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Step by Step Installation of SQL Server 2014 on a New Failover Cluster

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Problem

We have completed the prerequisites and required pre-checks including cluster validation in this previous tip. Now we will begin the installation of SQL Server 2014 on the two node cluster and this tip will explain the steps to install SQL Server.

Solution

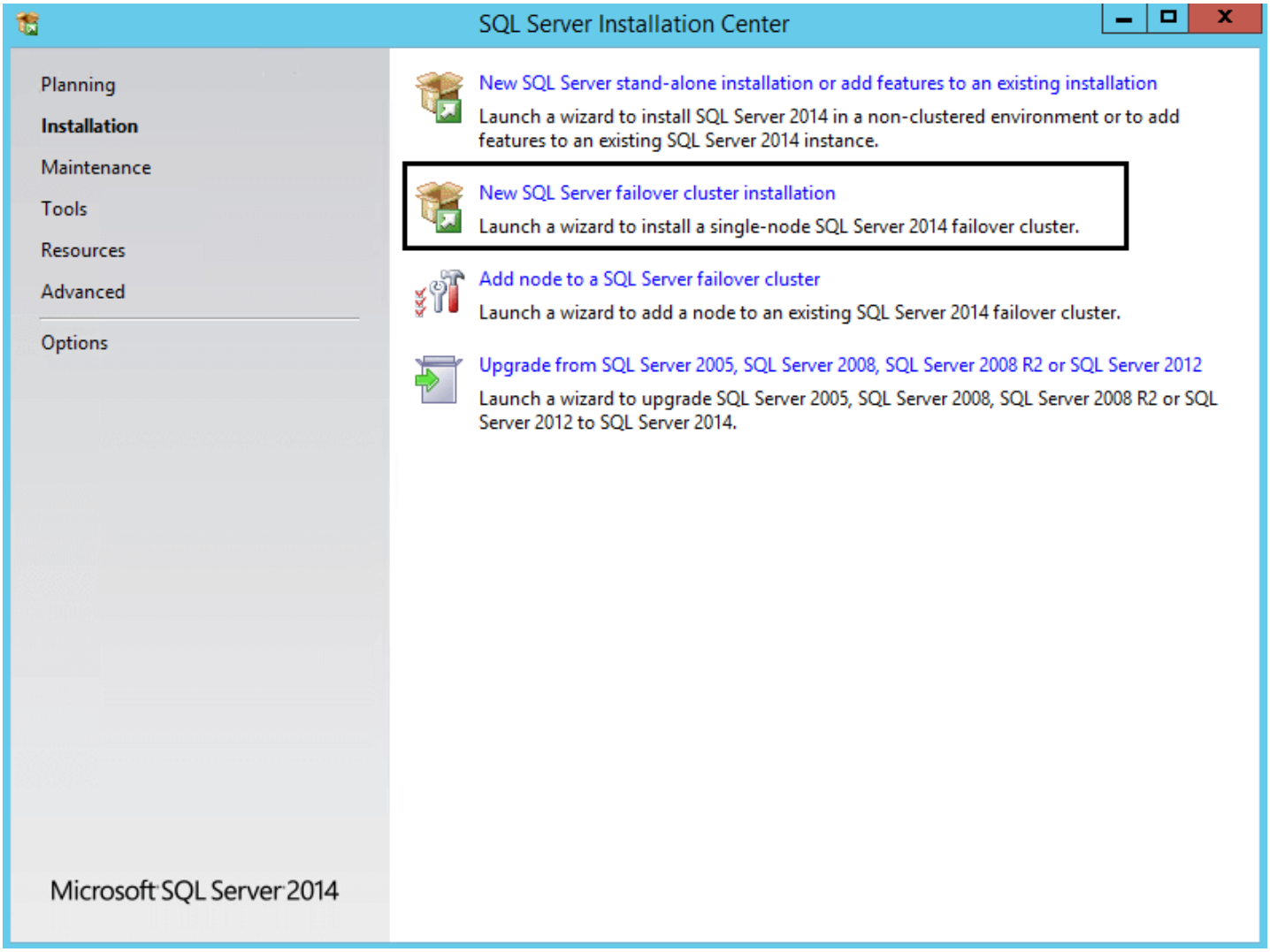
The process of SQL Server cluster installation involves two stages, one is to install SQL Server on one node and once this installation is successful then you need to install SQL Server on the other nodes of the cluster by launching the SQL Server setup on the other nodes.

For our example, we have a two node cluster based on the Windows Server 2012 R2 operating system where we will be installing SQL Server 2014. The name of the nodes are SQL-NODE1 and SQL-NODE2. We need a unique and unused IP address and SQL Server Network Name to complete this installation. We will

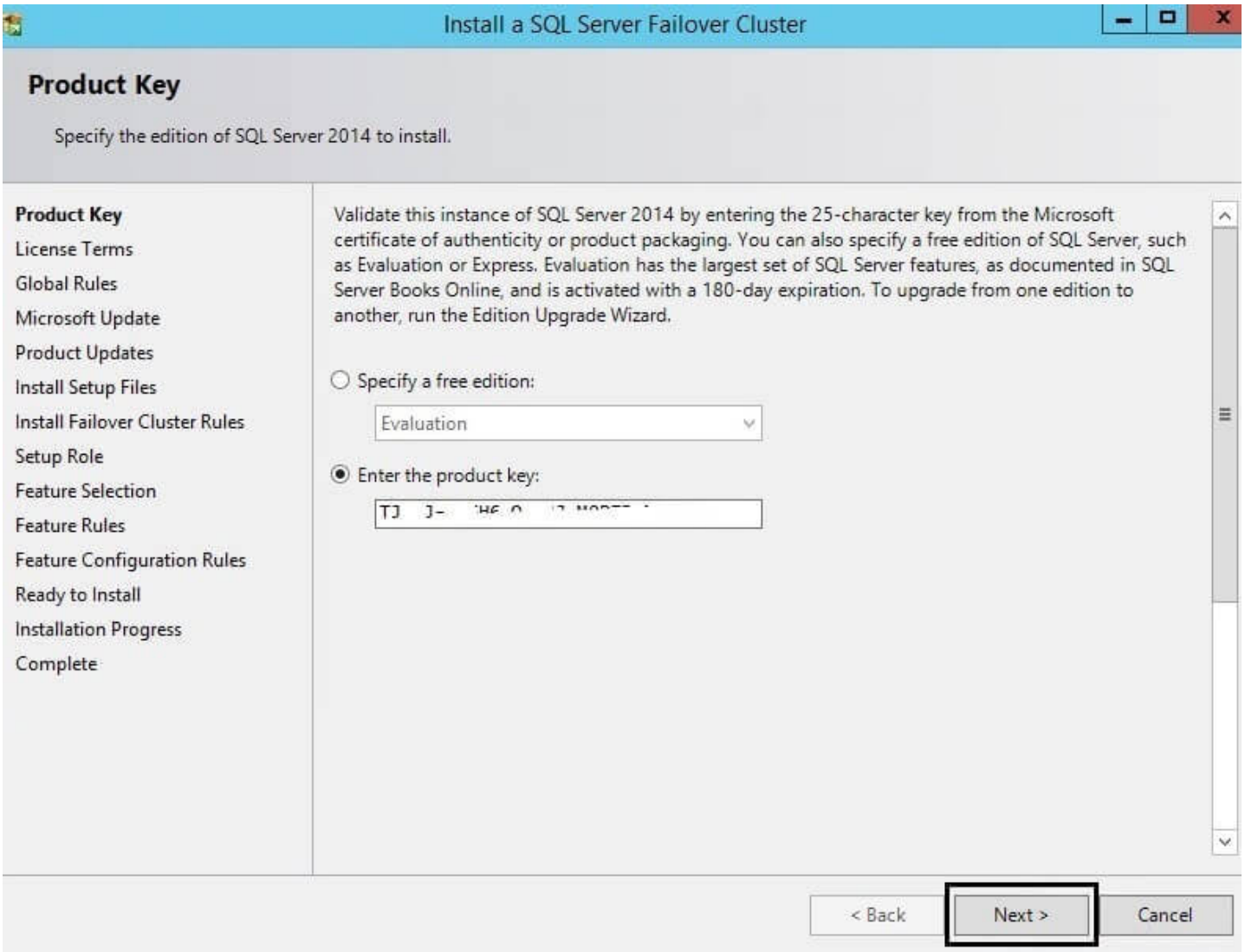
use MSSQLCLUSTER as the network name and the IP address 10.2XX.XX2.1X. (note: X represents a numeric value, I put X because I do not want to disclose my IP address due to security reasons). So let's start the SQL Server installation on node SQL-NODE1. Before we begin, make sure the cluster resources (like the shared drives) are accessible by SQL-NODE1.

SQL Server 2014 cluster Installation

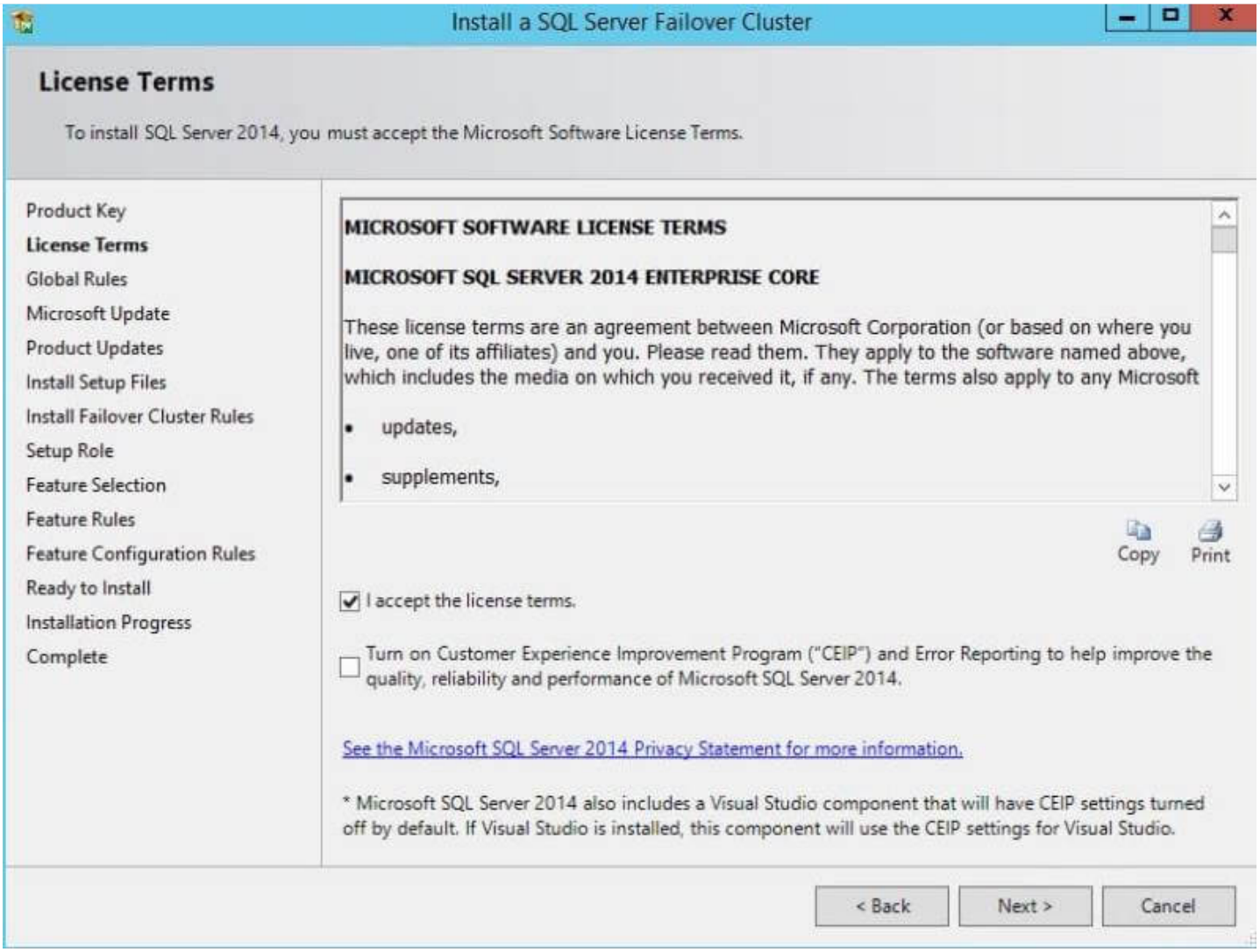
Step 1: Go to the SQL Server setup file location. Right click on setup.exe and choose "Run as administrator". The SQL Server Installation Center will appear on your screen as shown in the screenshot below. Select the "Installation" tab from the left pane and click on "New SQL Server failover cluster installation" from the right pane.



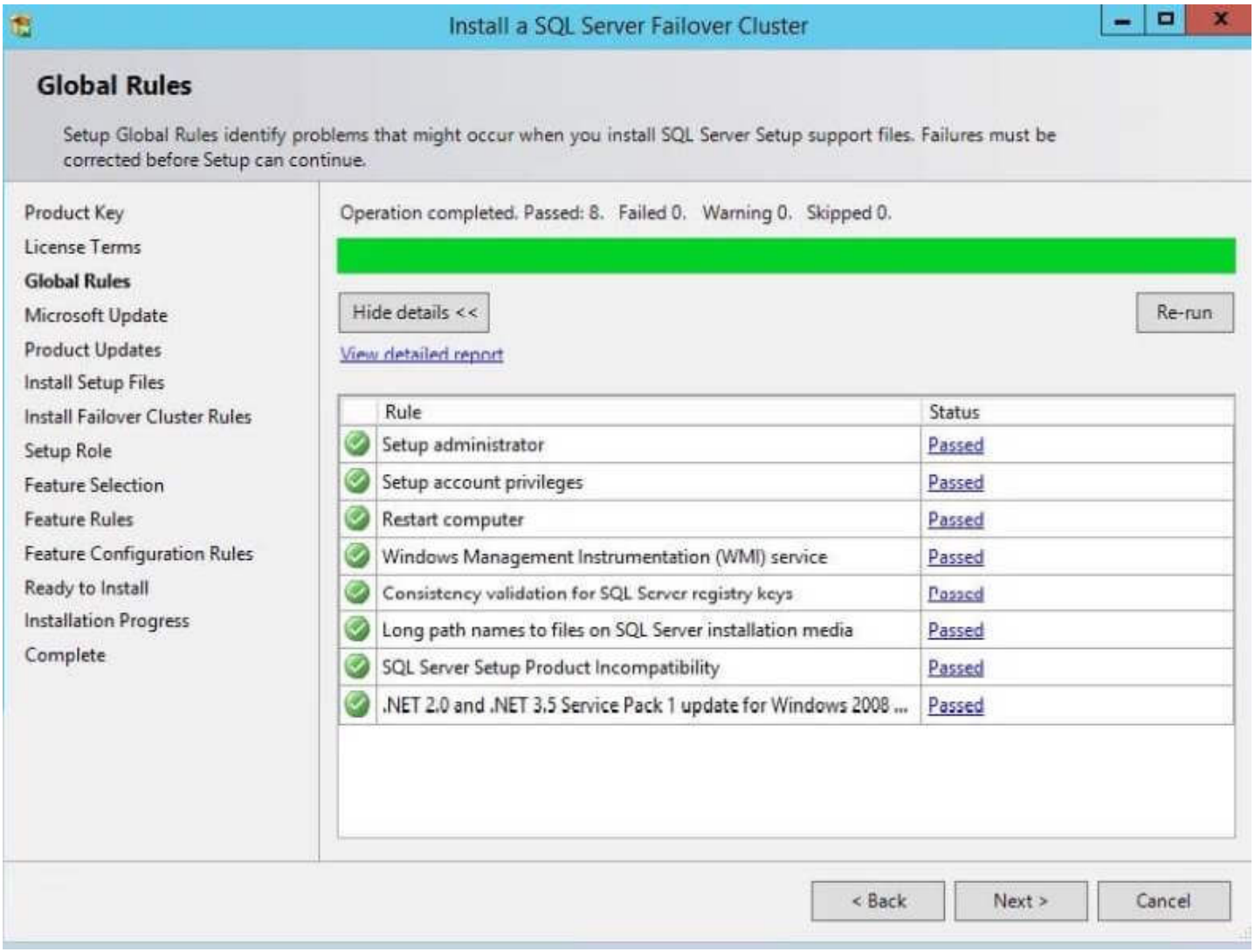
Step 2: Once you click on "New SQL Server failover cluster installation", the SQL Server installation window will appear and it will ask you to enter your product key for SQL Server. Enter the key or if it is an evaluation version choose the first option. Sometimes the product key option will be grayed out, so in that case you can just click the Next button.



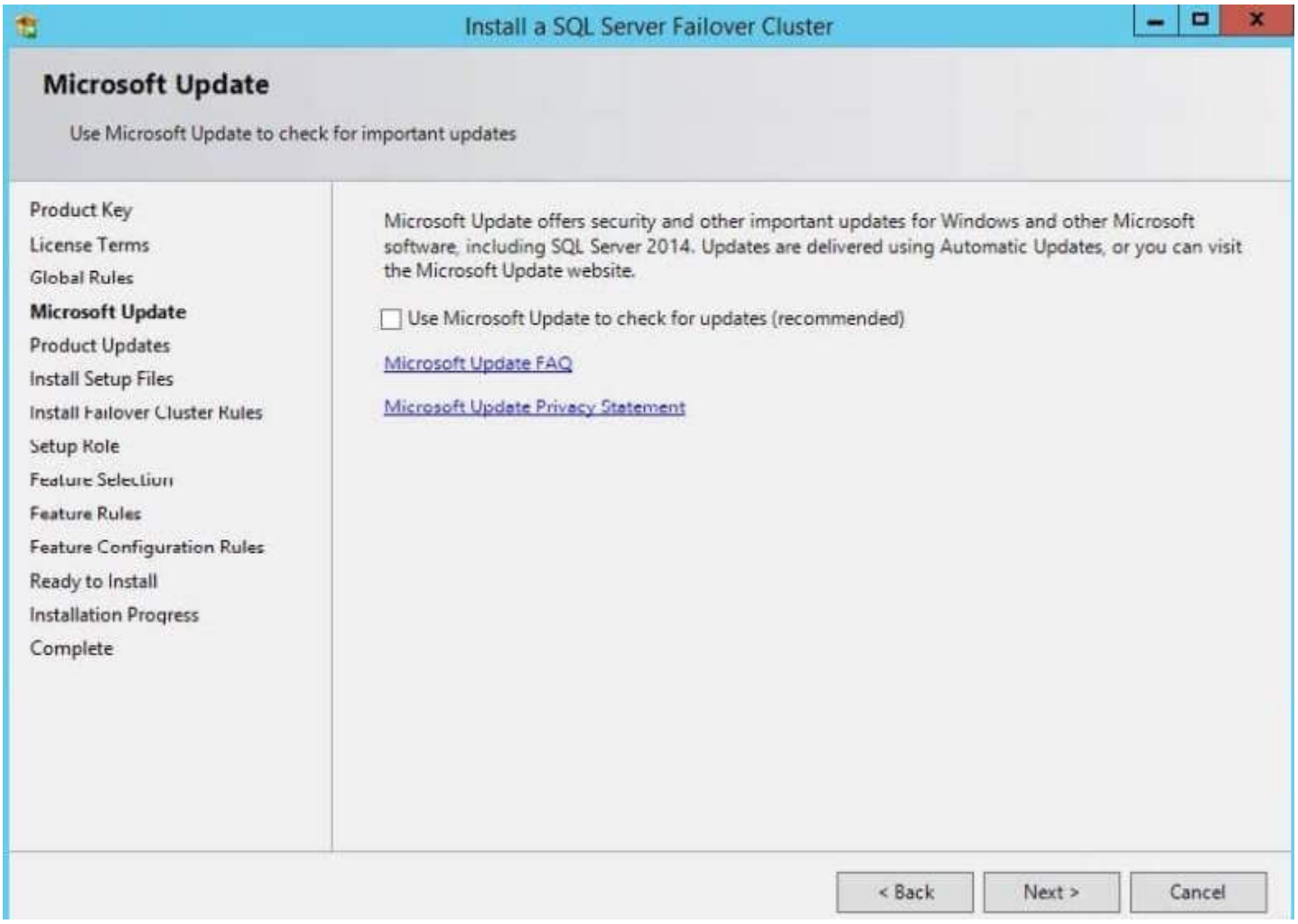
Once you click on Next, another window will load and ask you to click on the check box to accept the license terms and conditions for the SQL Server product. Click on the Next button after accepting the license terms.



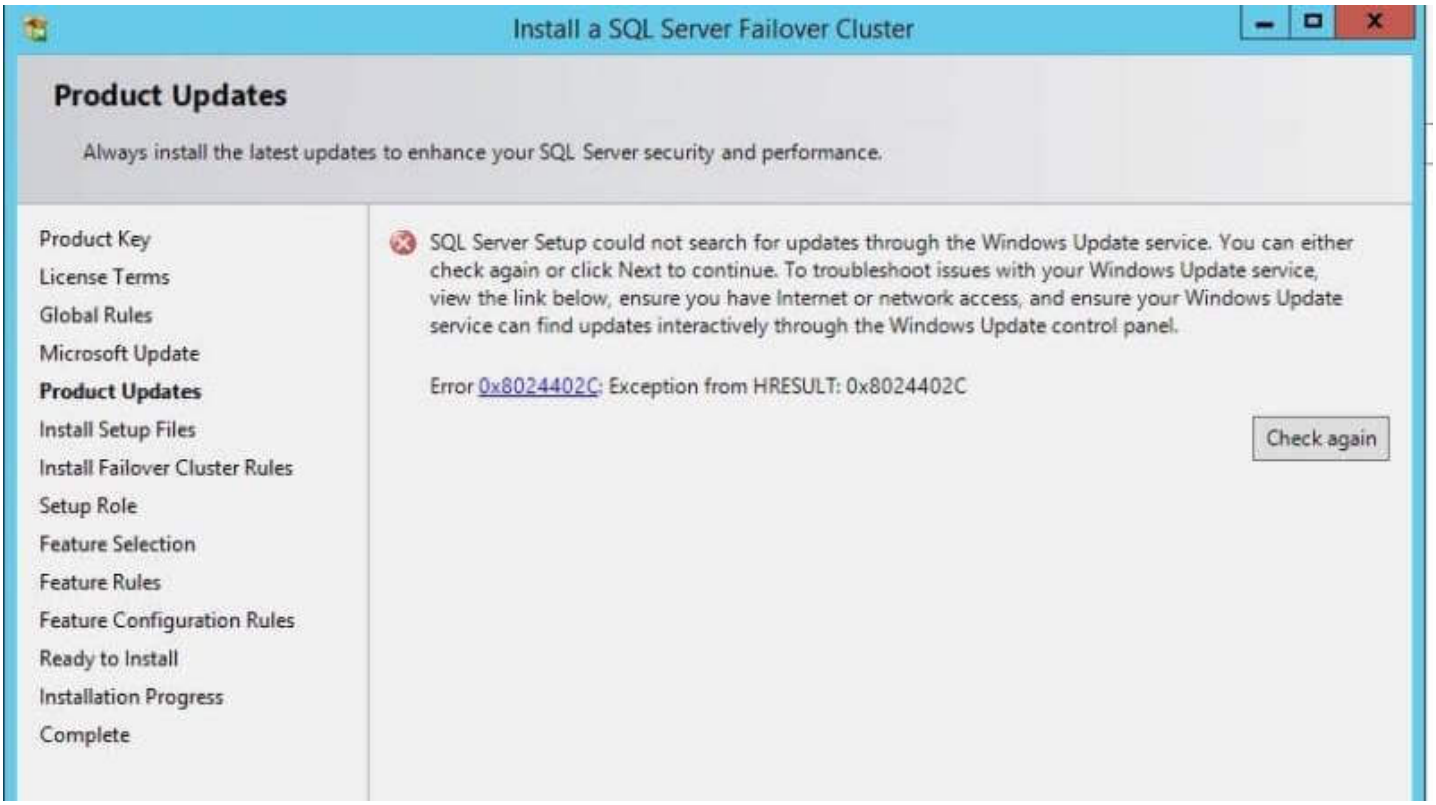
Step 3: After accepting the license terms, SQL Server will start checking the global rules and display the status of all the rules. If any rule fails, setup will not proceed further and you need to first fix the issue. You can see below the rules are successful, so click on the Next button to proceed.



Step 4: The next window will ask you to check for Microsoft Updates for Windows and SQL Server 2014. I have not checked this option, but if you want to check for updates from Microsoft you can click on the check box in the below screenshot.



Once you click on the Next button of the above screen, the Product Update window will appear. As I have not chosen Microsoft updates in last window, the error is indicating that "SQL Server could not search for updates..." as shown in the below screenshot. Click on the Next button to proceed.



Step 5: The next window will check failover cluster rules. We can see all rules have been checked with both successful and warning results. We can skip warnings at this point in time as we can fix them post installation. Click on the Next button to proceed with the installation.