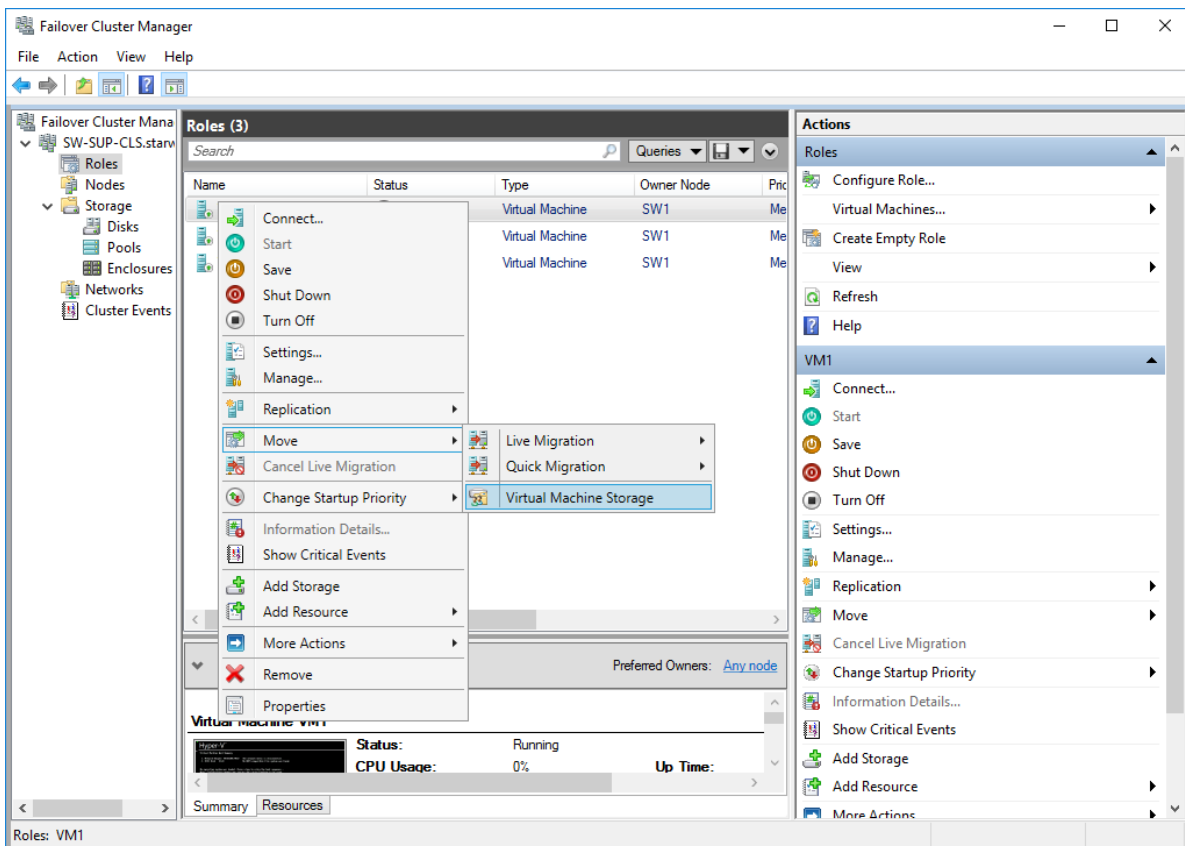
Confirm the configuration by pressing **Next**.



Close the wizard by pressing **Finish**. Please pay attention to the Warning message about VMs disk location.



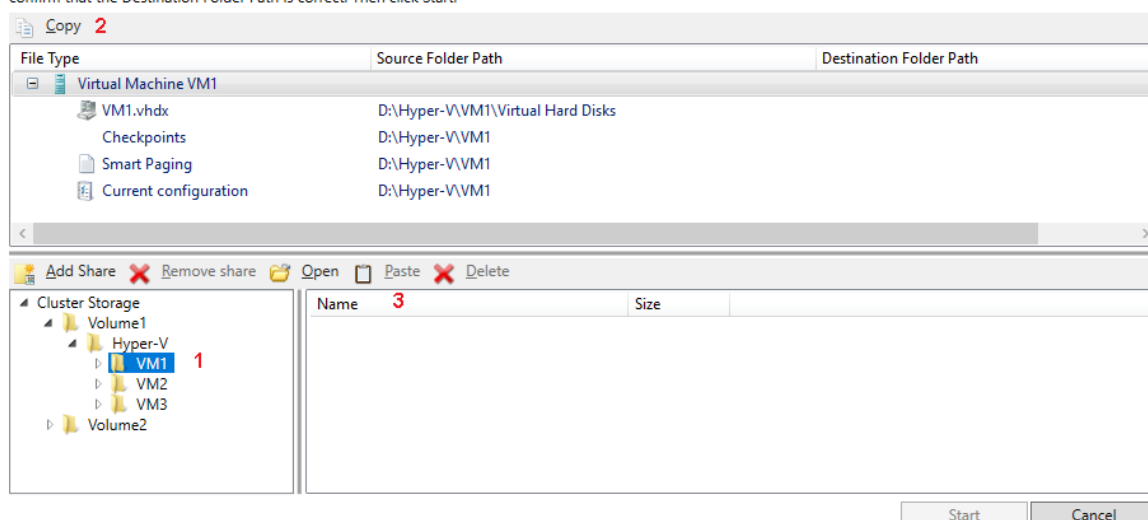
Once VMs are clustered, they will appear in Failover Cluster Manager. Note that, live migration will not work for the newly clustered VMs because their files are located on the local storage. To enable live migrations, VM files should be relocated to the cluster shared volume. To move VM files to a Cluster Shared Volume, prepare a separate folder for each VM on it. From the Failover Cluster Manager interface, Right-click the VM and choose **Move -> Virtual Machine Storage**.



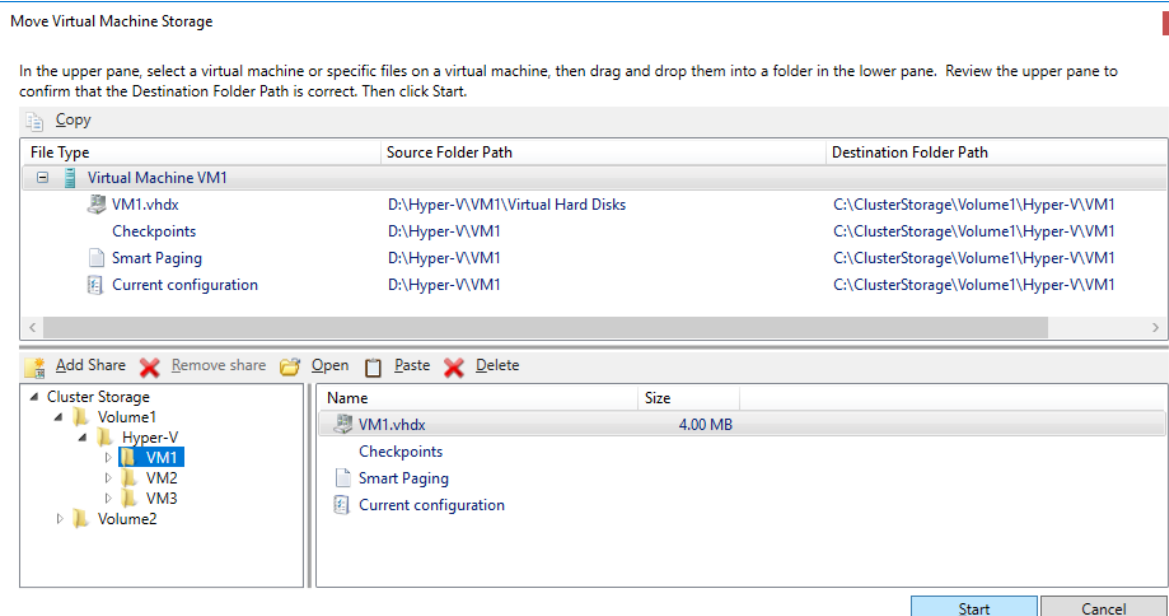
In the Move Virtual Machine Storage wizard, check the **Source Folder Path** (i.e. local path), select the destination folder path to the cluster storage, select the VM files that should be moved to the cluster storage, press **Copy**, and press **Paste**.

Move Virtual Machine Storage

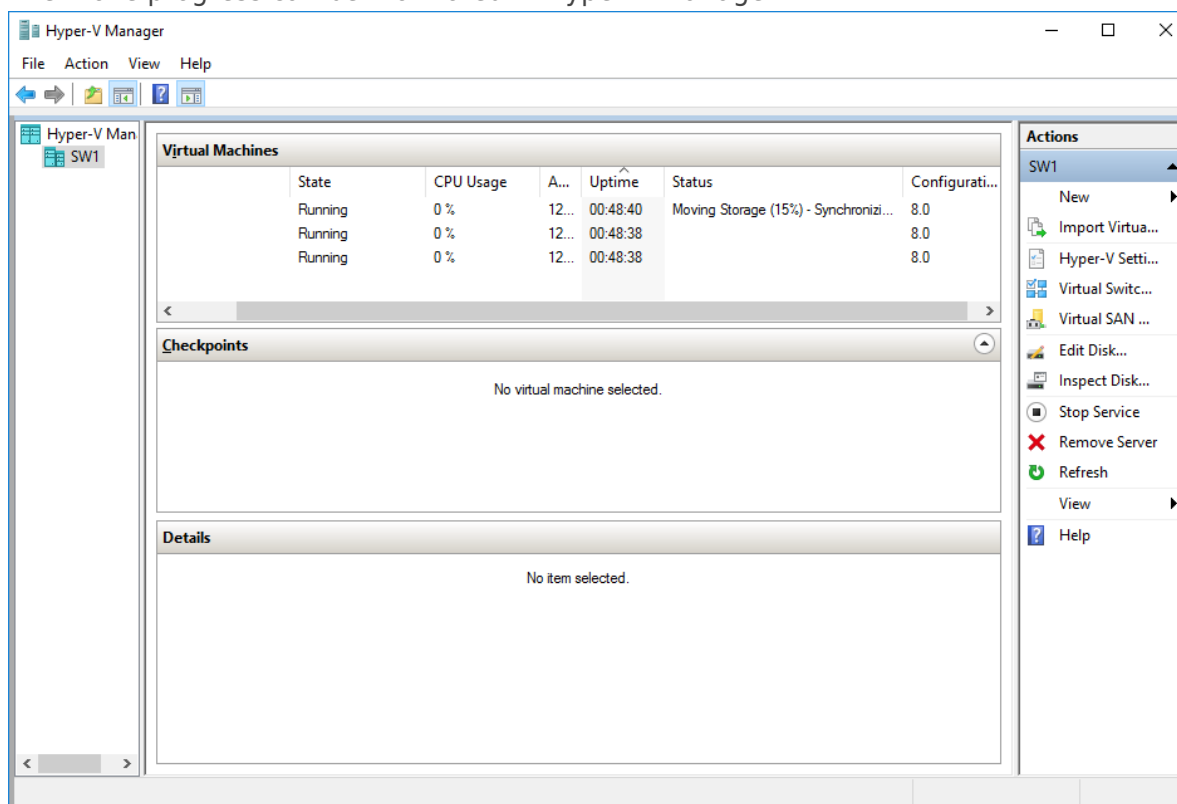
In the upper pane, select a virtual machine or specific files on a virtual machine, then drag and drop them into a folder in the lower pane. Review the upper pane to confirm that the Destination Folder Path is correct. Then click Start.



The **Destination Folder Path** should appear in the wizard window. Press the **Start** button to start the move. VM can remain running during the move process.



The move progress can be monitored in Hyper-V Manager.



Once the process is completed, the VM is completely moved to the cluster storage and

can be live migrated between the cluster nodes.

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