

Team Foundation Server
on **Azure IaaS**
Supplement Guide
for
Build Services

Visual Studio ALM Rangers

TFS on Azure IaaS Supplement – Extending Build services for the TFS on Azure IaaS environments

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Table of Contents

Extending Build services for the TFS on Azure IaaS environments.....	4
Introduction.....	4
Context.....	4
What you'll need	4
Visual Studio ALM Rangers.....	5
Additional ALM Rangers Resources	5
Scenarios for expanding Build capacity	6
Environment Automation	7
Extending on-premises build services	8
Scenarios.....	8
Context	8
Summary of steps	8
Walk-through	9
Extending TFS on Azure IaaS build services	18
Scenarios.....	18
Context	18
Walk-through	18
Extending external build services.....	19
Scenarios.....	19
Context	19
Walk-through	19

Extending Build services for the TFS on Azure IaaS environments

Introduction

This addendum is a supplement for the main TFS on Azure IaaS guide, which delivers practical and scenario based guidance for the implementation of Team Foundation Server (TFS) on Azure IaaS.

Context

In this supplement, we touch on build service automation and extending the build services **1** in the on-premises domain, **2** the Azure hosted domain and from **3** outside both domains as shown below.

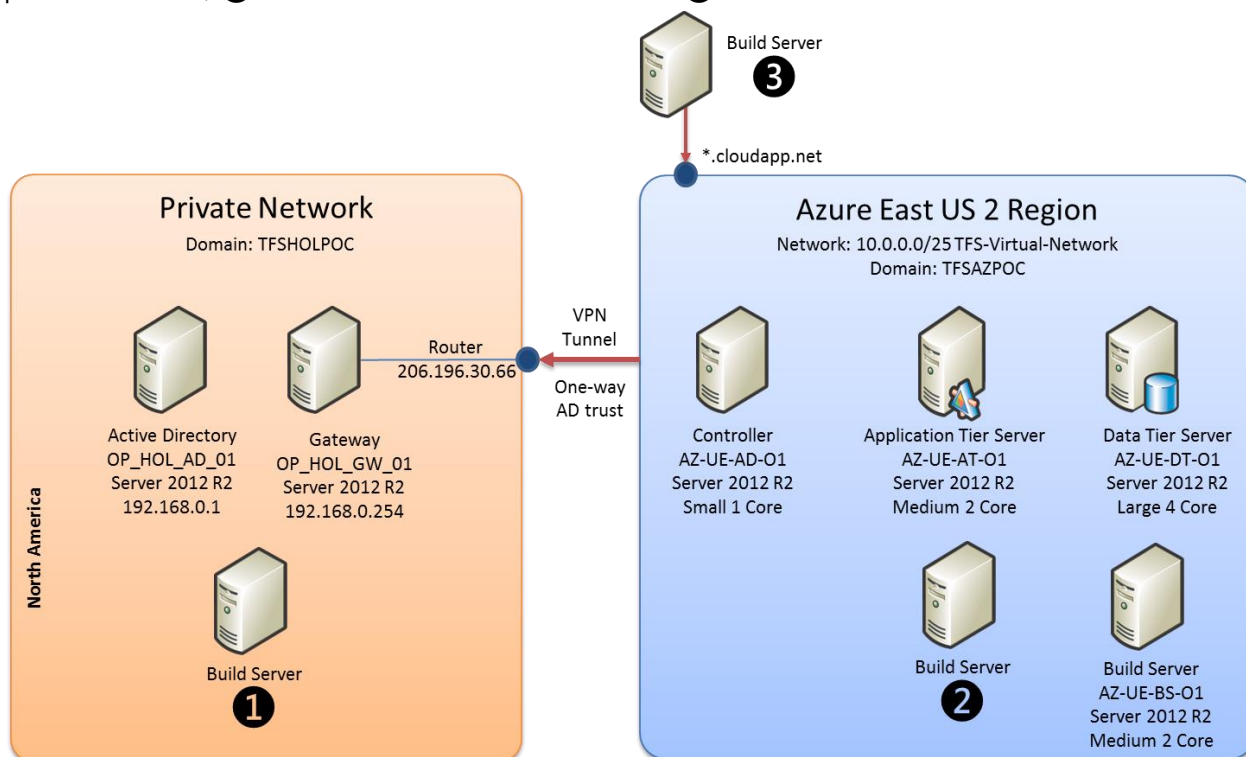


Figure 1 - Extending Build services for the TFS on Azure IaaS environments

NOTE

Use this supplement in conjunction with its companion guides "TFS Planning Guide" and TFS on Azure IaaS".

What you'll need

- Windows Azure proof of concept instance as introduced in the main guide

Visual Studio ALM Rangers

The Visual Studio ALM Rangers provide professional guidance, practical experience, and gap-filling solutions to the ALM community. They are a special group with members from the Visual Studio Product group, Microsoft Services, Microsoft Most Valuable Professionals (MVP), and Visual Studio Community Leads. Membership information is available [online](#)¹.

Additional ALM Rangers Resources

Understanding the ALM Rangers – <http://aka.ms/vsarunderstand>

Visual Studio ALM Ranger Solutions – <http://aka.ms/vsarsolutions>

Scenarios for expanding Build capacity

The Team Foundation Server Build architecture exists of two important components:

- Build Controllers
- Build Agents

A Build Controller is dedicated to a Team Project Collection in Team Foundation Server. Build Controllers orchestrate the builds and dispatch build requests to the Build Agents associated with the controller. The Build Controller is responsible for reporting the status of your build and doing lightweight tasks like determining the builds' name, creating labels in version control, and logging notes.

A Build Controller can only be dedicated to a **single Team Project Collection**, meaning that if you start adding Team Project Collections to your TFS environment, you also need to add additional Build Controllers. Build Controllers are memory intensive but do not require much CPU or hard disk resources. If you have many builds to manage for a single Team Project Collection, you can start adding additional controllers to even the load.

Since the Build Controller distributes resource-intensive work to the Build Agents, this is the place to look if you want to perform more parallel builds or increase overall build performance.

By default, the Team Foundation Server installation wizard configures two build agents on a single machine. This means that those two agents need to share the CPU and memory, both of which process intensive when executing builds.

You can speed up your builds by **scaling-up** or **scaling-out**.

When scaling up, you increase the number of agents running on a single machine. This also means that you need to monitor the CPU and memory load carefully and add additional resources when the Agents do not have enough resources to run builds.

Scaling out involves adding additional machines that each runs its own set of Build Agents. This gives you a more flexible Build environment but also requires extra maintenance since you have more machines.

Off course, you are not limited to one of these scenarios. You can even create a build farm that has sets of controllers and agents all with their own resources and specific goals. Maybe you have a group of agents that run continuous integrations builds that should finish as fast possible. Another group of agents runs scheduled builds that run on a daily or weekly basis to run all possible test scenarios. As long as these builds finish in a couple of hours, they do not need extra resources.

There is one other way that you can use to distribute the load across your agents. By using tags, you can assign keywords to specific agents and then match your builds against those tags. Maybe you have a machine that's specifically configured for building Windows Store apps or some other specific application type like an x86 or x64 machine. The tags you use will of course depend on your specific requirements but it is good to keep them in mind while planning your build farm.

Environment Automation

Running Azure VMs 24x7x365 is feasible, but not cost effective. At the time of writing this guidance, we are investigating the ALM Community solution “idea” TfsPennyPincher and the [Microsoft Azure Automation](#) ² made available on the [Microsoft Azure](#) ³ cloud platform. The latter an orchestration feature set similar to what the [Service Management Automation \(SMA\)](#) ⁴ engine provides for on-premises private cloud resources via the [Windows Azure Pack](#) ⁵ and [System Center 2012 R2 Orchestrator](#) ⁶.

WARNING

This section is “WORK IN PROGRESS” and we will update as we gather feedback from our real-world proof-of-concept (POC) environments.

Useful information to peruse:

- [Step-by-Step: Getting Started with NEW Microsoft Azure Automation preview feature](#) ⁷
- [Azure Automation – Reducing Cost](#) ⁸
- [Start Windows Azure Virtual Machines on a Schedule](#) ⁹

² <http://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/documentation/services/automation/>

³ <http://aka.ms/MicrosoftAzureFreeTrial>

⁴ <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dn469258.aspx>

⁵ <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/server-cloud/products/windows-azure-pack/default.aspx>

⁶ <http://aka.ms/dlscsuite2012>

⁷ <http://blogs.technet.com/b/keithmayer/archive/2014/04/04/step-by-step-getting-started-with-windows-azure-automation.aspx>

⁸ <http://weblogs.asp.net/sfeldman/azure-automation-reducing-cost>

⁹ <http://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/scriptcenter/Start-Windows-Azure-b6c179b6>

Extending on-premises build services

Scenarios

You would extend the build servers in your on-premises domain if you need:

- To perform builds for on-premises teams, who may not use or have access to the Azure resources.

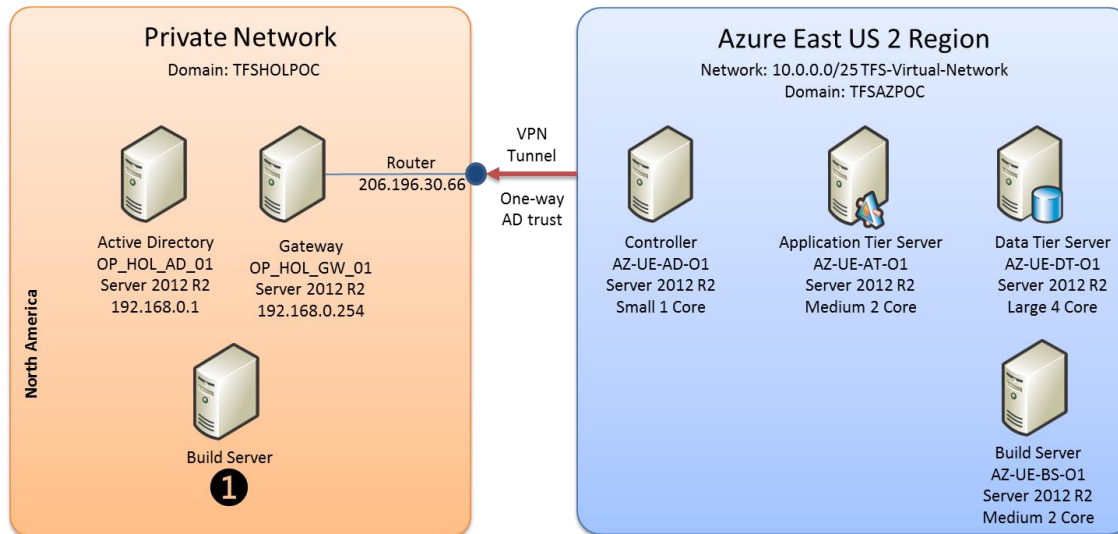


Figure 2 - Extending on-premises build services for the TFS on Azure IaaS environment

Context

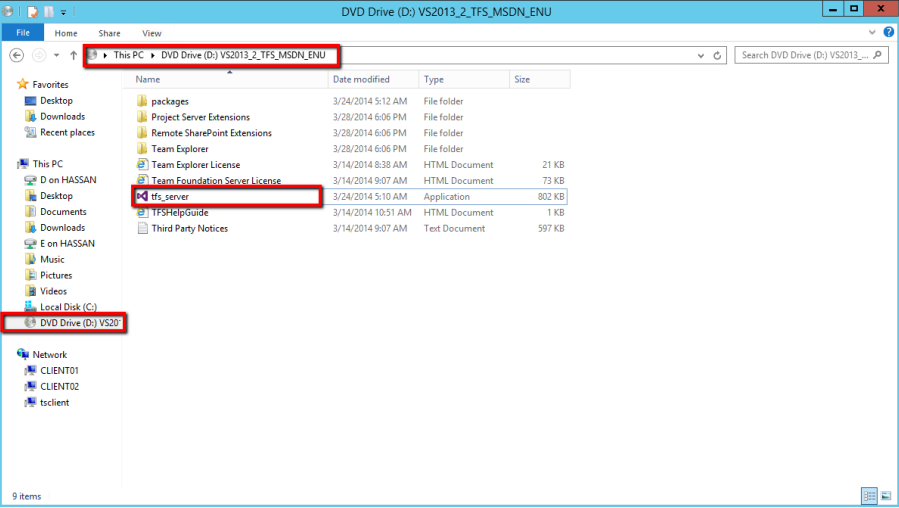
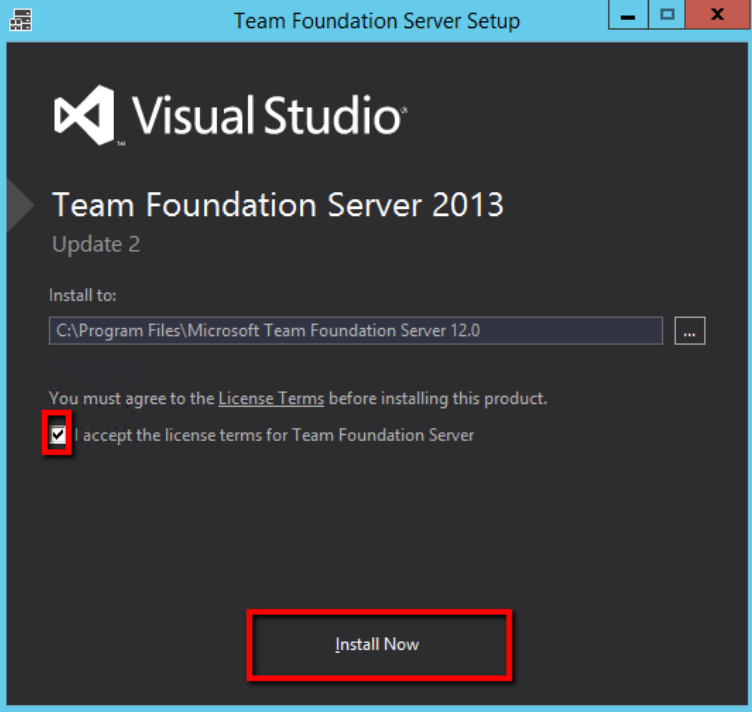
To be able to install and execute a Build against Team Foundation Server (TFS) on Azure IaaS, you will need the Build Server installation from TFS, the URL to your TFS team project collection, and the credentials for a user with "Edit collection-level information" permissions. The Project Collection Build Administrators group permissions enable this permission. In addition, TFS must be able to make a TCP connection to port 9191 on the build server, so make sure your firewall configured to accept this connection.

Summary of steps

Perform the following steps to get a Build Server (on-premises) up and running against Team Foundation Service in Azure IaaS Environment.

- Open port 9191.
 - Install the Build Server installation from the TFS media or mount the ISO to local DVD device.
 - Register Build Controller with TFS.
 - Configure a build template.
 - Create a "secure share" to use when accessing build.
- Validate the build environment.

Walk-through

Step	Instructions
<p>1</p> <p>Download software</p> <p>☐ - Done</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Download the TFS software and place on a local server as shown below. 
<p>2</p> <p>Install build software</p> <p>☐ - Done</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Install Team Foundation Server.Use the Build wizard. <p>See Set up Team Foundation Build Service¹⁰ for details</p> 

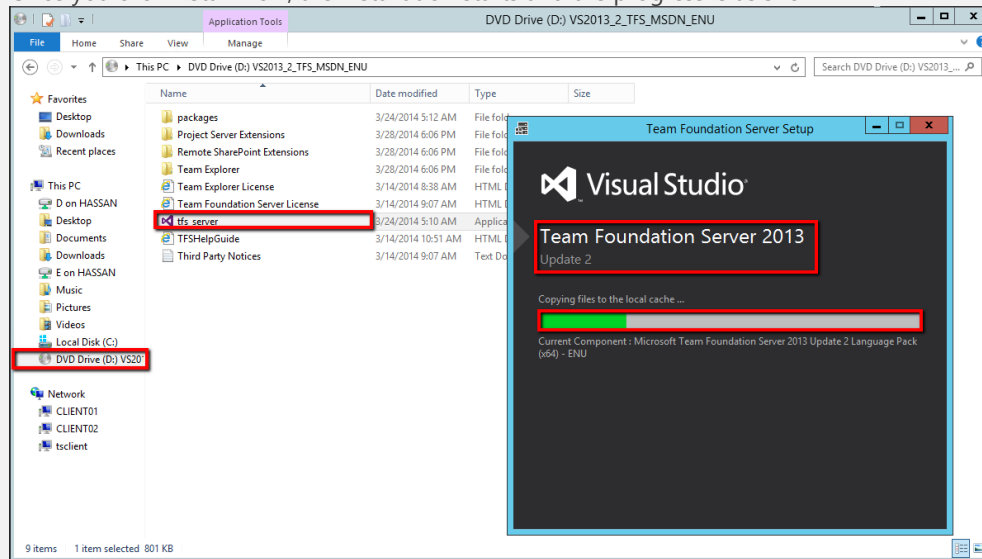
¹⁰ <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms181712.aspx>

TFS on Azure IaaS Supplement – Extending on-premises build services

Step

Instructions

- Once you click Install Now, the installation starts and the progress is as shown

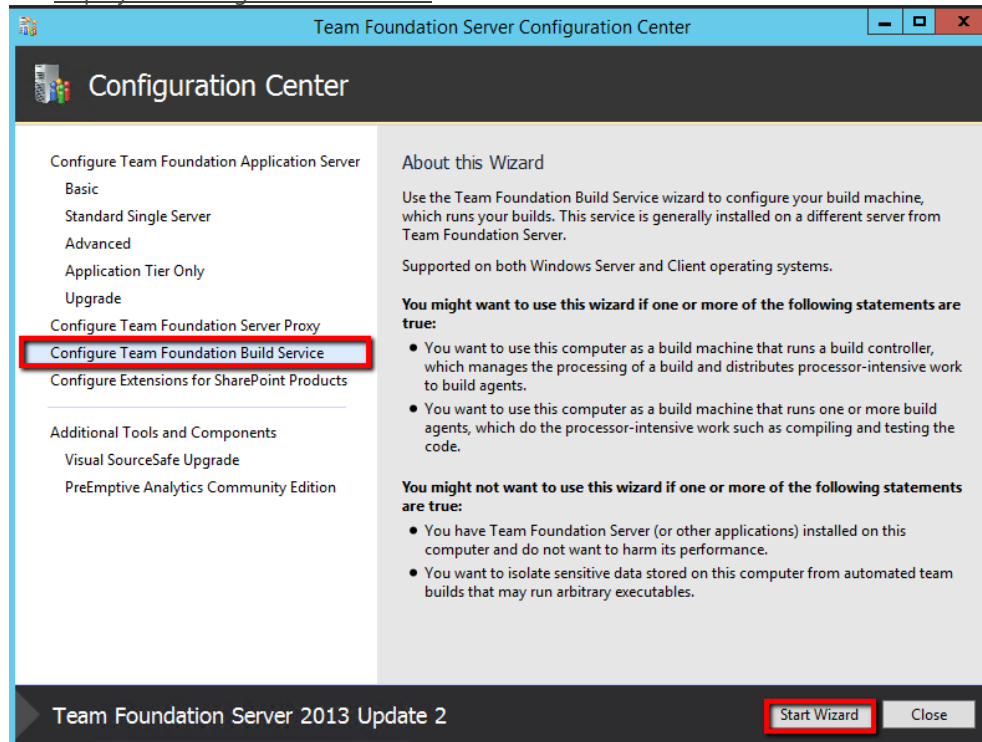


NOTE

Be sure to copy the installation media on the local disc or mount the ISO to a DVD Drive on the local machine to speed up the installation process.

3
Configure
build
software
- Done

- Configure Team Foundation Server.
- Use the **Build** wizard.
See [Deploy and configure a build server](#)¹¹ for details.



¹¹ <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd631902.aspx>

- Participate in the feedback program so that we can reflect and improve:

Team Foundation Build Service Configuration

Build Service Configuration Wizard

Welcome

Team Project Collection ⚠

Review

- Readiness Checks
- Configure
- Complete

Welcome to the Build Service Configuration Wizard

You have installed Team Foundation components that must be configured for operation. Use this wizard to configure Team Foundation Build Service.

You should use the recommended settings in this wizard. You can change any setting configured in this wizard by using the Team Foundation Administration Console, which includes more advanced settings.

Help Improve Team Foundation Server

Help improve setup by submitting information about your Team Foundation Server configuration experience to Microsoft. This data will not be used to personally identify you. If you would prefer not to share this information, select the applicable option below.

☒ Yes, I want to participate.

☐ No, I do not want to participate.

For more information, click [Privacy Statement](#).

Team Foundation Server 2013 Update 2

Previous **Next** Review Cancel

- Select **Servers** to configure the TFS on Azure IaaS TFS server **AZ-UE-AT-O1.coudapp.net**.

NOTE

We have a one-way trust in our proof-of-concept (POC) environment as outlined in the main guide. Accessing services therefore requires the complete URL, including the cloudapp.net qualifier.

- Specify the *TFSBuild* credentials for the **NEW USER NAME** for the build server. Remember to reference your credential cheat sheets, as outlined in the main guide, for the information.

Team Foundation Build Service Configuration

Build Service Configuration Wizard

Connect to Team Project Collection

Select a Team Foundation Server:

Team Project Collections:

Select a Team Foundation Server to view Team Project Collections

Servers...

Add/Remove Team Foundation Server

Team Foundation Server list:

Add Team Foundation Server

Name or URL of Team Foundation Server: AZ-UE-AT-O1.coudapp.net

Path: tfs

Port number: 8080

Protocol: ☒ HTTP ☐ HTTPS

Preview: http://az-ue-at-o1.coudapp.net:8080/tfs

OK

Windows Security

Connecting to az-ue-at-o1.coudapp.net

Please provide credentials to connect to Team Foundation Server.

TFSBuild

Domain: TFSHOLPOC

Remember my credentials

OK

TFS on Azure IaaS Supplement – Extending on-premises build services

- Select the appropriate team project collection. In this example, we select the *DefaultCollection*.

Team Foundation Server list:

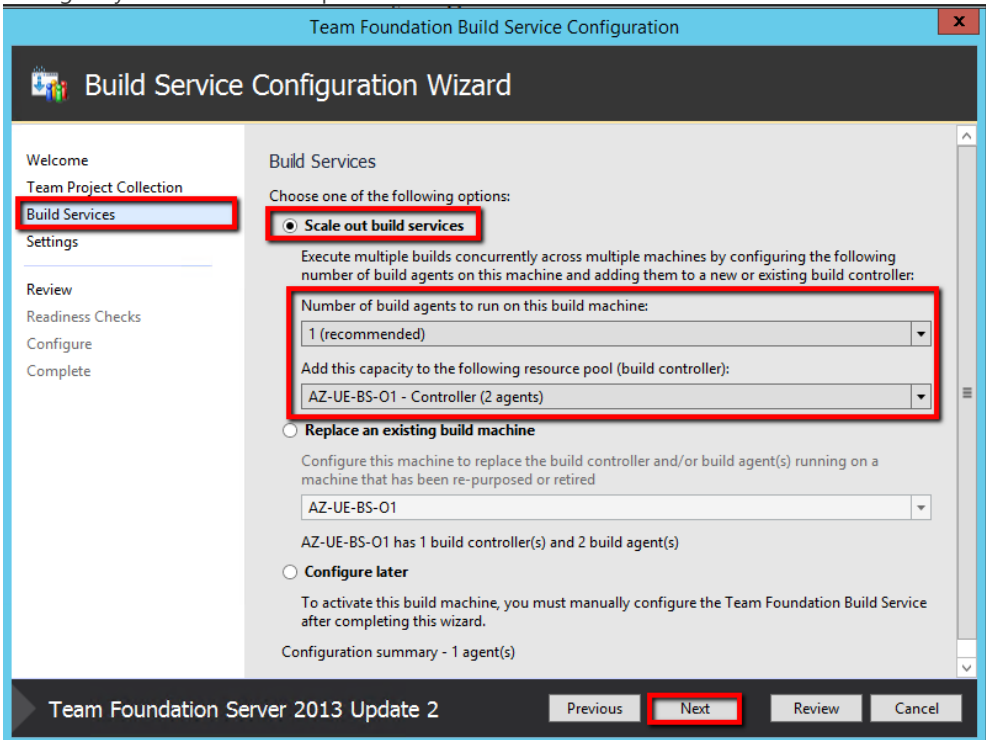
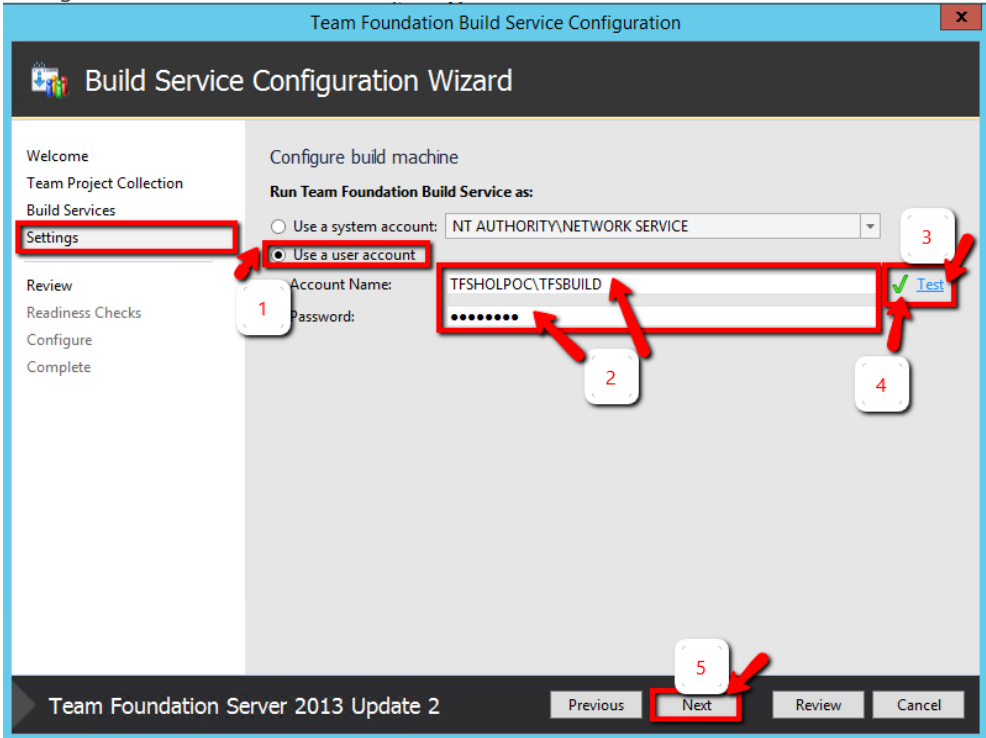
Name	URL
az-ue-at-o1.cloudapp.net	http://az-ue-at-o1.cloudapp.net:8080/tfs

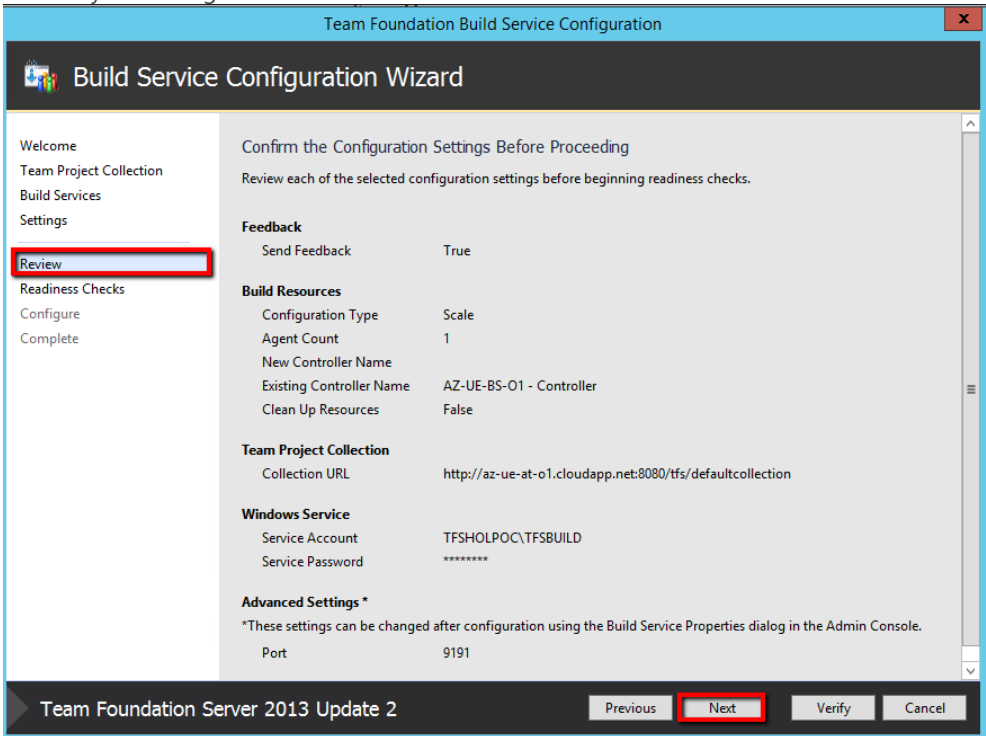
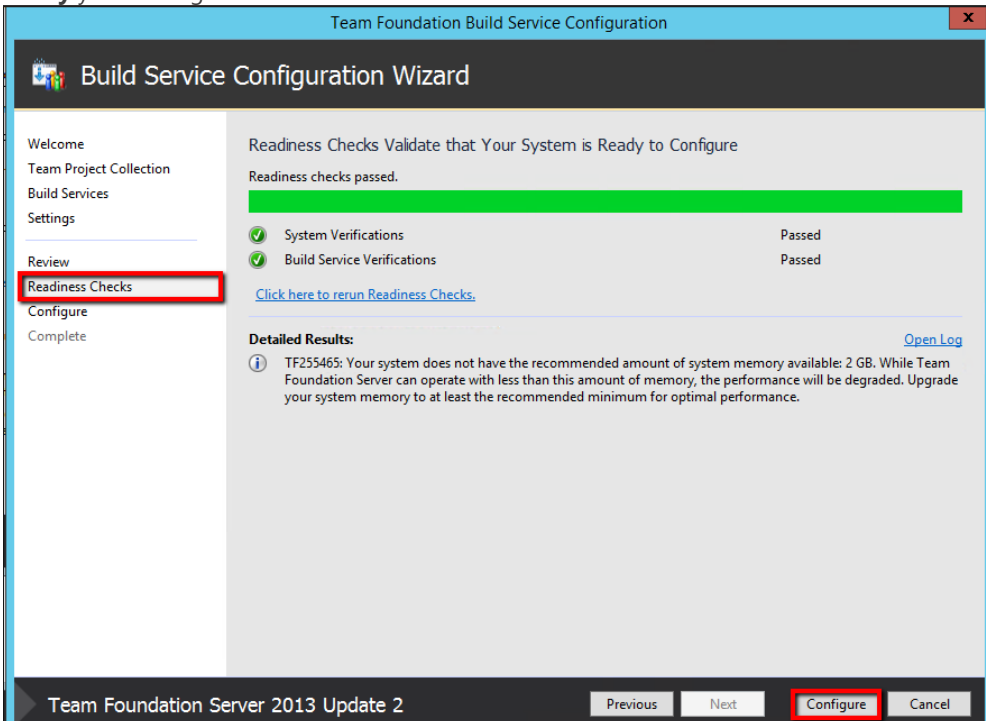
Add...

Remove

Close

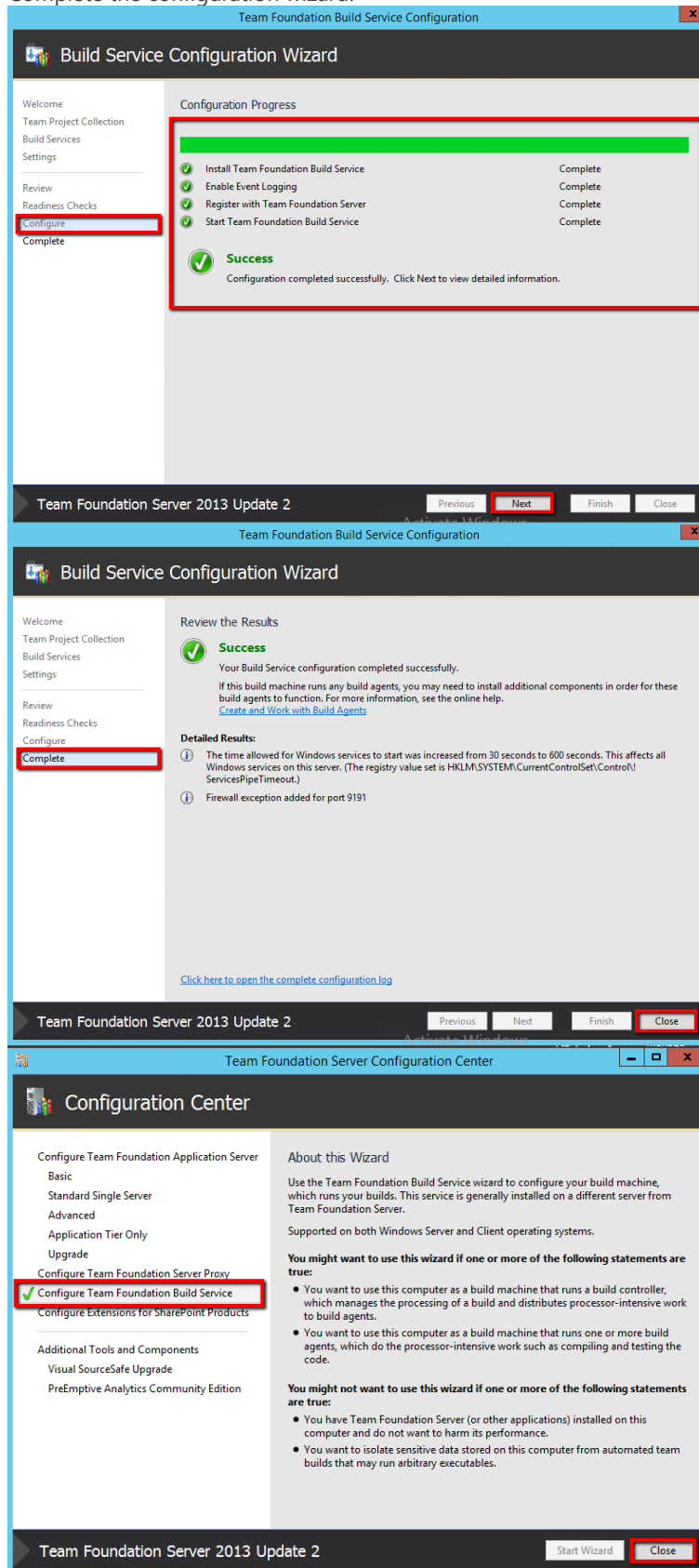
Step	Instructions
	<div><h3>Connect to Team Project Collection</h3><p>Select a Team Foundation Server:</p><p><input type="text" value="az-ue-at-o1.cloudapp.net"/> Servers...</p><p>Team Project Collections:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="radio"/> DefaultCollection<input type="radio"/> TPC01_OH<input type="radio"/> vsarSAFe<p>TFSAdmin <input type="button" value="Connect"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/></p></div> <div><h3>Team Foundation Build Service Configuration</h3><h4>Build Service Configuration Wizard</h4><div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Welcome<input checked="" type="radio"/> Team Project CollectionBuild ServicesSettingsReviewReadiness ChecksConfigureComplete</div><div><p>Select a Team Project Collection</p><p>You must specify the team project collection that this build machine will serve.</p><p>Which team project collection are you configuring build services for?</p><p><input type="text" value="http://az-ue-at-o1.cloudapp.net:8080/tfs/defaultcollection"/> Browse...</p><p>'DefaultCollection' - Build Services:</p><p>Found 1 build controller(s) and 2 build agent(s) running on 1 machine(s).</p></div></div><div><p>Team Foundation Server 2013 Update 2</p><p><input type="button" value="Previous"/> <input checked="" type="button" value="Next"/> <input type="button" value="Review"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/></p></div></div>

Step	Instructions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Configure your build service options:  Configure and validate the build machine: 

Step	Instructions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review your settings:  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verify your settings: 

TFS on Azure IaaS Supplement – Extending on-premises build services

- Complete the configuration wizard:



TFS on Azure IaaS Supplement – Extending on-premises build services

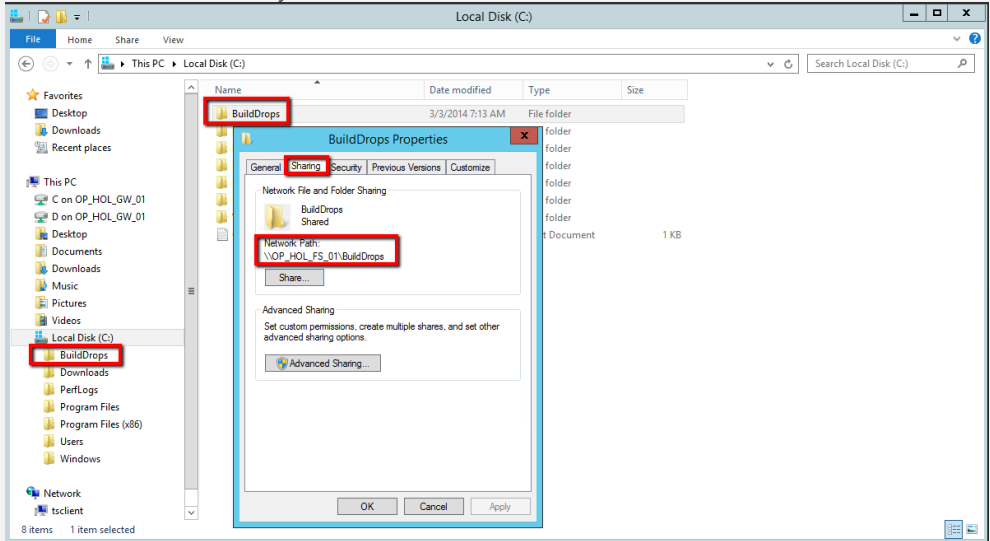
Step	Instructions
<p>4</p> <p>Create Drop Share</p> <p>☐ - Done</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a file share for the build drops. Path must be accessible by the Build Service account. 
<p>5</p> <p>Validate</p> <p>☐ - Done</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a test build to validate the installation, configuration, and connectivity.

Table 1 – Walk-through: Extending on-premises build services for the TFS on Azure IaaS environment

Extending TFS on Azure IaaS build services

Scenarios

You would typically extend the build servers in the TFS on Azure IaaS environment if you need:

- Additional build agent capacity or specialization for a team project collection in a region.
- A new build controller and agent to target a different team project collection in a region.
- To perform regional builds to avoid expensive sharing of build outputs between regions.

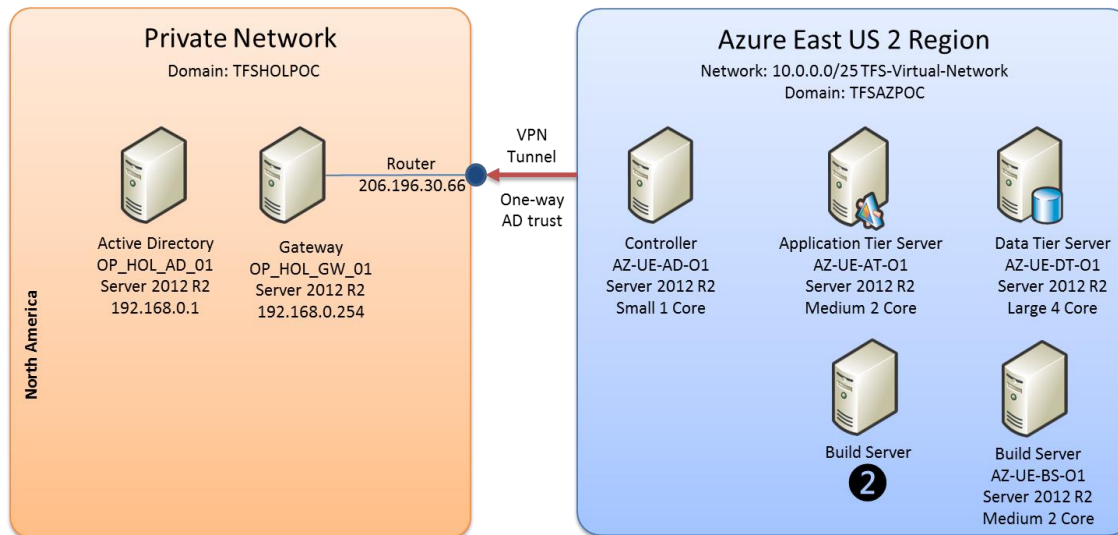


Figure 3 - Extending TFS on Azure IaaS build services

Context

Automating the startup, shutdown and minimizing operational VM times becomes important in this scenario to reduce operational costs.

Walk-through

Please refer to **Build Server (BS) Walkthrough** in the main **TFS on Azure IaaS Guide** the installation and configuration steps.

Extending external build services

Scenarios

You would typically extend the build servers in a Workgroup outside the TFS Domain if you need to perform:

- Builds in geographically distributed environments, for example home office.
- Builds at external partner sites, who may not have access to the Azure resources.

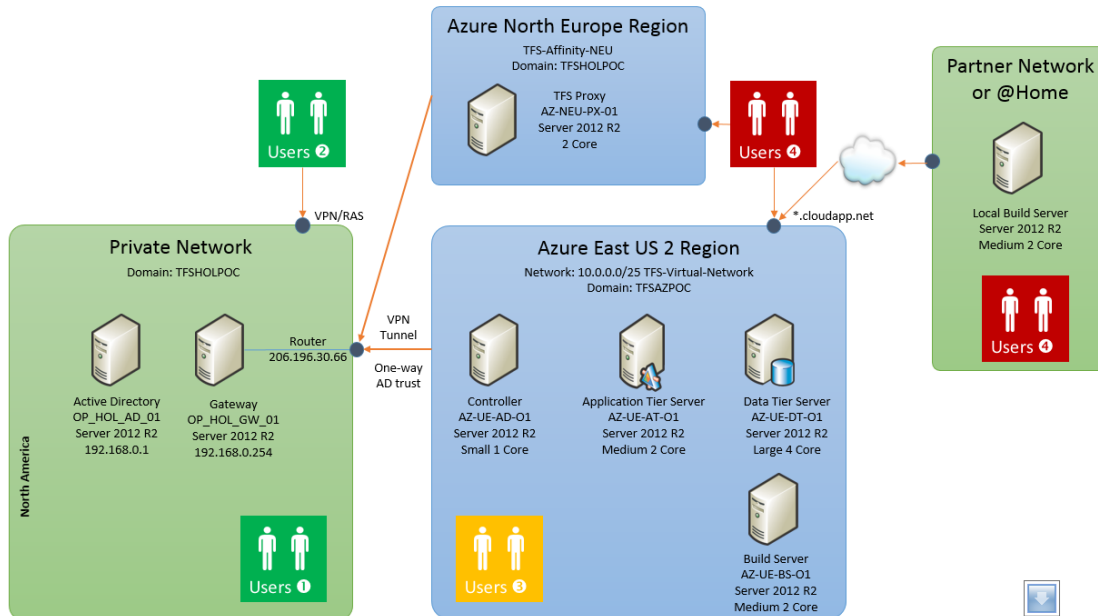


Figure 4 - Extending external build services

Context

Installing TFS Build in a Workgroup outside the TFS Domain is necessary in some cases, e.g. when there are external partners involved and these developers might need an own TFS Build environment in their team location. This is a challenge because within a Workgroup the *Visual Studio Team Foundation Build Host Service 2013* cannot run under a domain services account. In this case, a workaround called Shadow Account is the solution.

Shadow Account means to create a local account as a service account (e.g. *localTFSBuild*) on the TFS Build machine and the same account as local account on the Visual Studio Team Foundation Server Application Tier.

NOTE

In the Shadow Account solution it is IMPORTANT that both local accounts have the same name and the same password. Otherwise the authentication from the *Visual Studio Team Foundation Build Host Service 2013* to the TFS will not work.

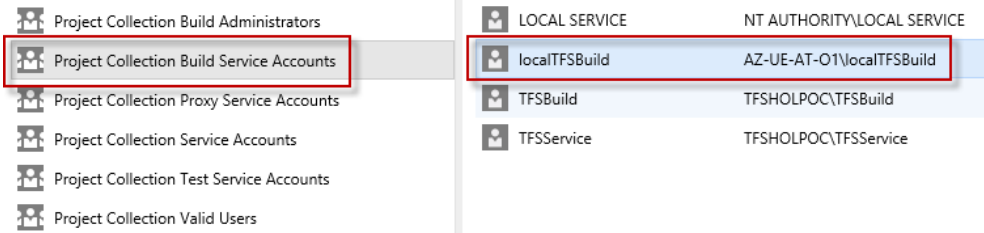
Walk-through

Build Server Walkthrough

NOTE

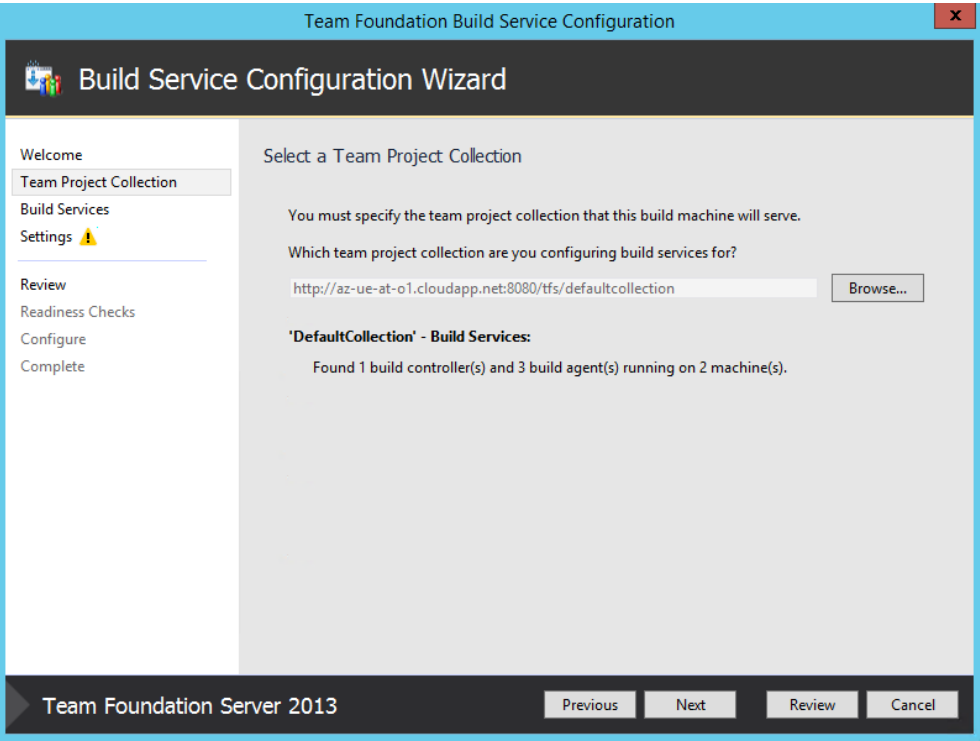
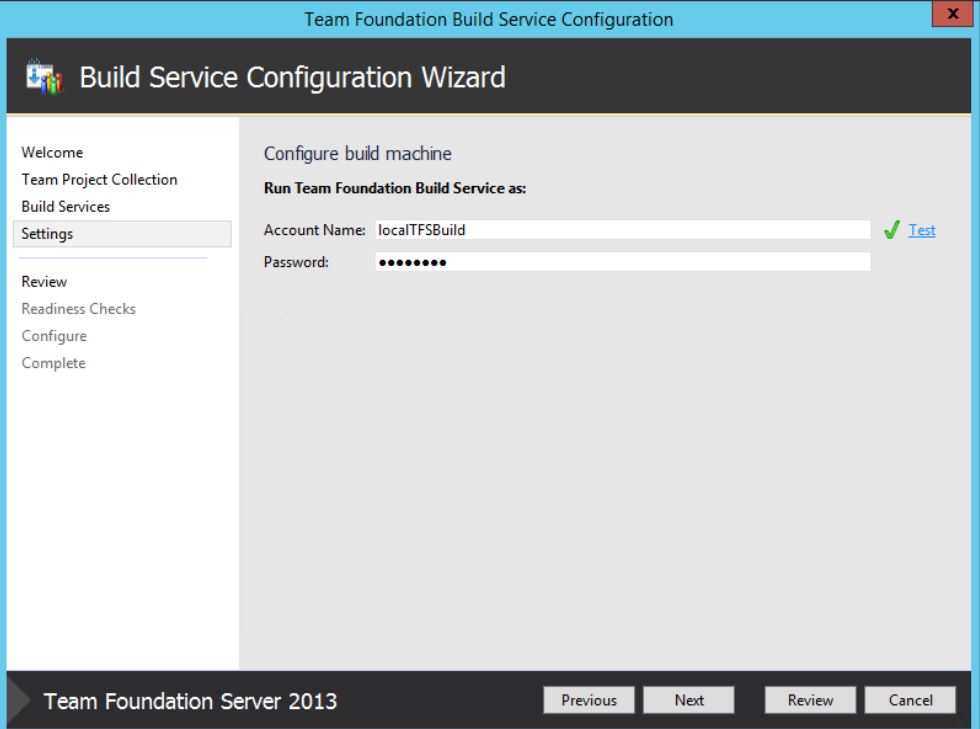
In some cases it makes sense to have a separate Build Server dedicated to a specific developer team outside of the organisation (e.g. a partner is involved or an external developer team). This Build Server is not located in Azure or on premise as a domain joined server.

This walkthrough shows how to setup a Build Server as a workgroup machine and connected to the TFS in Azure.

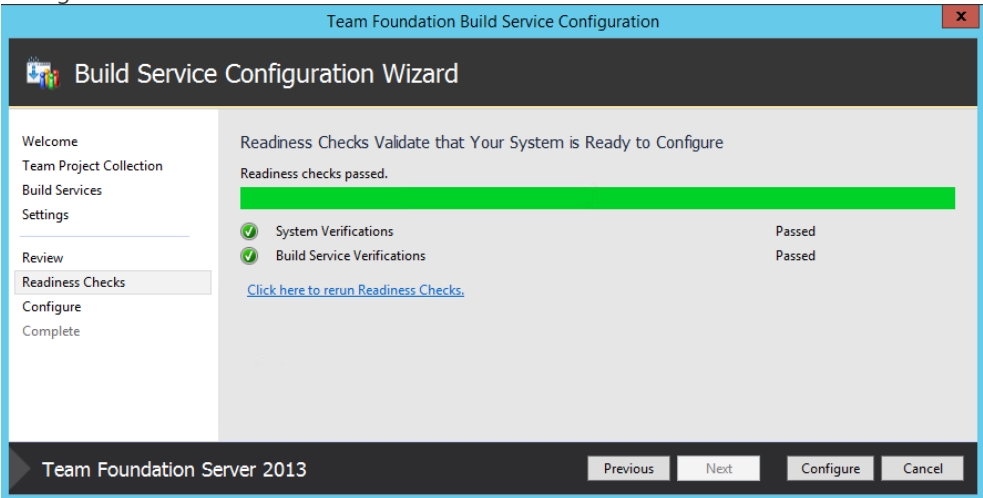
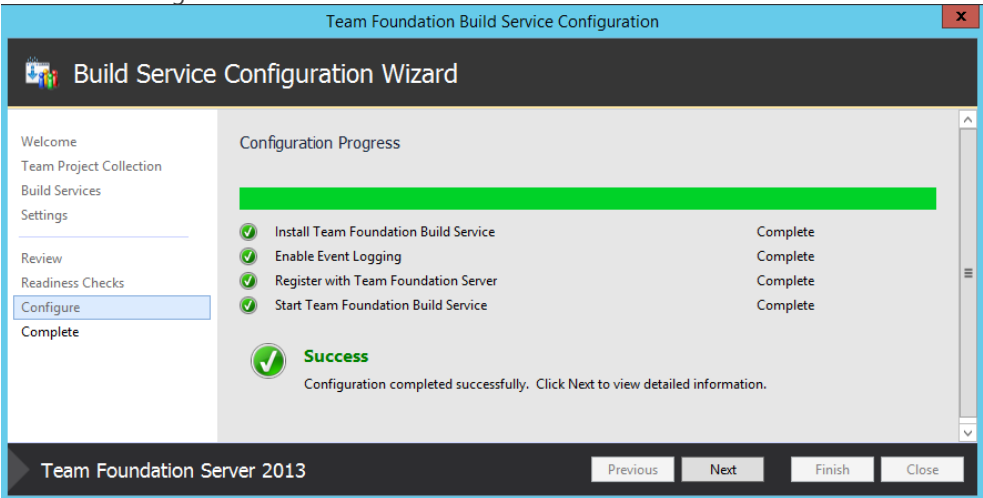
Step	Instructions
1 Create VM ☐ - Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setup a Build Server machine as a workgroup machine (not domain joined). The Build Server can be a physical or virtual machine. Install a supported OS of your choice - see Team Foundation Server install guide¹² for details -.
2 Create local service accounts ☐ - Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a local account localTFSBuild on the Build Server. Create the same local account localTFSBuild with the same password as shadow account on the TFS AT Server AZ-UE-AT-O1.cloudapp.net.
3 Provide shadow account access to target TPC ☐ - Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect to the security website of the <i>Team Project Collection</i> (e.g. <i>DefaultCollection</i>) you want to connect the TFS Build Server with: http://az-ue-at-o1.cloudapp.net:8080/tfs/DefaultCollection/_admin/_security/#a=members Add the local shadow account AZ-UE-AT-O1\localTFSBuild on the TFS to the TFS-Group Project Collection Build Service Accounts:  <p>The screenshot shows a list of service accounts on the left and a detailed view of the 'localTFSBuild' account on the right. The account name 'localTFSBuild' and its domain 'AZ-UE-AT-O1\localTFSBuild' are highlighted with a red box.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By adding the shadow account to this TFS-Group, the Visual Studio Team Foundation Build Host Service 2013 will be able to connect and access the target Team Project Collection.
4 Optional PING test ☐ - Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once logged on, ping the Azure POC domain controller by IP and FQDN.
5 Disable IE Enhanced Security ☐ - Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Server OS only: Select Server Manager, Local Server, and disable the Internet Explorer Enhanced Security to be able to download software from the internet.
6 Download software ☐ - Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Download the Team Foundation Server software, for example from MSDN subscriptions: MSDN TFS Family¹³

¹² <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd631902.aspx>

¹³ <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/subscriptions/securedownloads/hh442898#searchTerm=Visual%20Studio%20Team%20Foundation%20Server%202013&ProductFamilyId=0&Languages=en&PageSize=10&PageIndex=0&FieldId=0>

Step	Instructions
7 Install and configure software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install Team Foundation Build Server See Team Foundation Server install guide ¹⁴ for details. Build Service configuration wizard snippets. IMPORTANT – Use the FQDN or IP to connect with the TFS:  <p>IMPORTANT - Use the local account localTFSBuild as shadow account in this step:</p> 

¹⁴ <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd631902.aspx>

Step	Instructions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Configuration review success:  Final Build Configuration for POC: 
8 Verify Firewall ☐ - Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review TFS Default Network Settings¹⁵ and verify that the required firewall ports are open after installation.

¹⁵ <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms252473.aspx#Default>

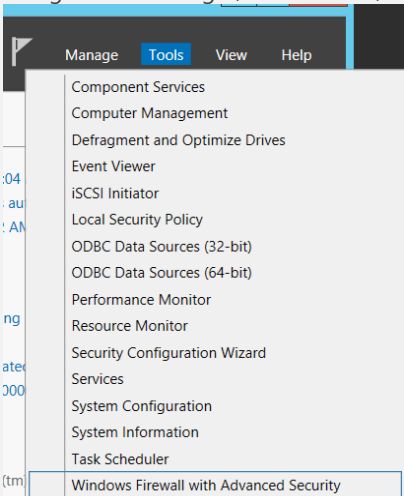

Step	Instructions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Using Server Manager, select Tools, Windows Firewall with Advanced Security Verify the inbound rules and ports 

Table 2 – Walk-through: Extending external build services