Adding a Hard Drive to a Windows Server

August 15, 2010

The My Computer Window

When we build an RIS server, we need as separate partition or hard drive to hold the operating system images. After we place the new drive in the server, we cannot see the volume in the My Computer window. We need to first go to the Computer Management window and setup the new drive.
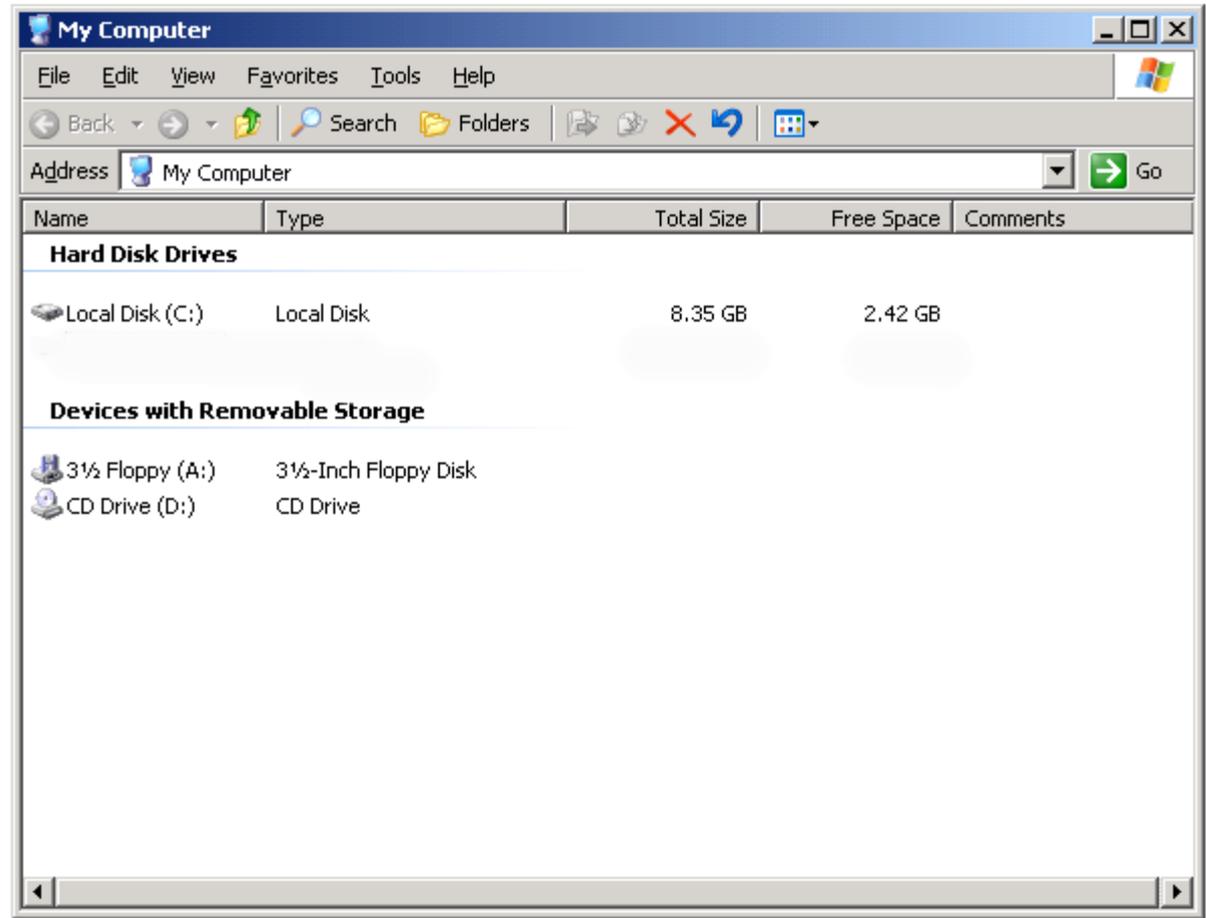
The Computer Management Window

When we add a new drive the volume will show up in the Computer Management window unformatted. We need to fix this by right clicking in the volume and starting the New Partition Wizard.
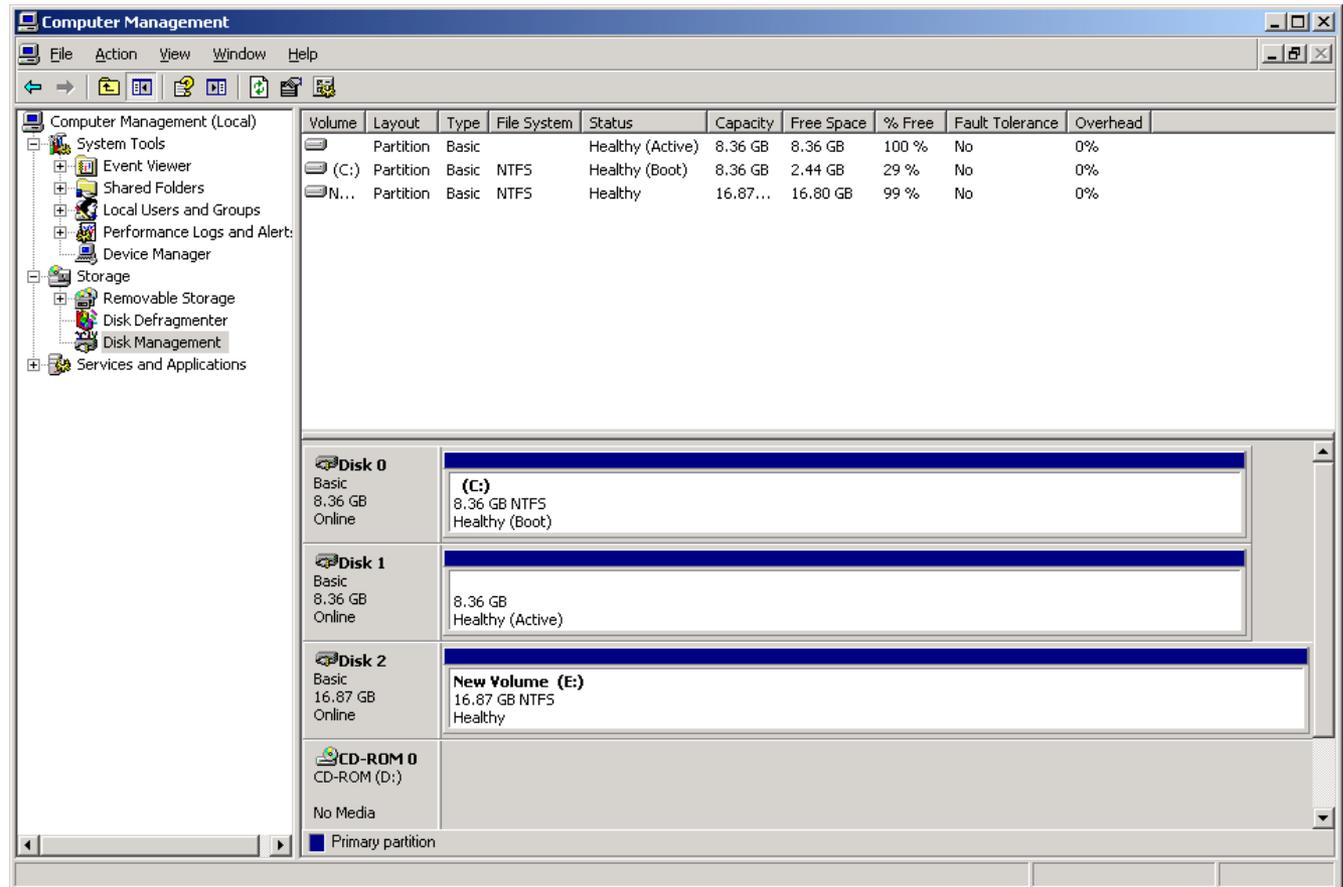
New Partition

The wizard we take us through several steps to label, size and format the new drive. We press the Next button to go forward.

Select Partition Type

We have two choices, primary or extended partition. A primary partition will be a separate volume containing its own letter path. An extended partition can be added to a previous drive volume. We are going to use this separate drive for RIS images, so we select the primary partition and the Next button to continue.
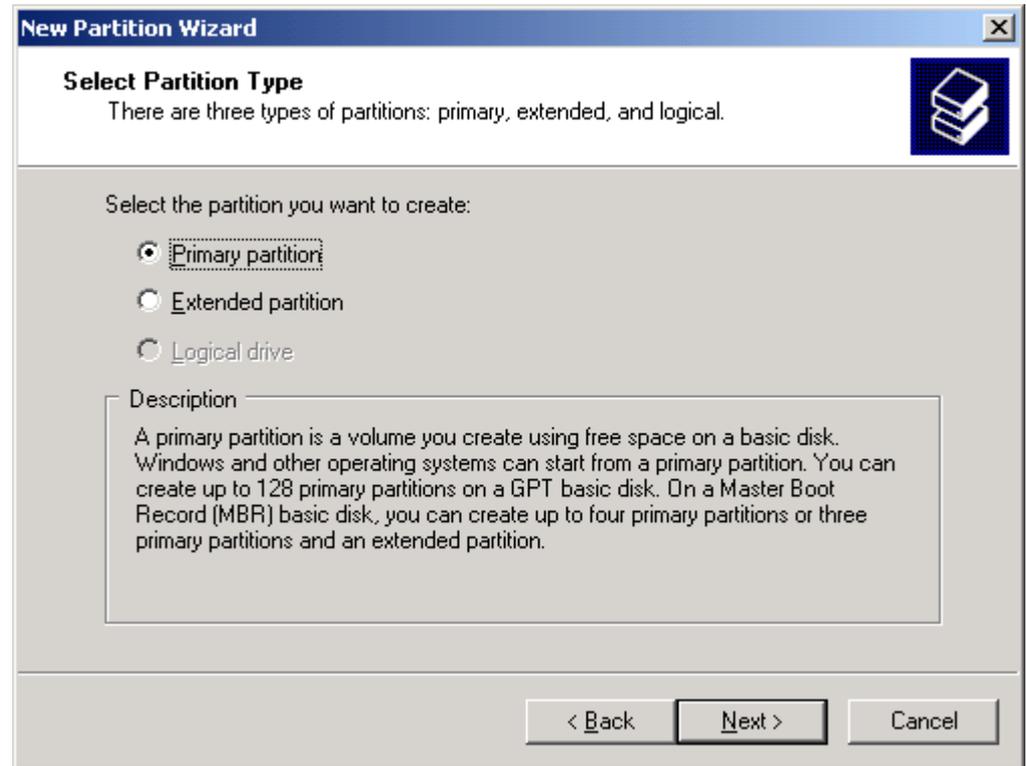
Specify the Partition Size

We agree to have the entire hard drive on a single partition. We then choose the Next button to advance.

Assign a Drive Letter

The system volume is called the C drive. Originally, the two first letters A and B were assigned to floppy or removable drives. The server's CDROM drive has the D drive designation, so the new hard drive is going to be the E drive. We press the Next button to carry on.
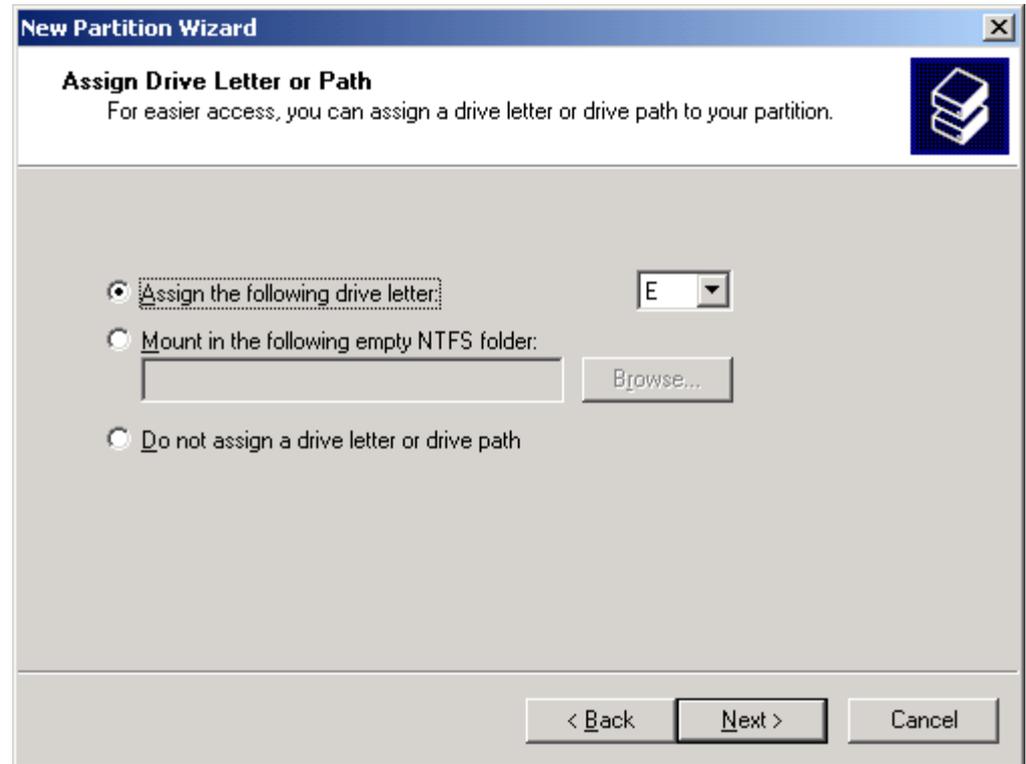
Format the Partiton

We will format the partition with the NTFS file system. By default, we will allocate the whole hard drive size to one partition and we can name the volume OS_images if we desire. Other choices we can opt for are to do a quick format and to enable file and folder compression. File and folder compression is useful for archiving. We press Next to continue.
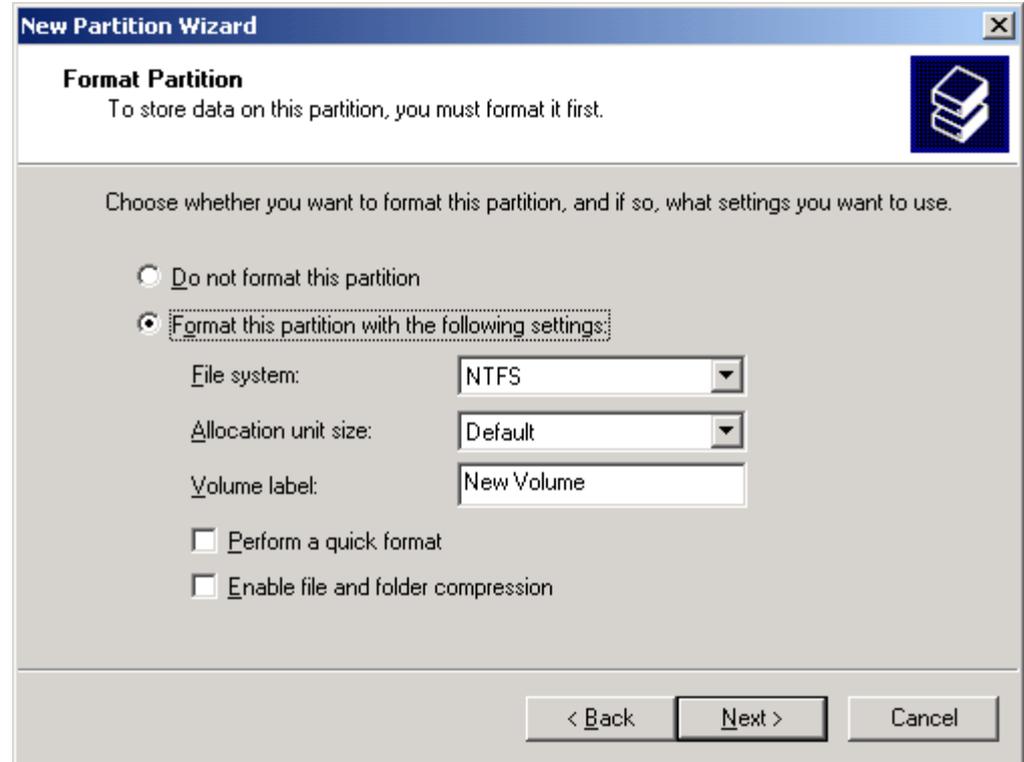
Completing the New Partition Wizard

The New Partition Wizard is now complete. We select the Finish button.
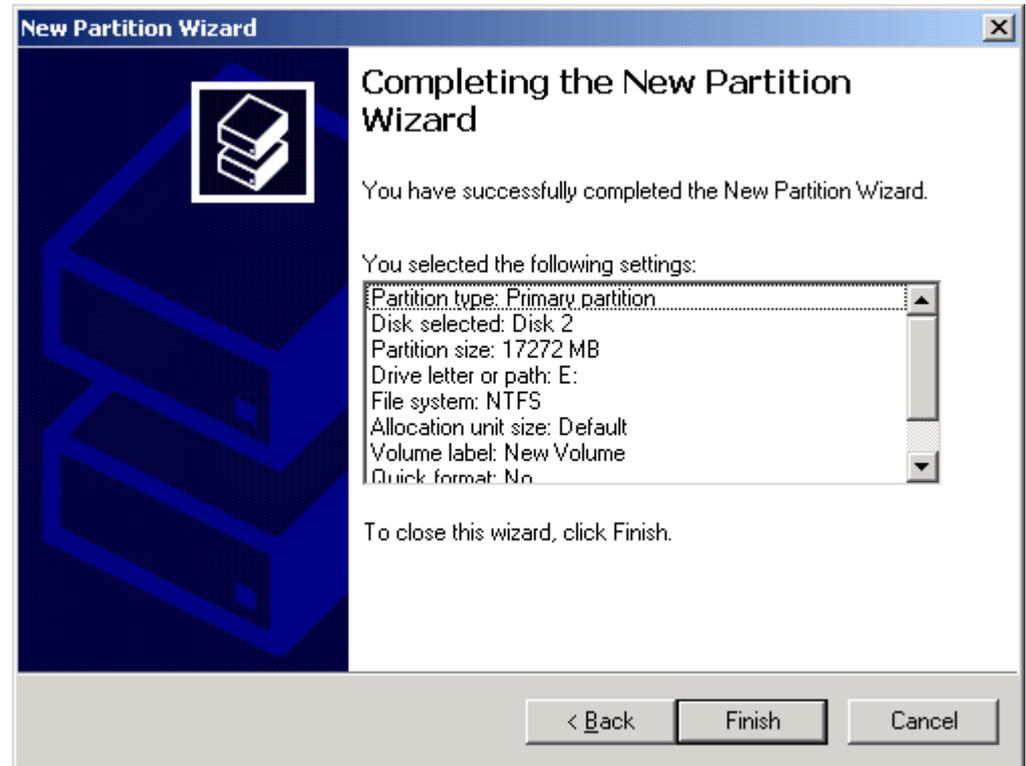
New Drive in Computer Management

The new drive that is NTFS formatted is ready for use. In our Remote Installation Server, we can write images to this separate space.
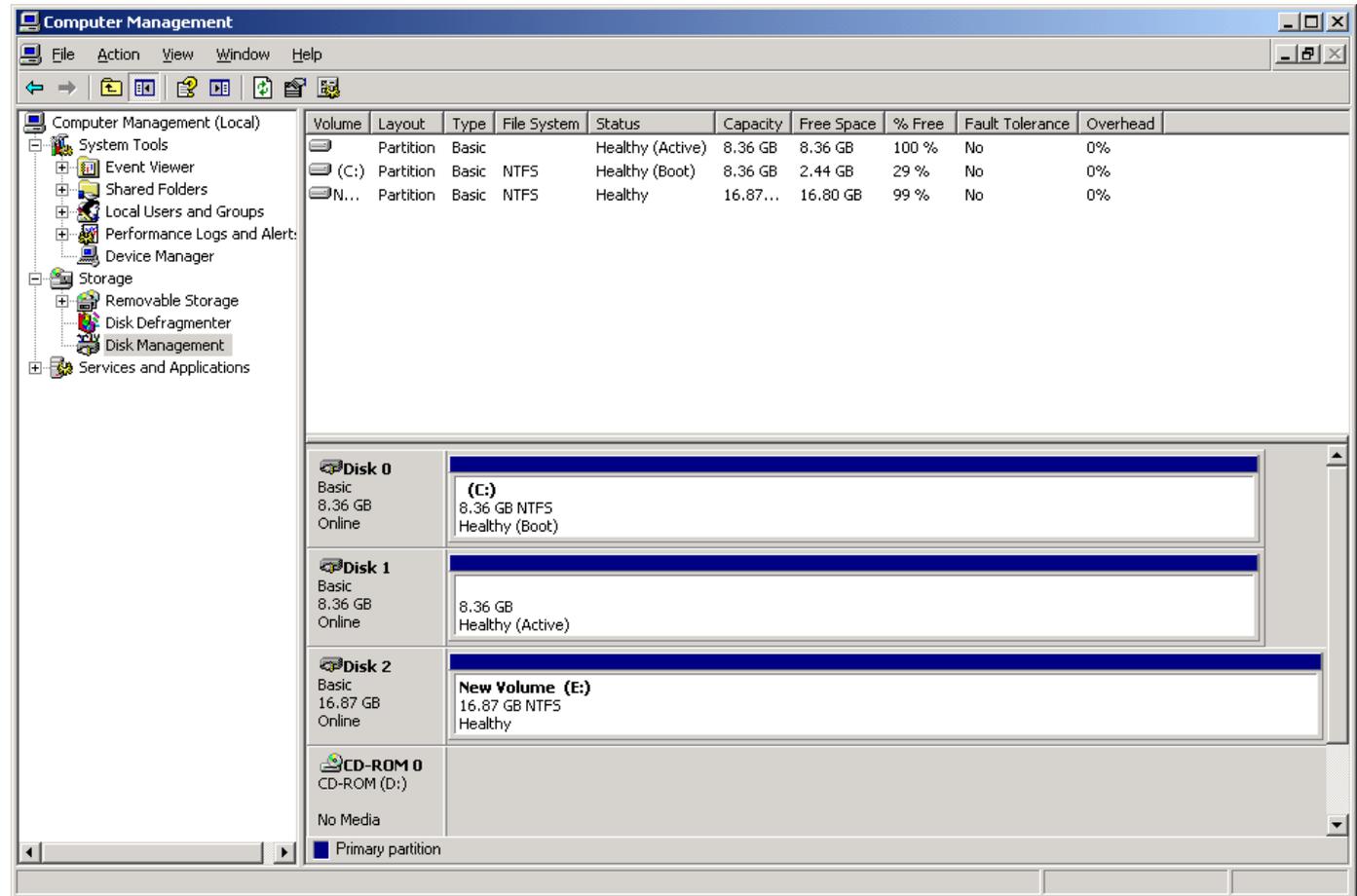
The My Computer Window

The drive now shows up in the My Computer window.