Installing SentryOne for use on AWS EC2

A user guide compiled by James Holden, Technical Training Specialist, SentryOne

As more and more businesses move their database servers to the cloud, we have seen an increase in customers interested in hosting SentryOne on and monitoring EC2 instances.

To address the growing need to provide assistance in getting monitoring up and running successfully, I put together the following step by step guide.

The guide is divided into several parts:

Part 1: Spinning up your EC2 instances

Part 2: Preparing for installation of SentryOne

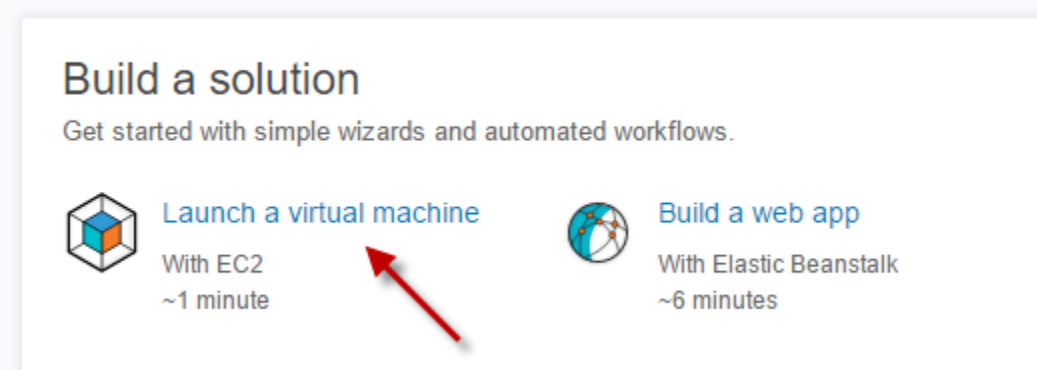
Part 3: Completing the SentryOne installation

Part 4: Successfully monitoring additional EC2 instances

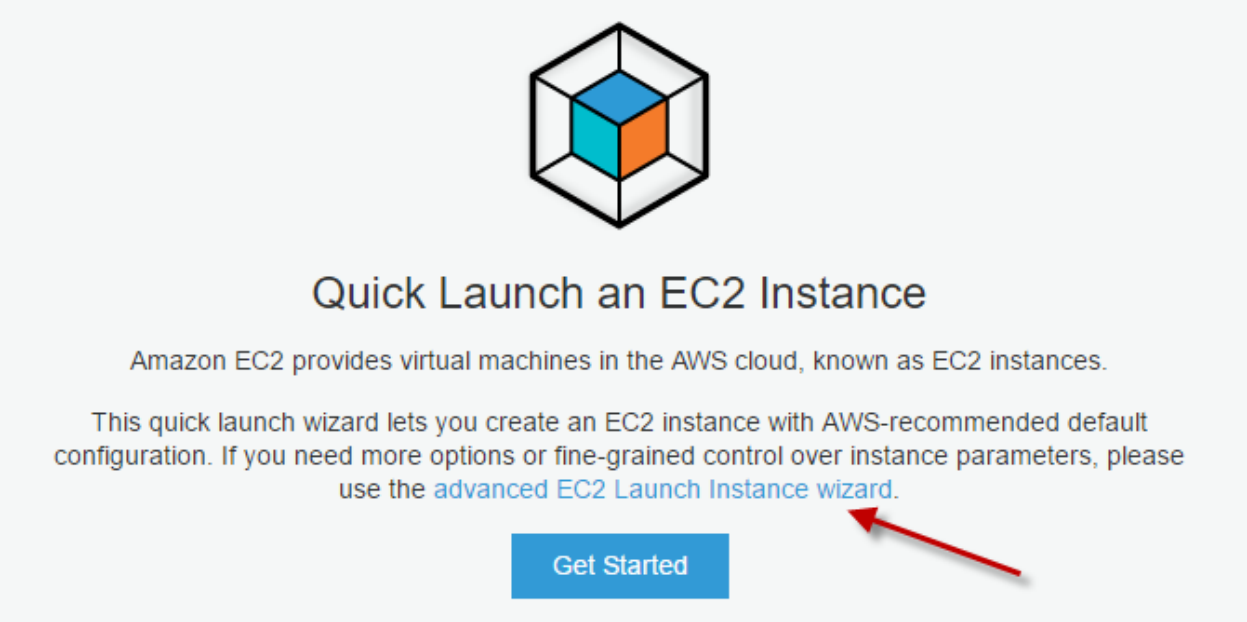
Let's begin with Part 1:

Part 1: Spin up an instance that will be hosting the SentryOne components and a target instance to monitor:

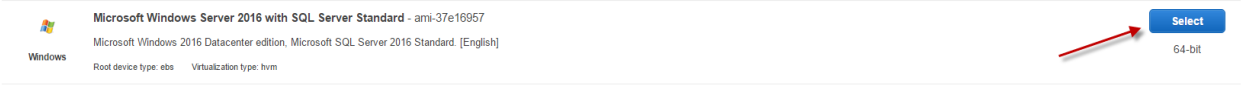
a. Click on 'Launch a virtual machine' with EC2



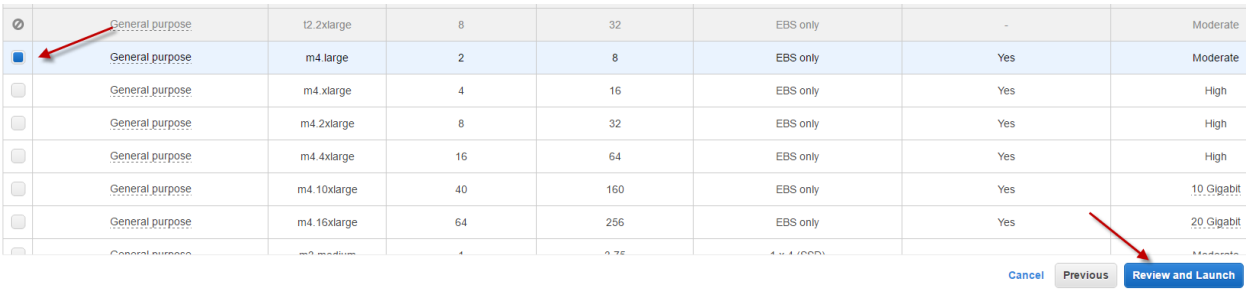
b. Click on the ‘advanced EC2 Launch Instance wizard’ link



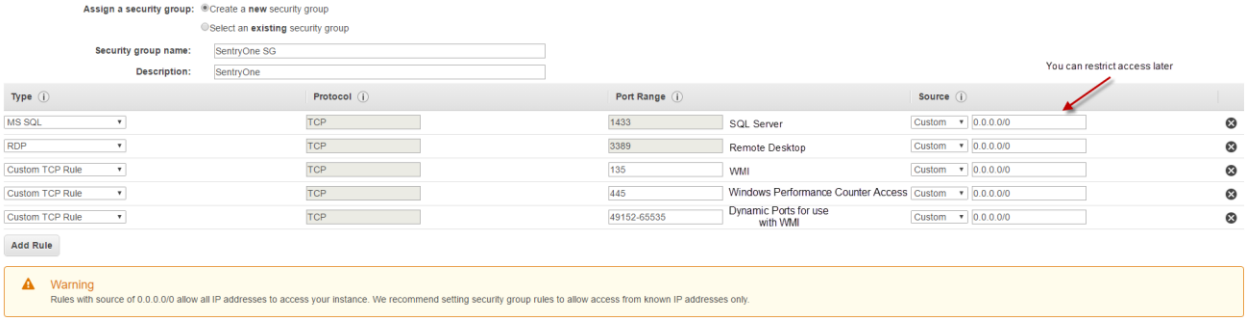
c. Select an Amazon Machine Image (AMI)



d. Select your instance type then click ‘Review and Launch’

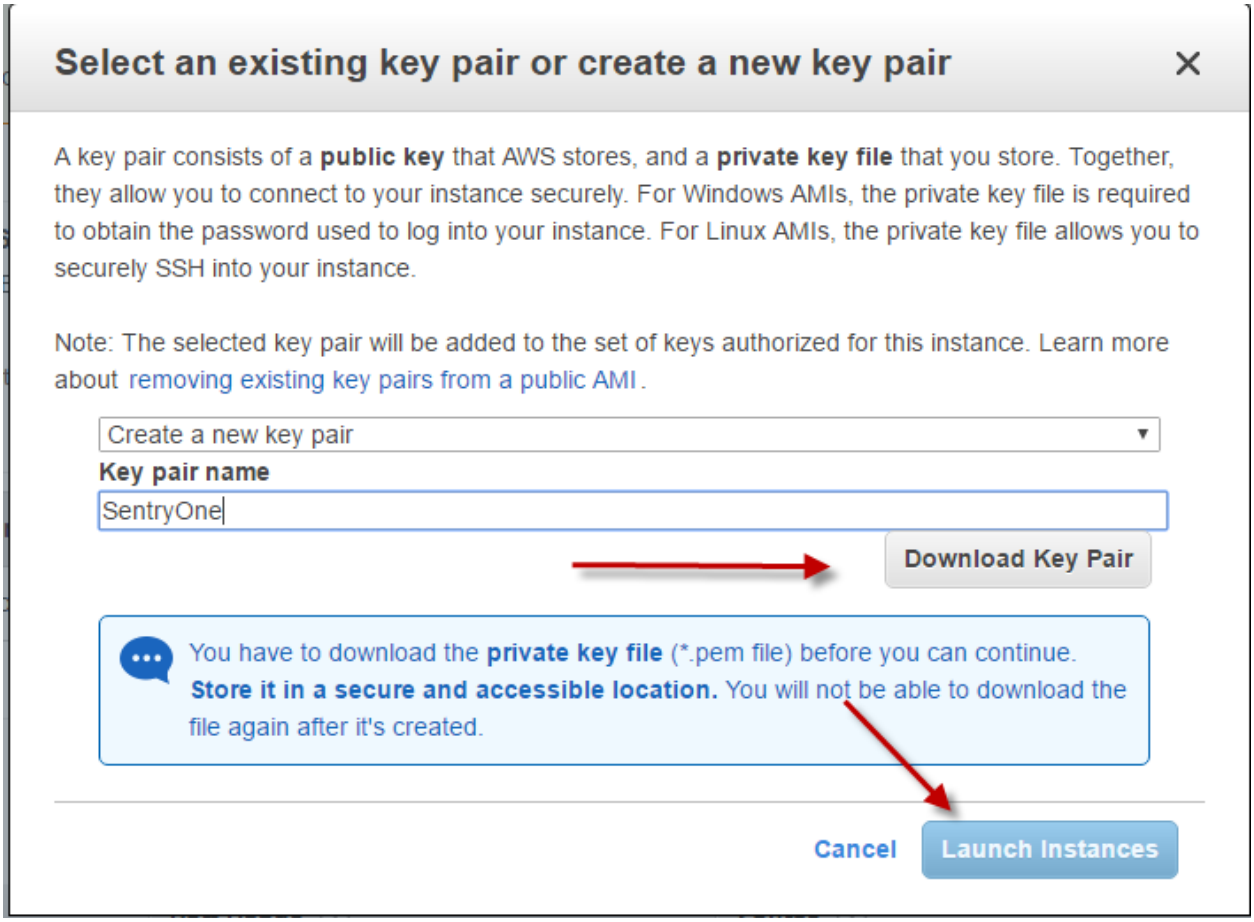


e. Edit the security group as follows, select ‘Review and Launch’, and then ‘Launch’

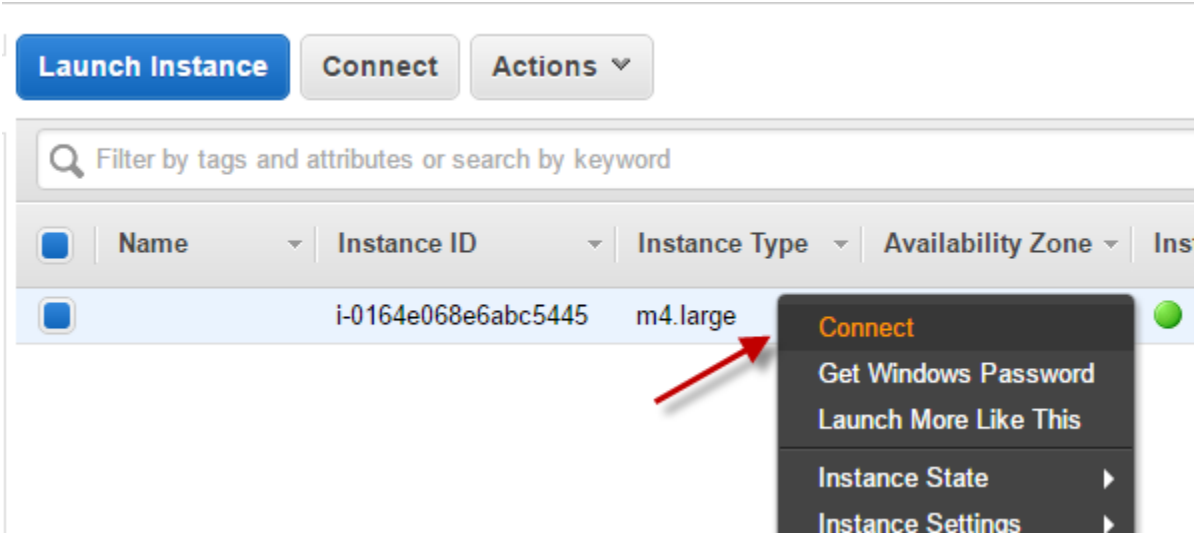


Please note that you can edit this security group later to lock down access by specific IP addresses.

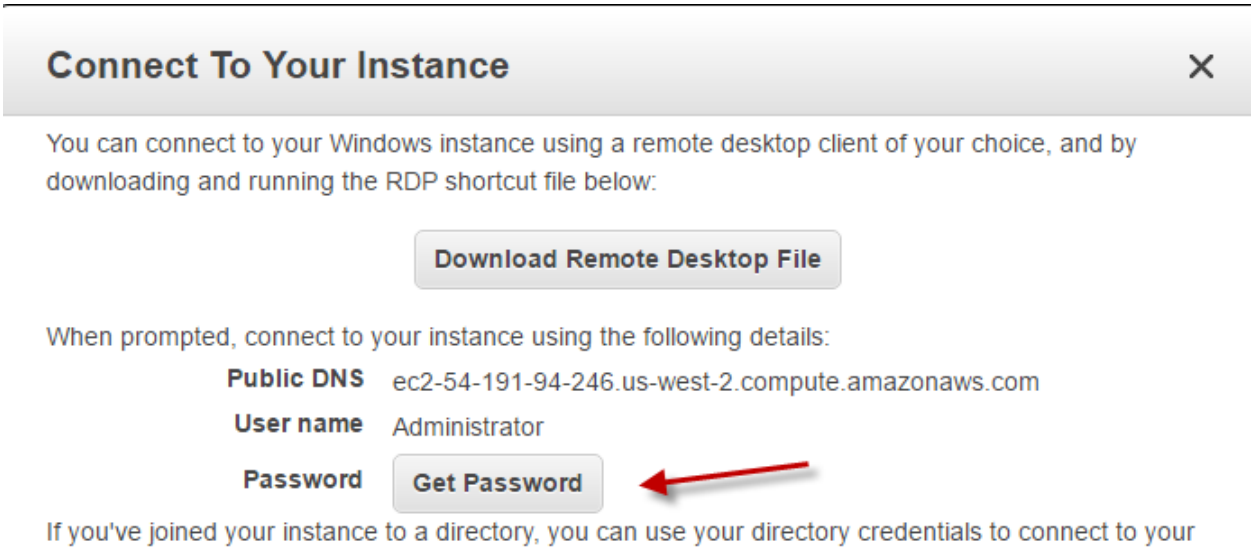
f. Choose to create a new key pair, give it a name, click on 'Download Key Pair', click 'Launch Instances', and then click 'View Instances' on the next screen.



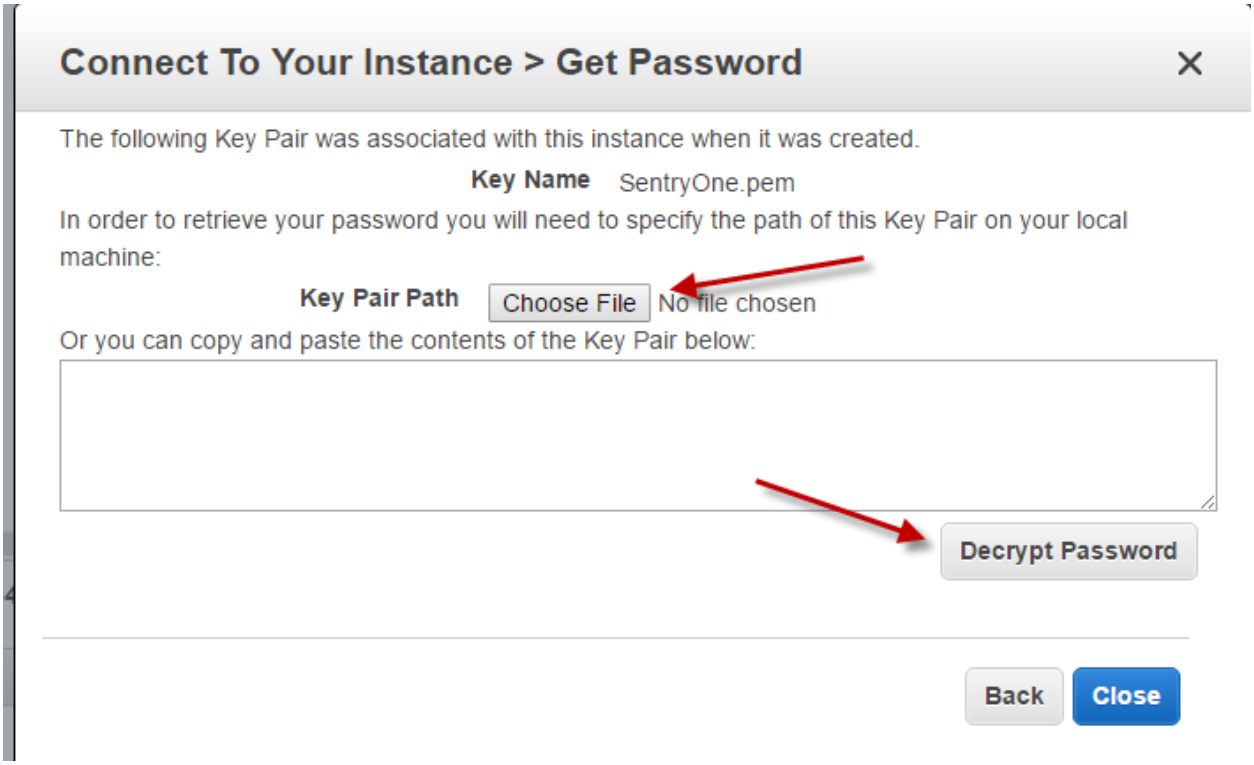
g. Right click on your instance and click 'Connect'



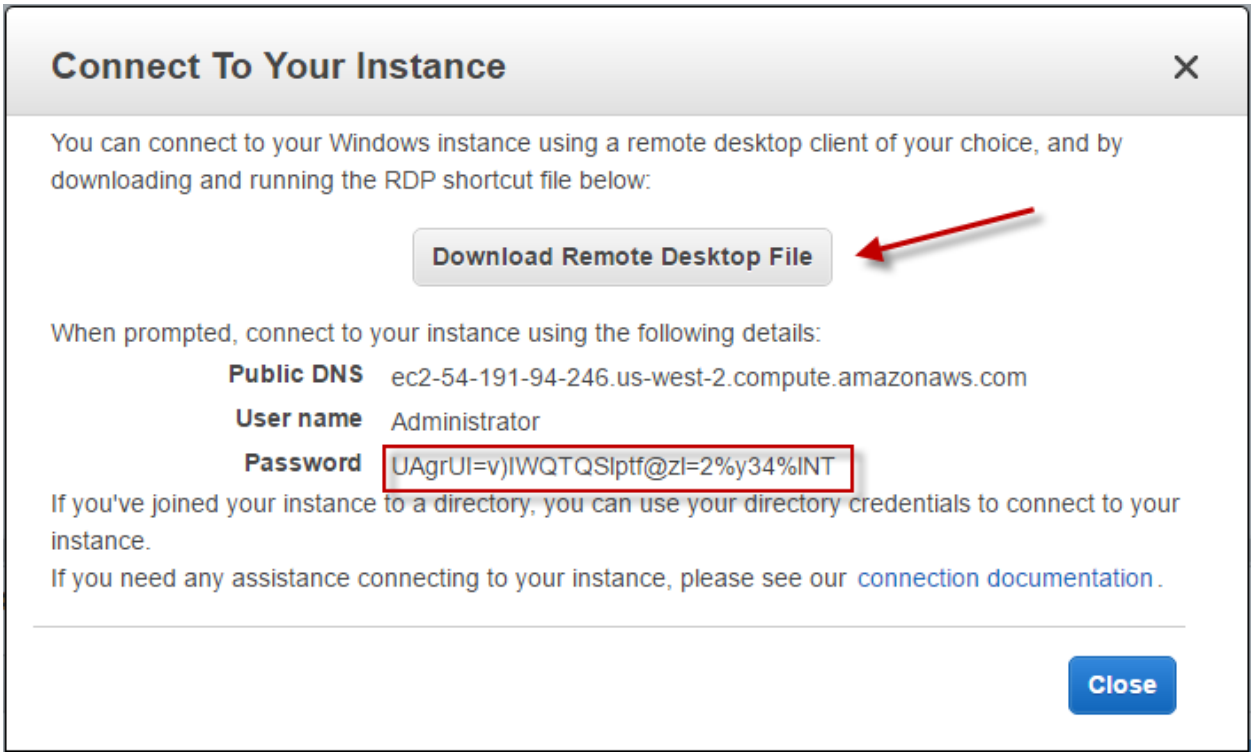
h. Click on ‘Get Password’



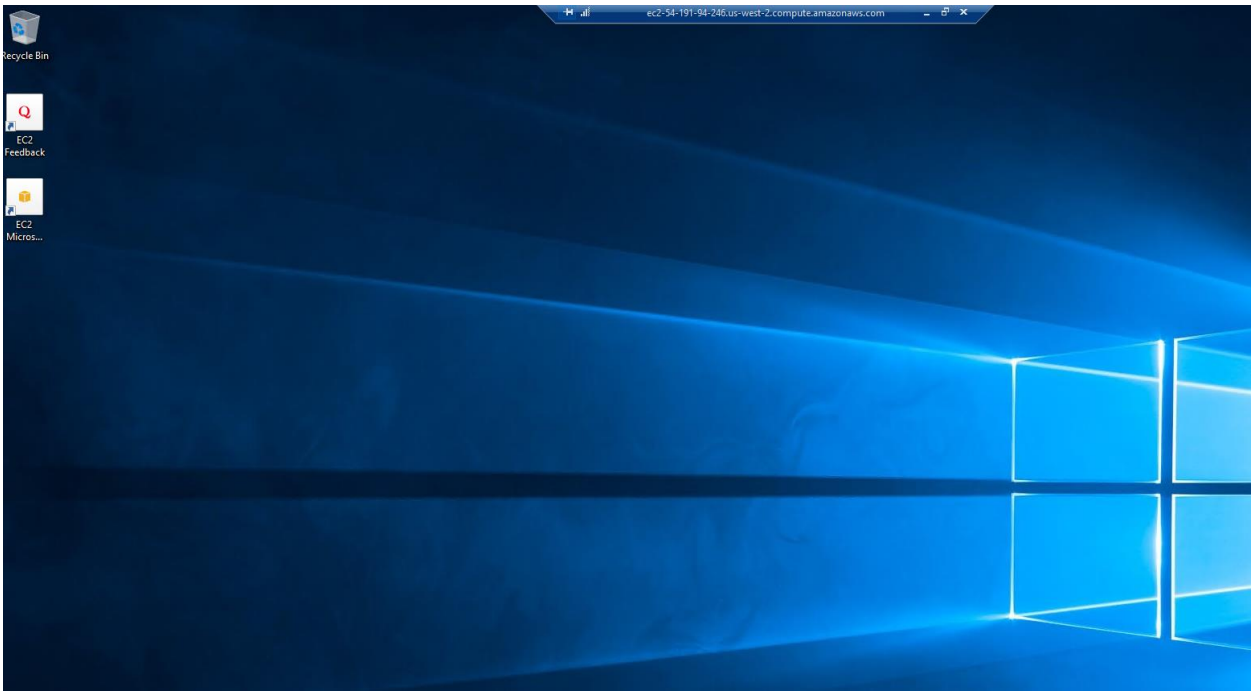
i. Find your Key Pair that you downloaded earlier and select ‘Decrypt Password’



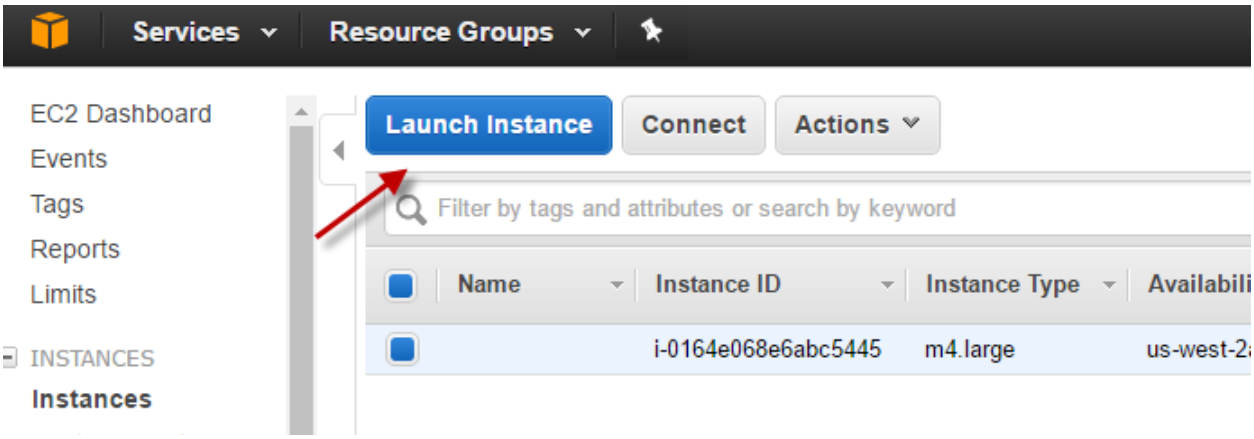
j. Copy your Password and click 'Download Remote Desktop File'



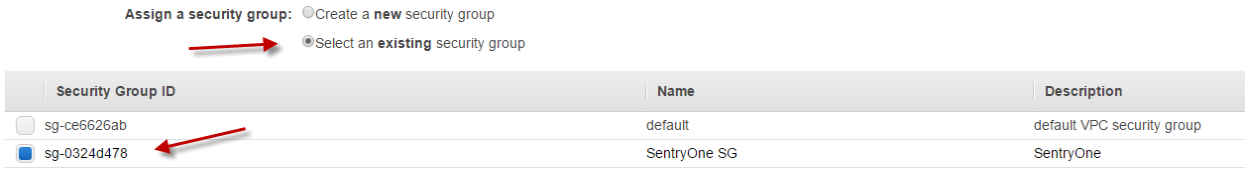
k. Connect and log into your new instance



l. To launch an EC2 instance to be monitored, Just click on 'Launch Instance' from the EC2 screen

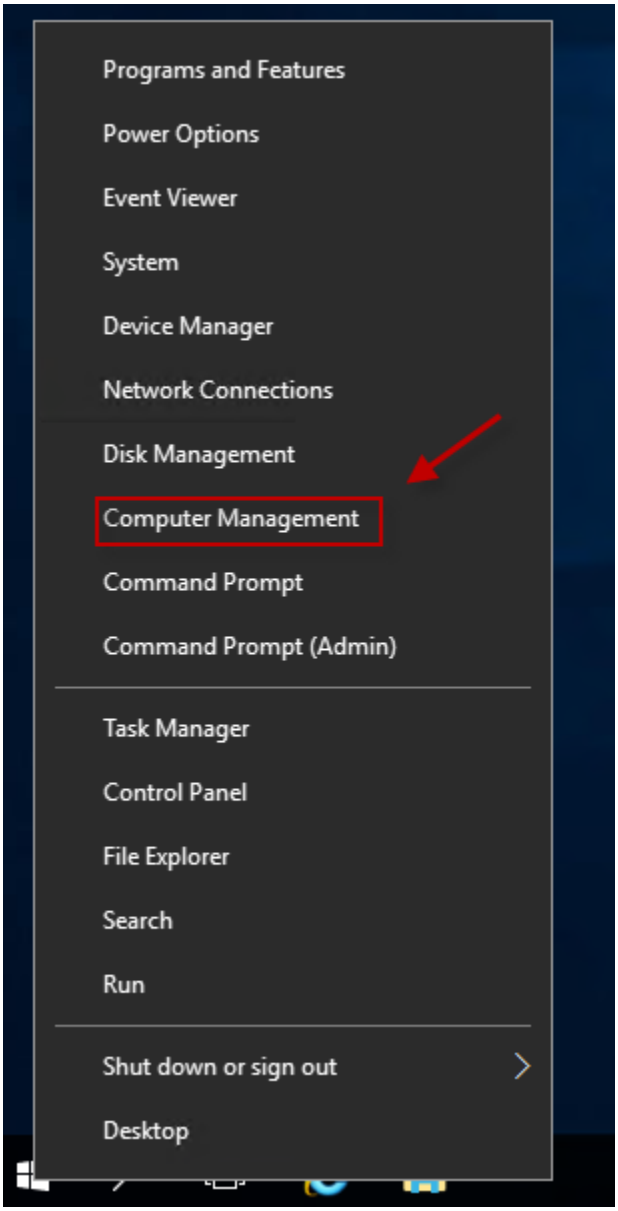


You can now follow the same steps above with one exception. When it comes to Part 1 – e above, you can just choose to use an existing security group and choose the one we created initially then click 'Review and Launch' and 'Launch'.

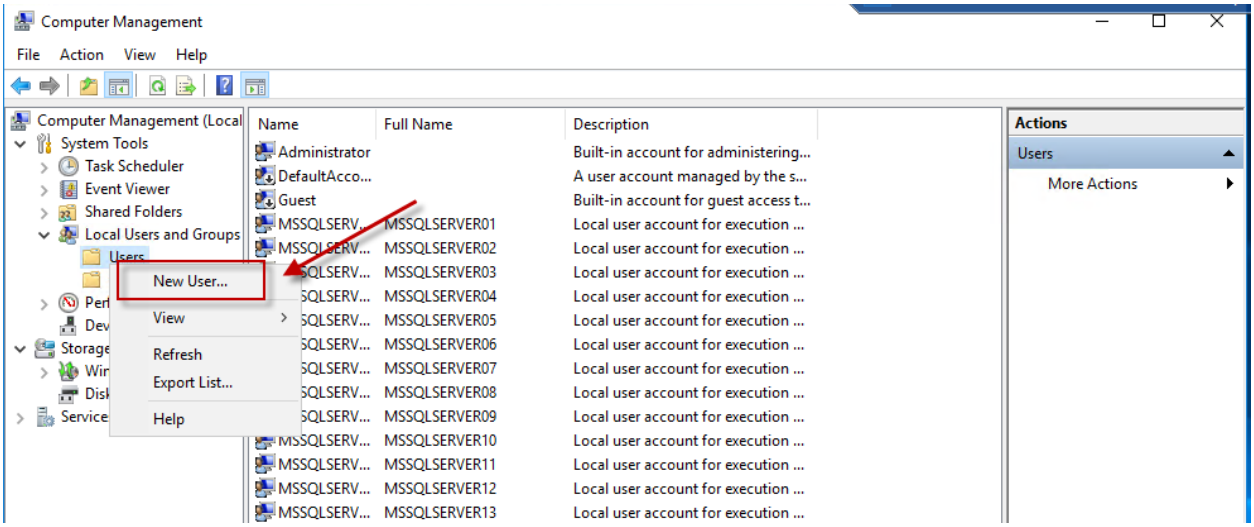


Part 2: Preparing for installation of SentryOne

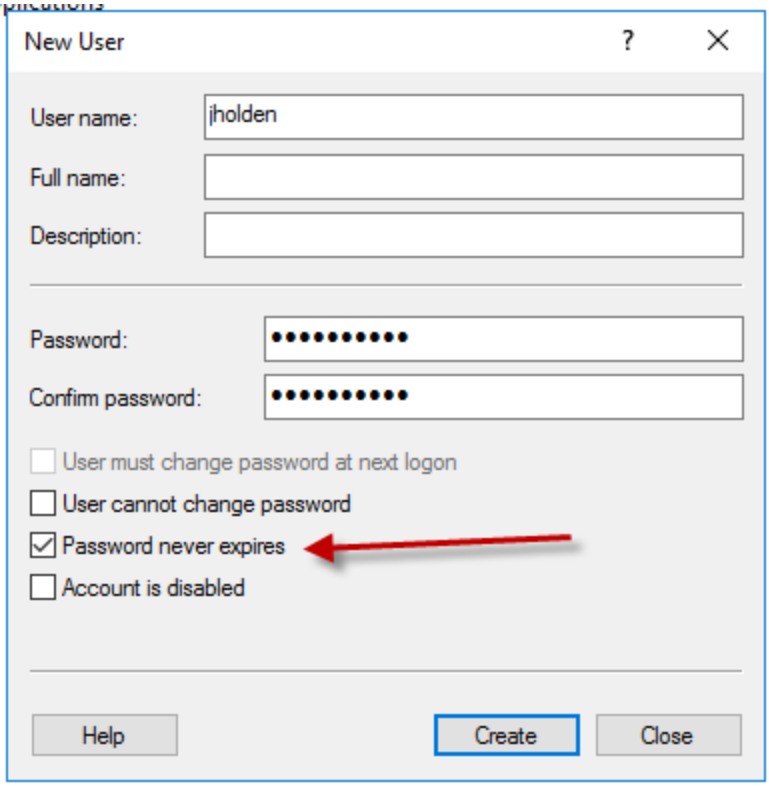
a. Right click on the Windows button and select ‘Computer Management’



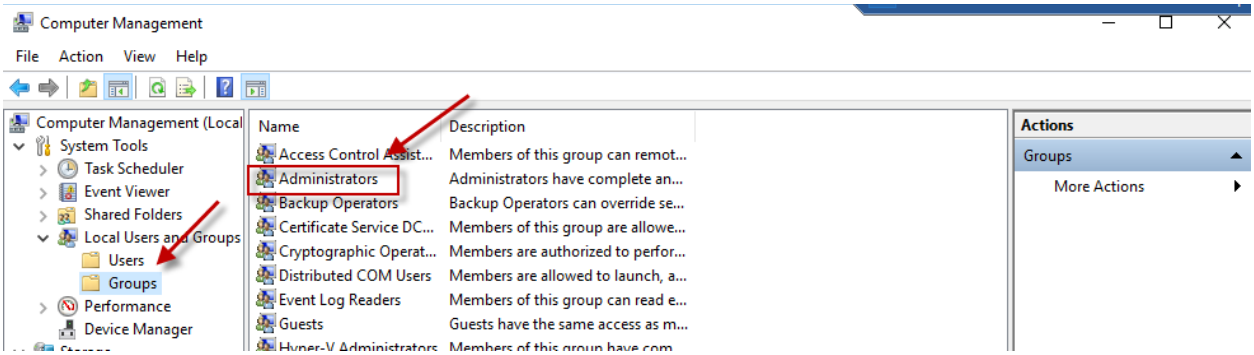
b. Add new user (we will be setting up the monitoring service account here)



c. Make sure that the Password never expires (unless your policy's dictate otherwise)

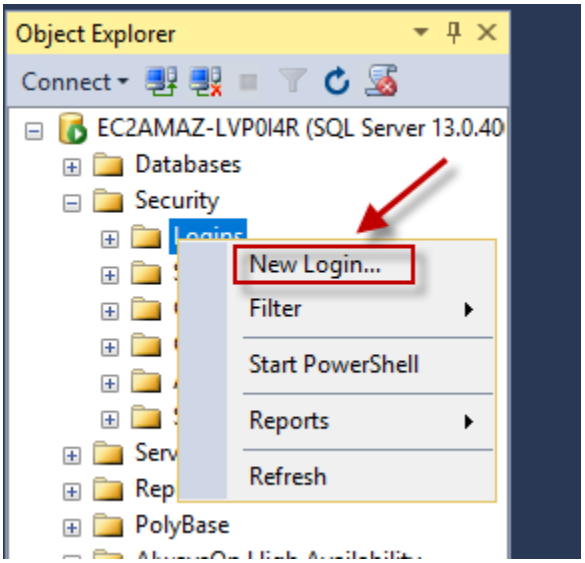


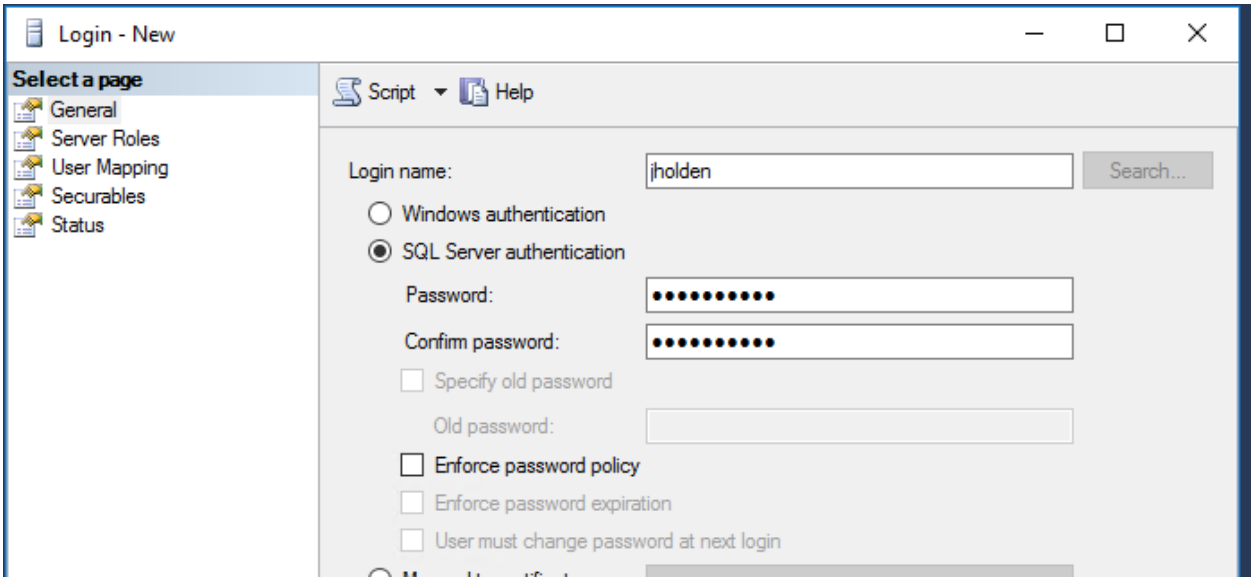
d. Add the account as a member of the Windows Administrators Group

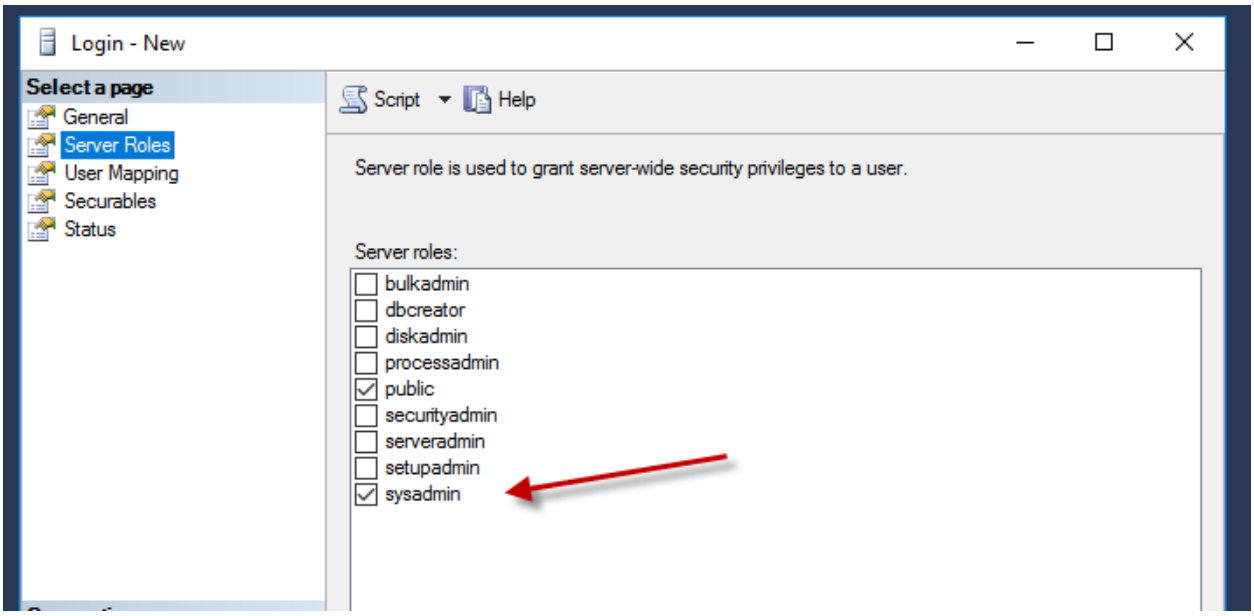


e. Add the account as a sysadmin for the SQL Server instance (dbcreator role if you are not going to be monitoring the SentryOne host server – Not Recommended).

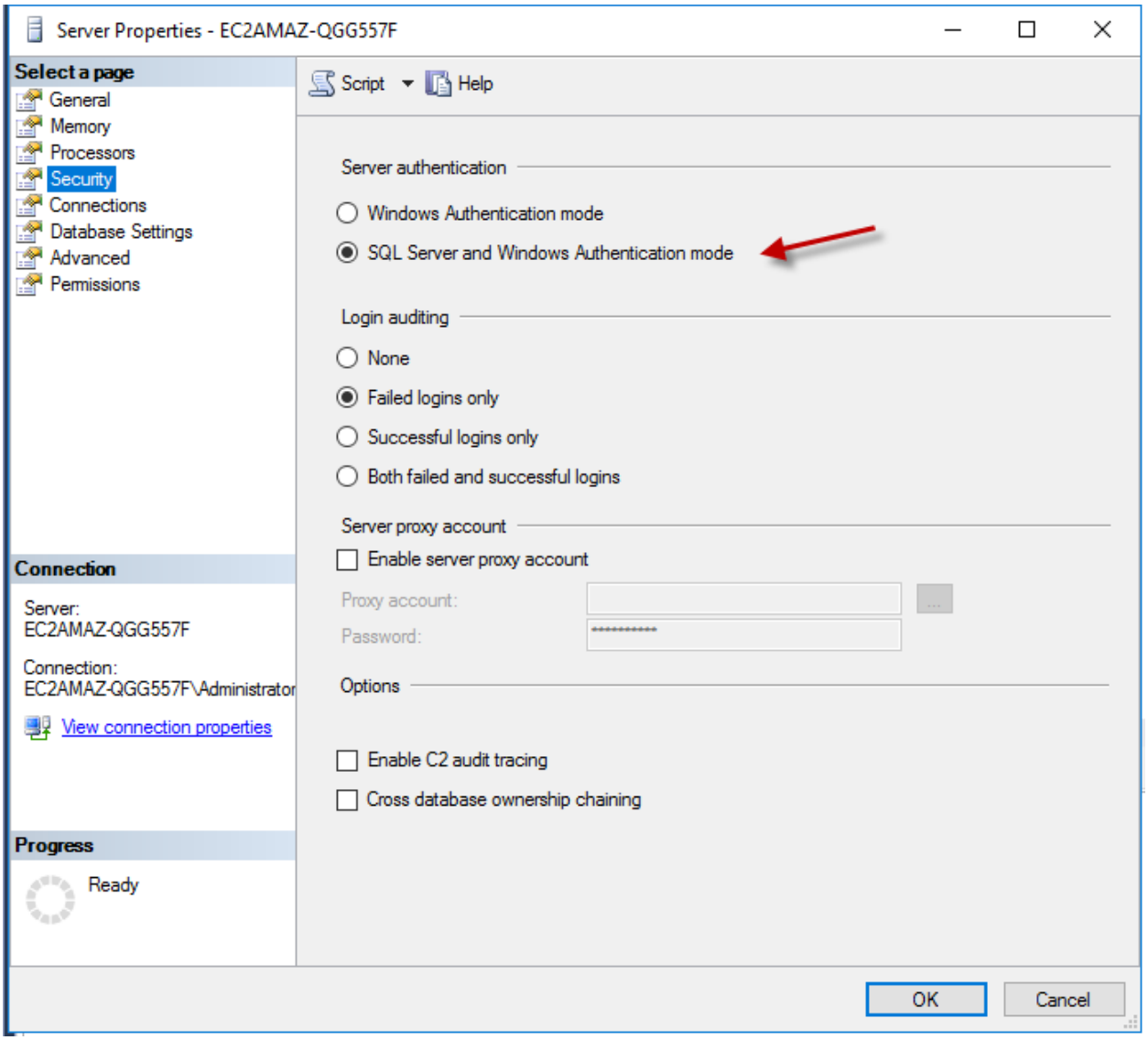
Note: The SQL Server and Agent services must be started prior to this.




Login - New
Select a page
General
Server Roles
User Mapping
Securables
Status
Script
Help
Login name:
jholden
Search...
Windows authentication
SQL Server authentication
Password:
Confirm password:
Specify old password
Old password:
Enforce password policy
Enforce password expiration
User must change password at next login


Login - New
Select a page
General
Server Roles
User Mapping
Securables
Status
Script
Help
Server role is used to grant server-wide security privileges to a user.
Server roles:
bulkadmin
dbcreator
diskadmin
processadmin
public
securityadmin
serveradmin
setupadmin
sysadmin

f. Make sure to change the server properties to set security to SQL Server and Windows Authentication mode and restart the SQL Server Service.



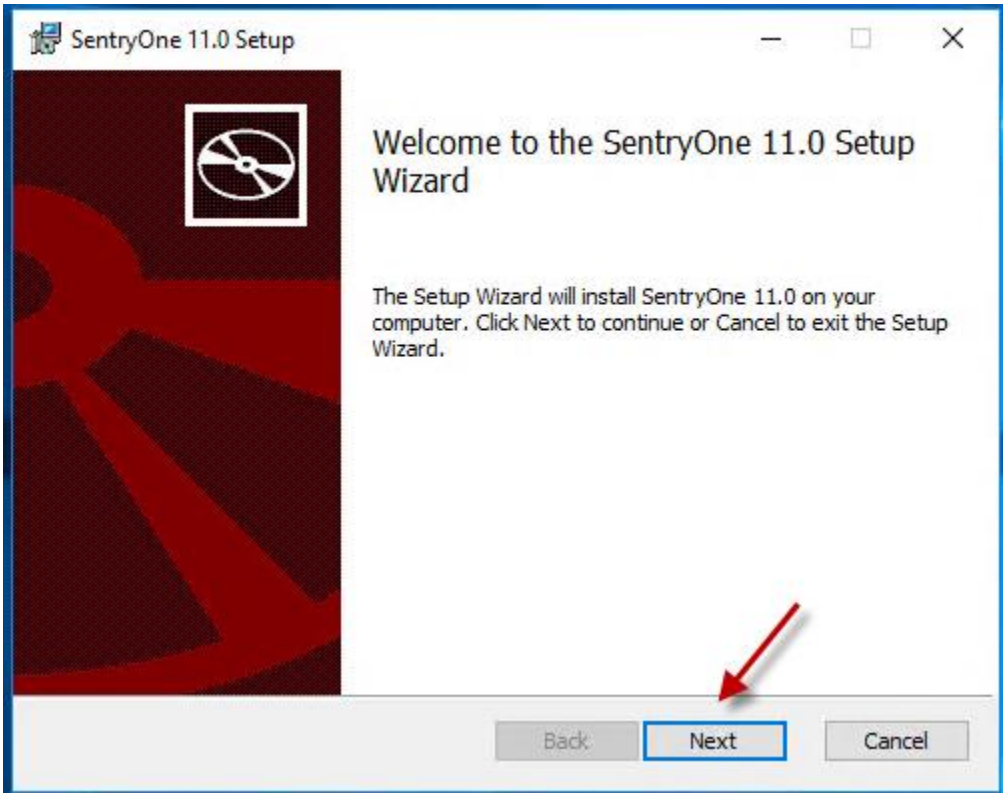
Part 3: Completing the SentryOne installation

a. Download the installation package from your portal account (https://sentryone.com/myaccount/login)

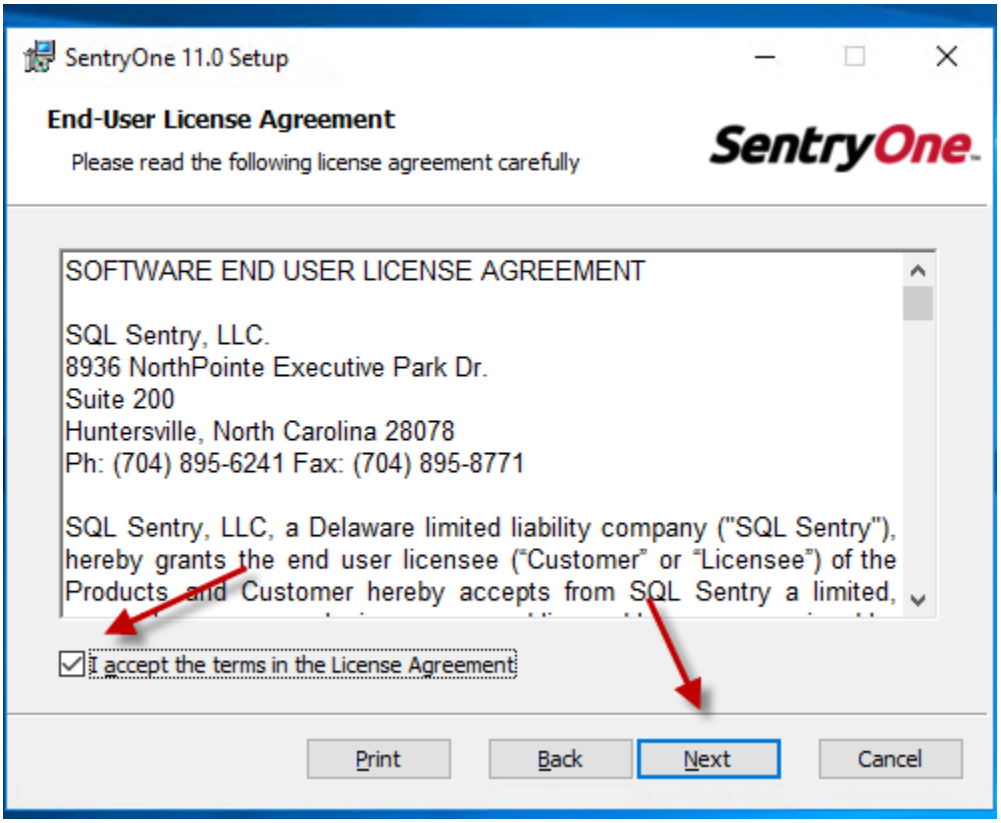
Downloads

Product	Version	Build	Released	Size	Links
SentryOne Unified Setup	11.0	11.0.87.0	03/02/2017	142 MB	x86 | x64 | Change List
Plan Explorer	3	11.0.84.0	01/16/2017	20 MB	x86 | x64 | Change List

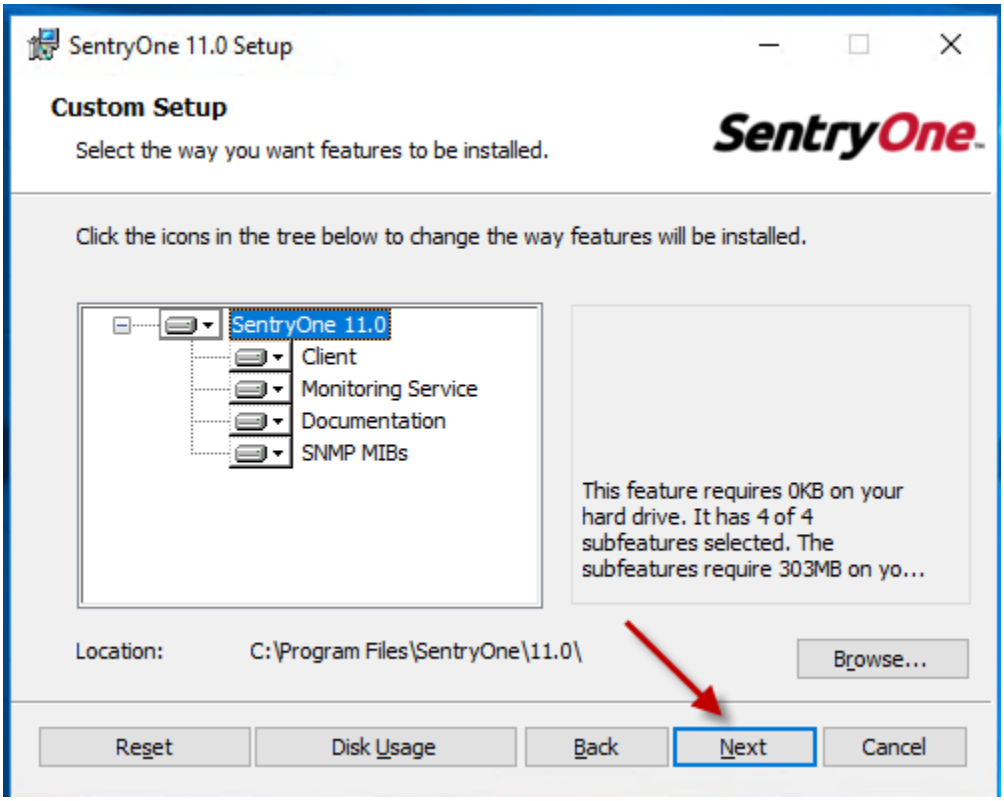
b. Launch the setup and select 'Next'



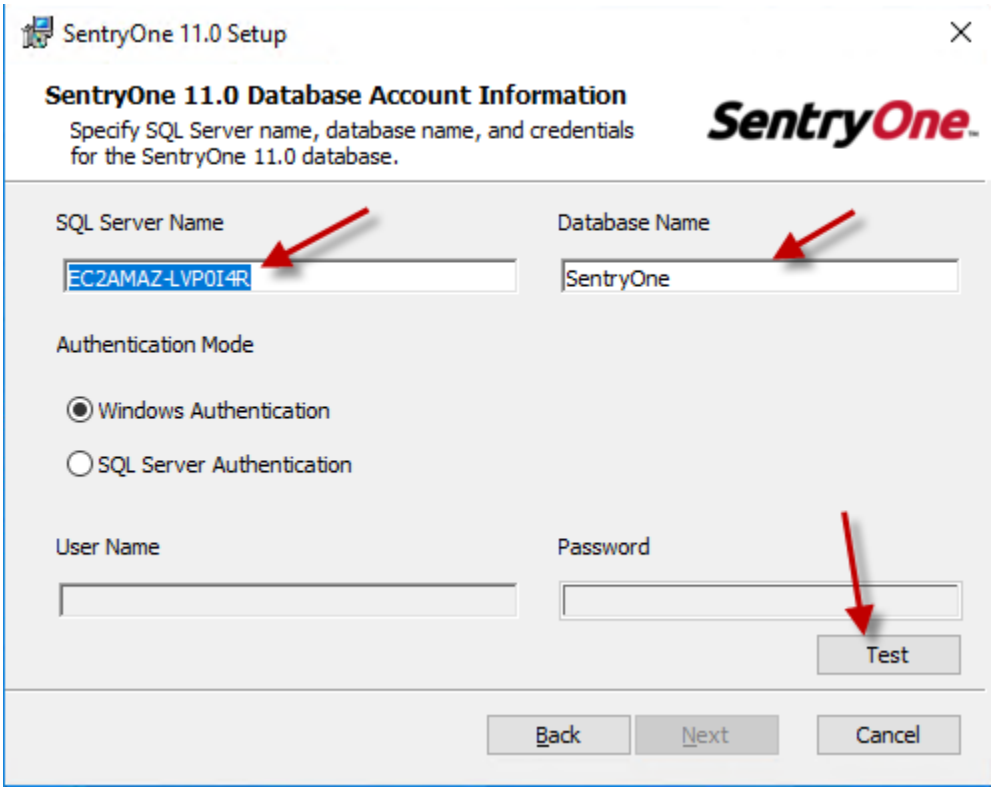
c. Accept the license terms and click Next



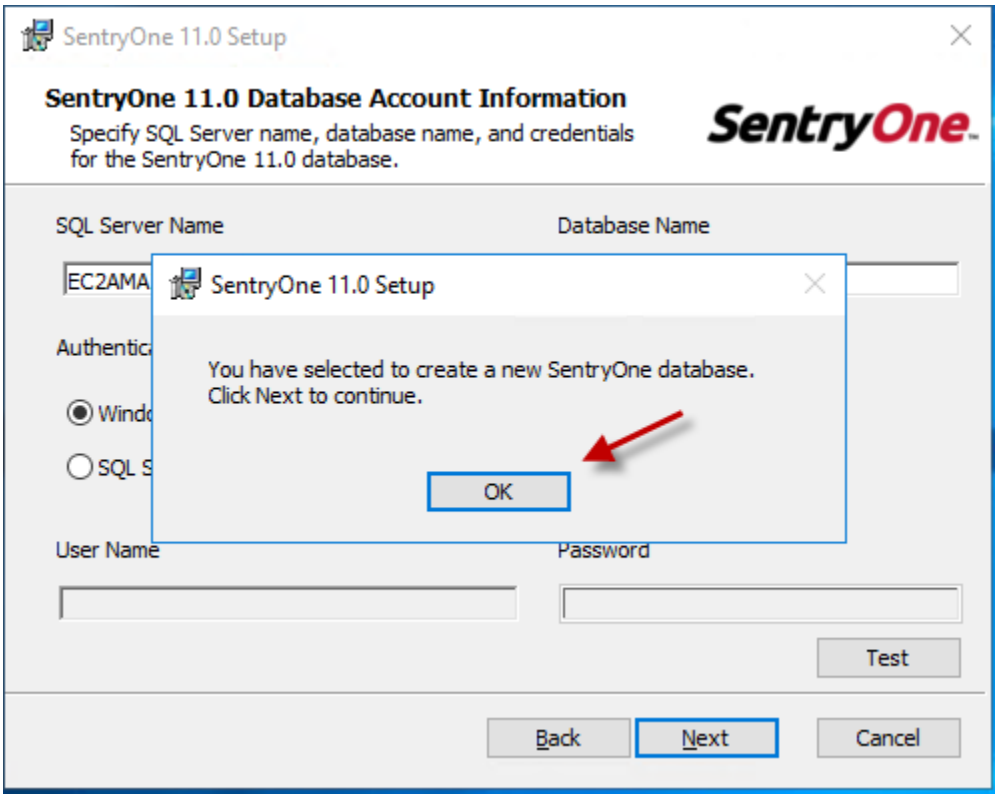
d. Since we are choosing to add all of the components of SentryOne on this server, we can just select the Next button



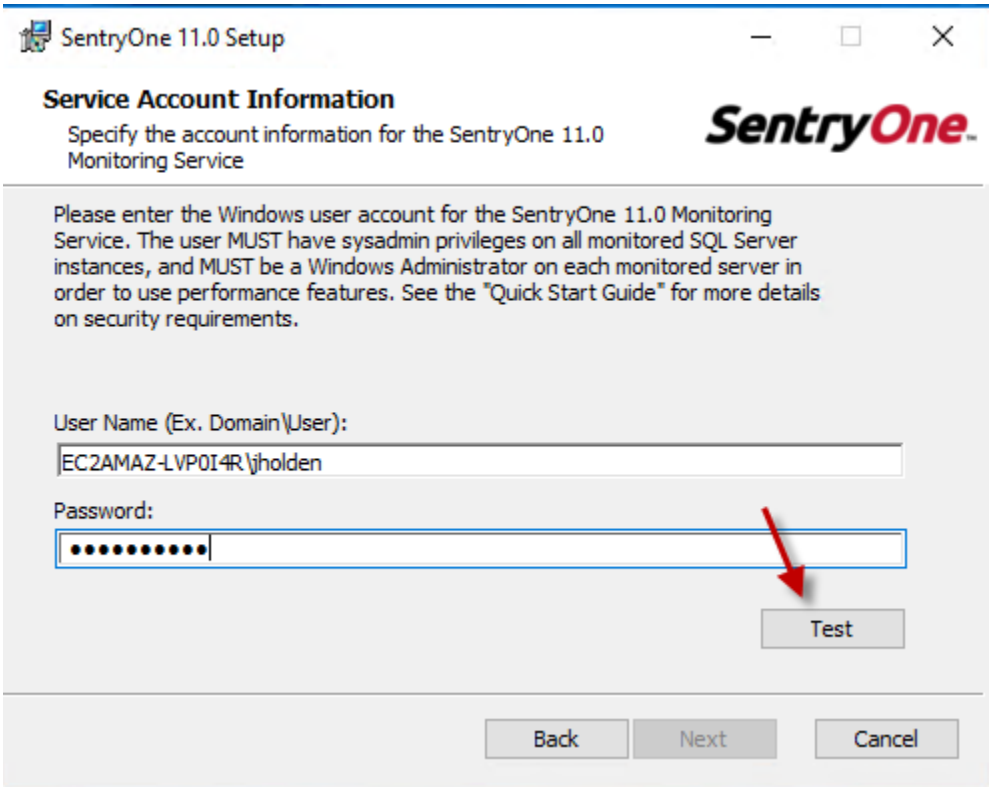
e. Here we will enter the server name, the name we want the database to be called, and we will click the Test button



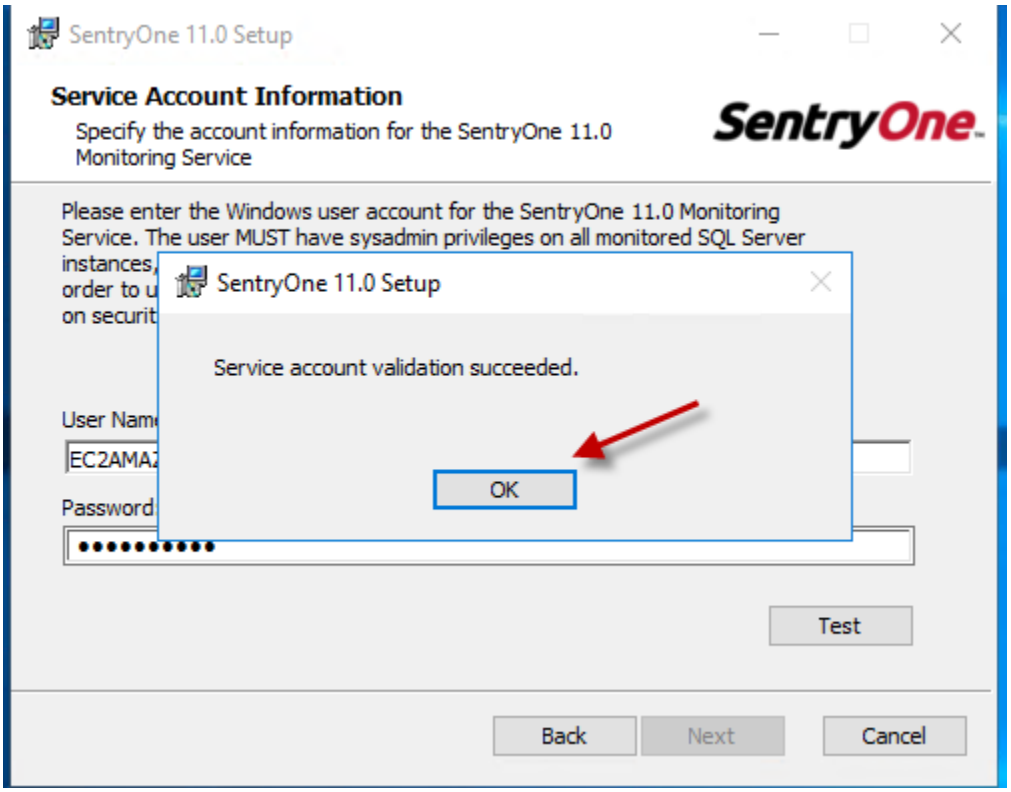
f. Once successfully connected, we can click the ‘OK’ button and then the ‘Next’ button to proceed



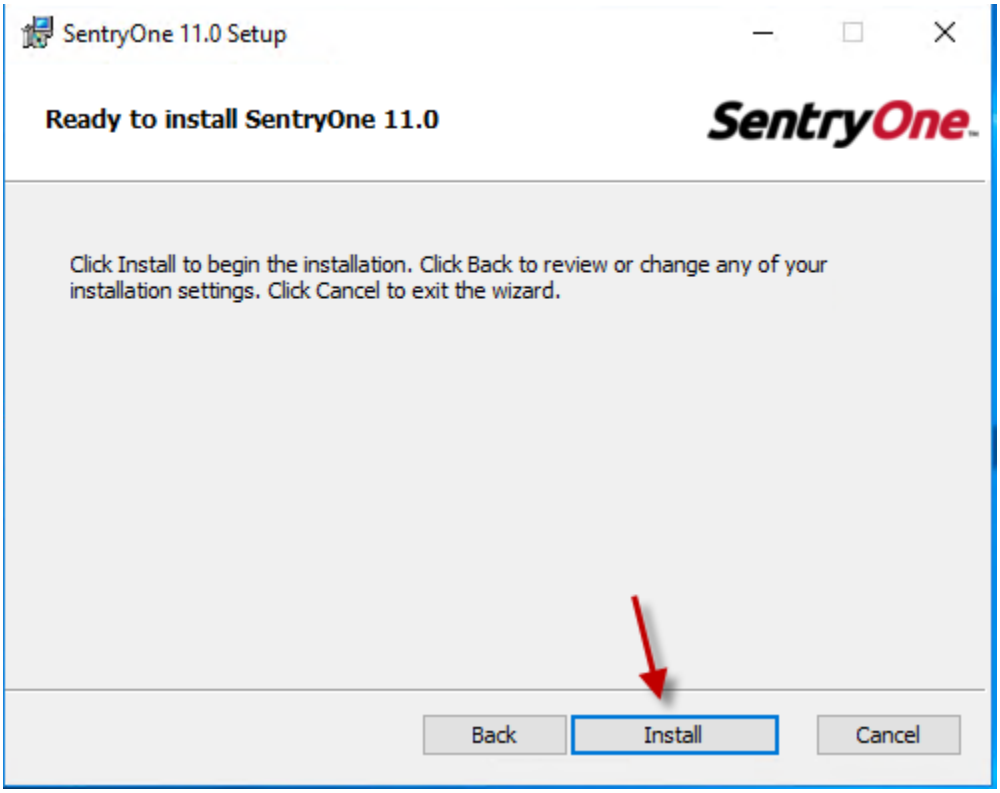
g. Here we enter the monitoring service account we created in Part 2 above and click the ‘Test’ button



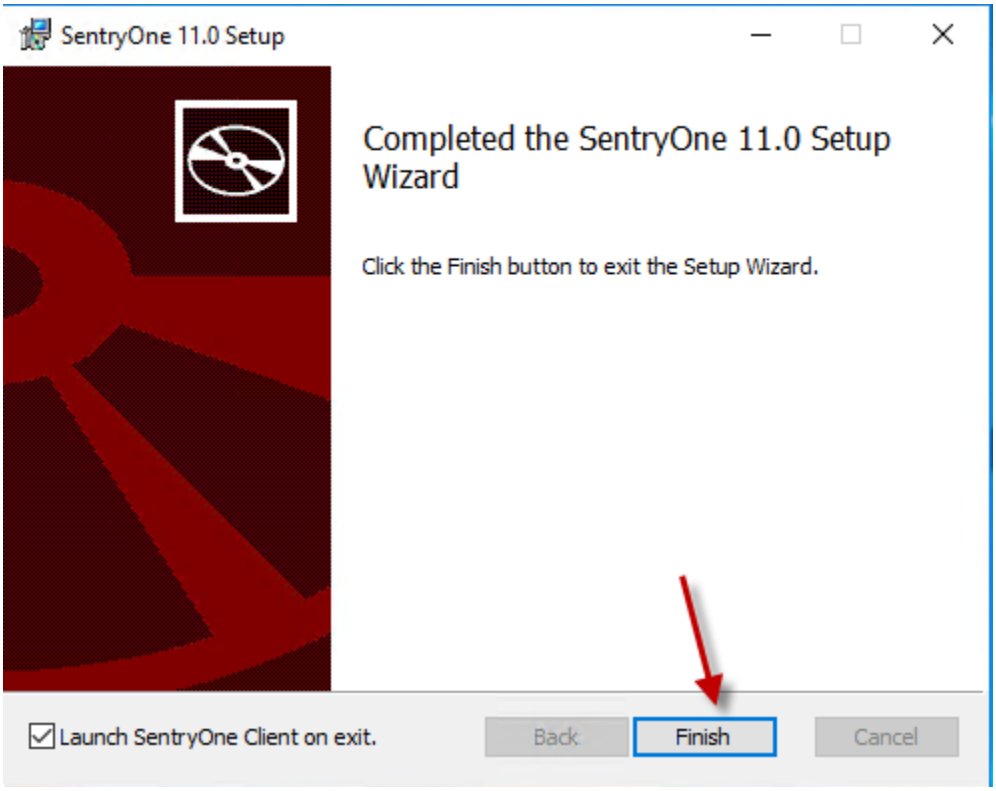
h. Once the validation has succeeded, we can click the ‘OK’ and ‘Next’ buttons



i. We can now click the ‘Install’ button to finish the installation

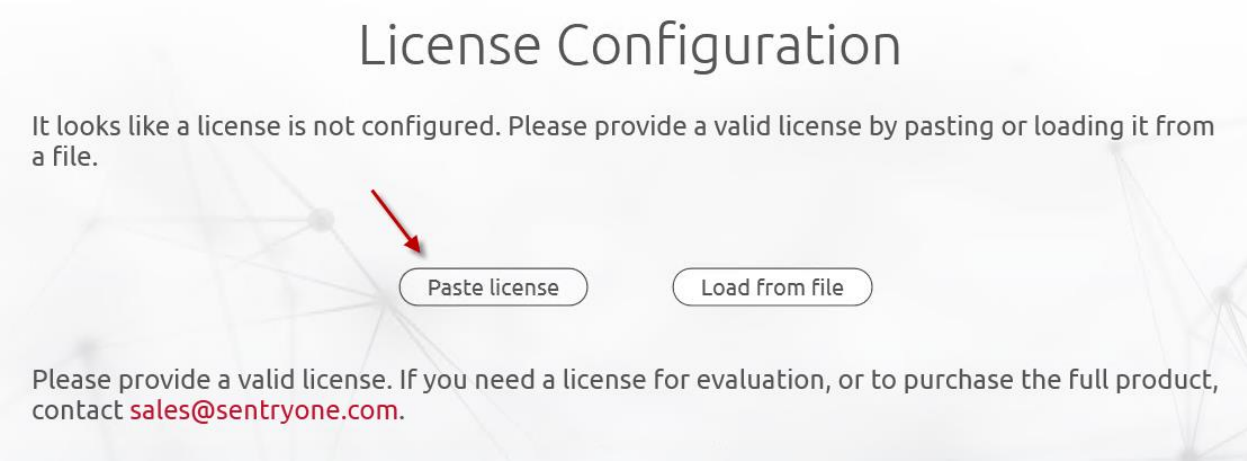


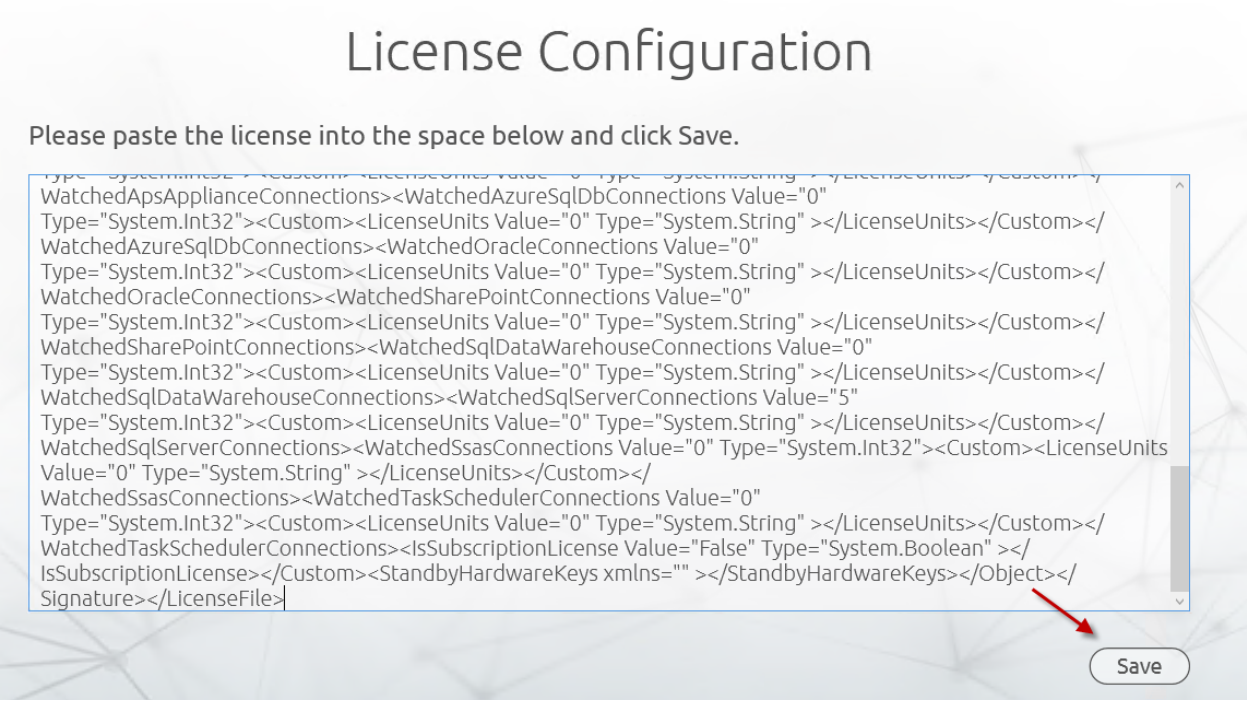
j. Once the installation finishes, we can select the ‘Finish’ button to open up the SentryOne client and finish the Setup Wizard



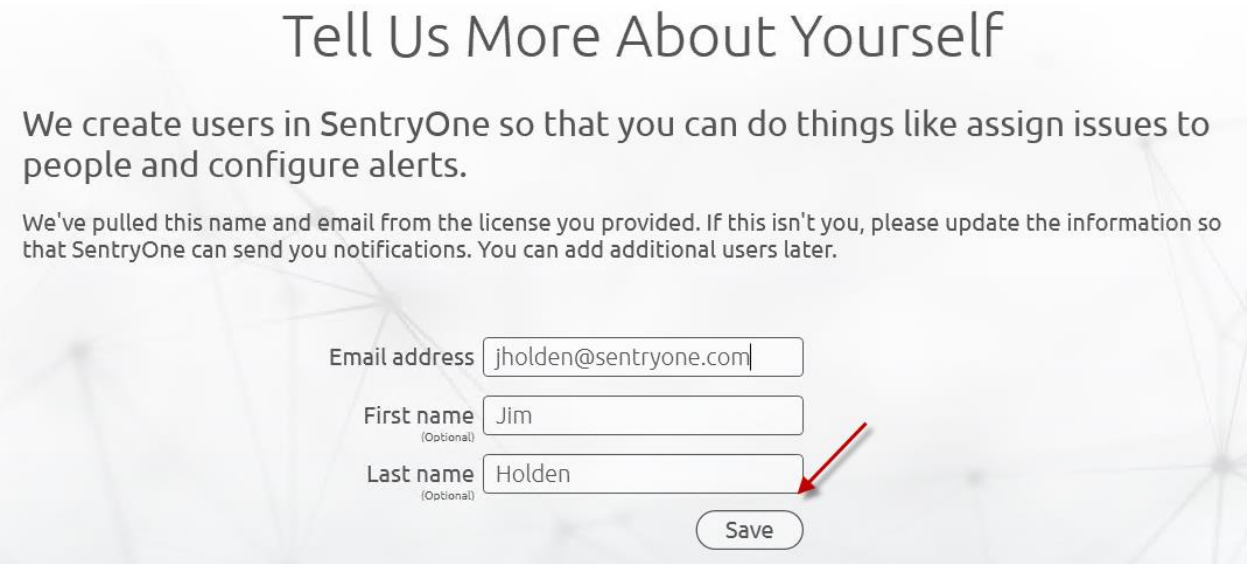
k. Click the ‘Continue’ button

I. Click the ‘Paste license’ button and paste in the license that should have been sent to you and click ‘Save’

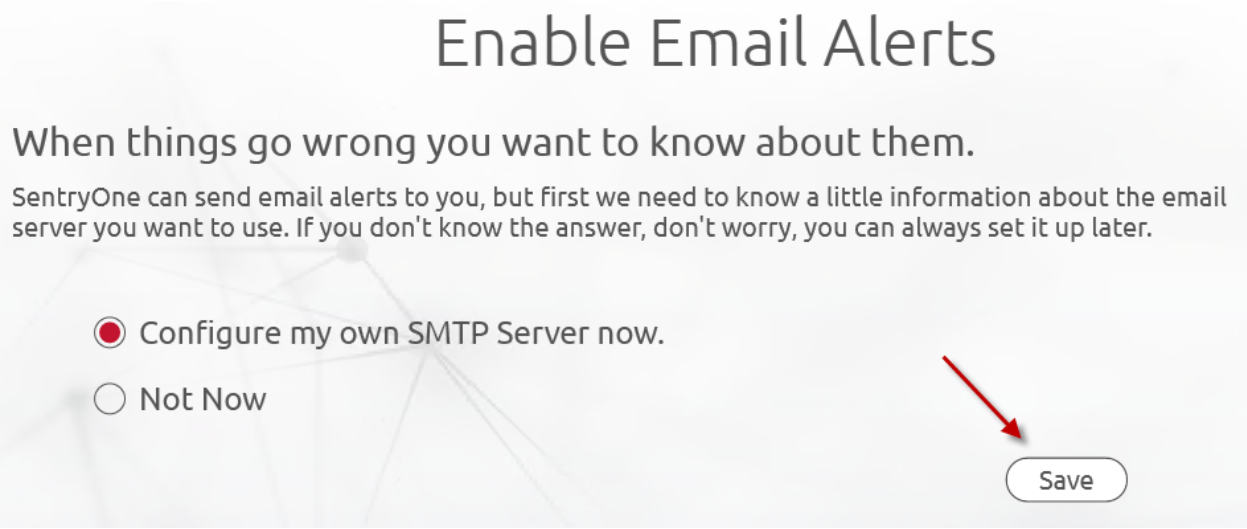




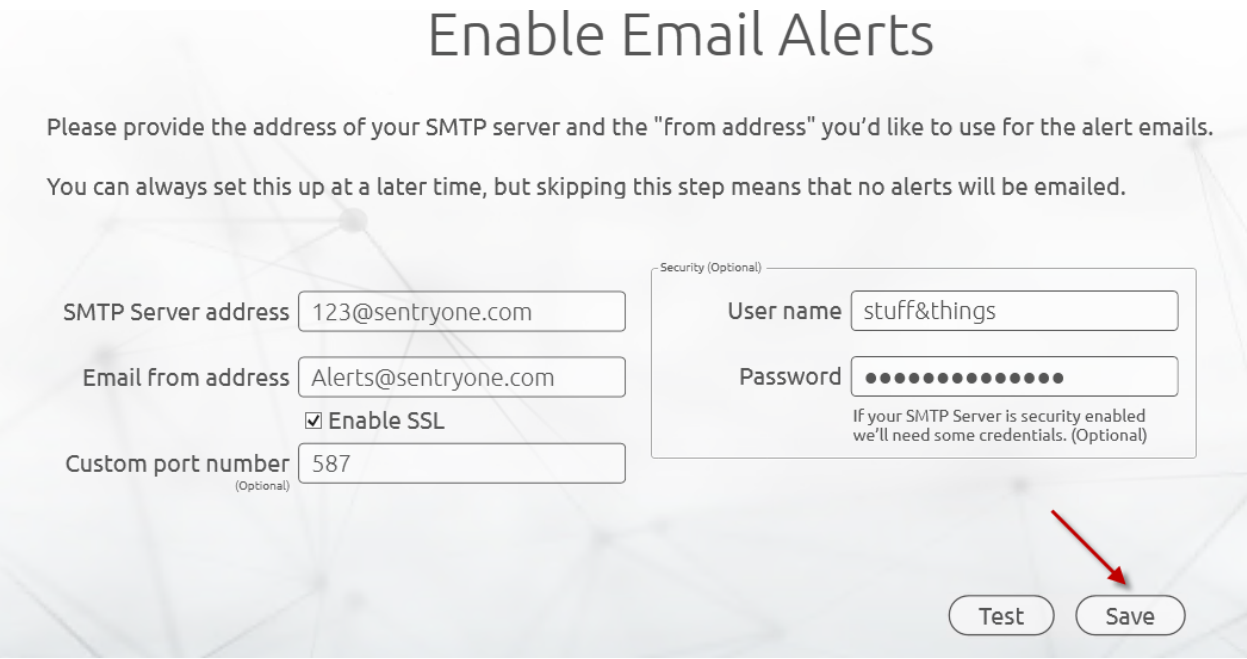
m. Enter in your user information and click the ‘Save’ button



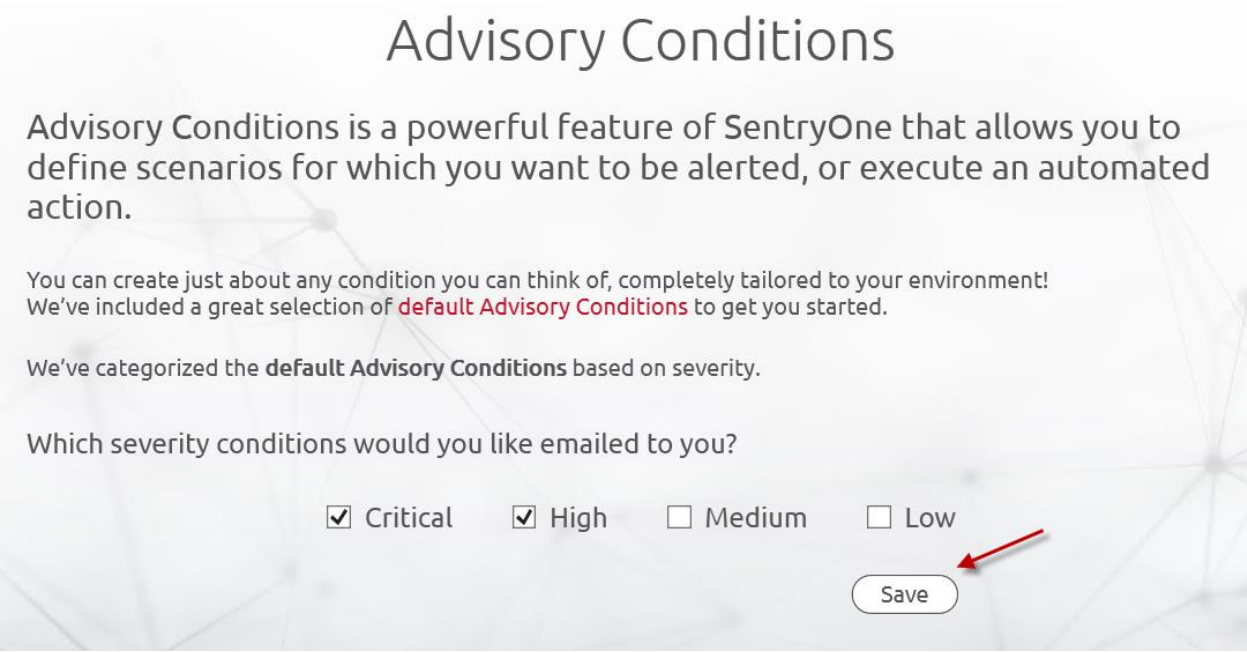
n. Configure your SMTP Server (check the radio button and select the ‘Save’ Button



o. Enter your information and click on the ‘Save’ button

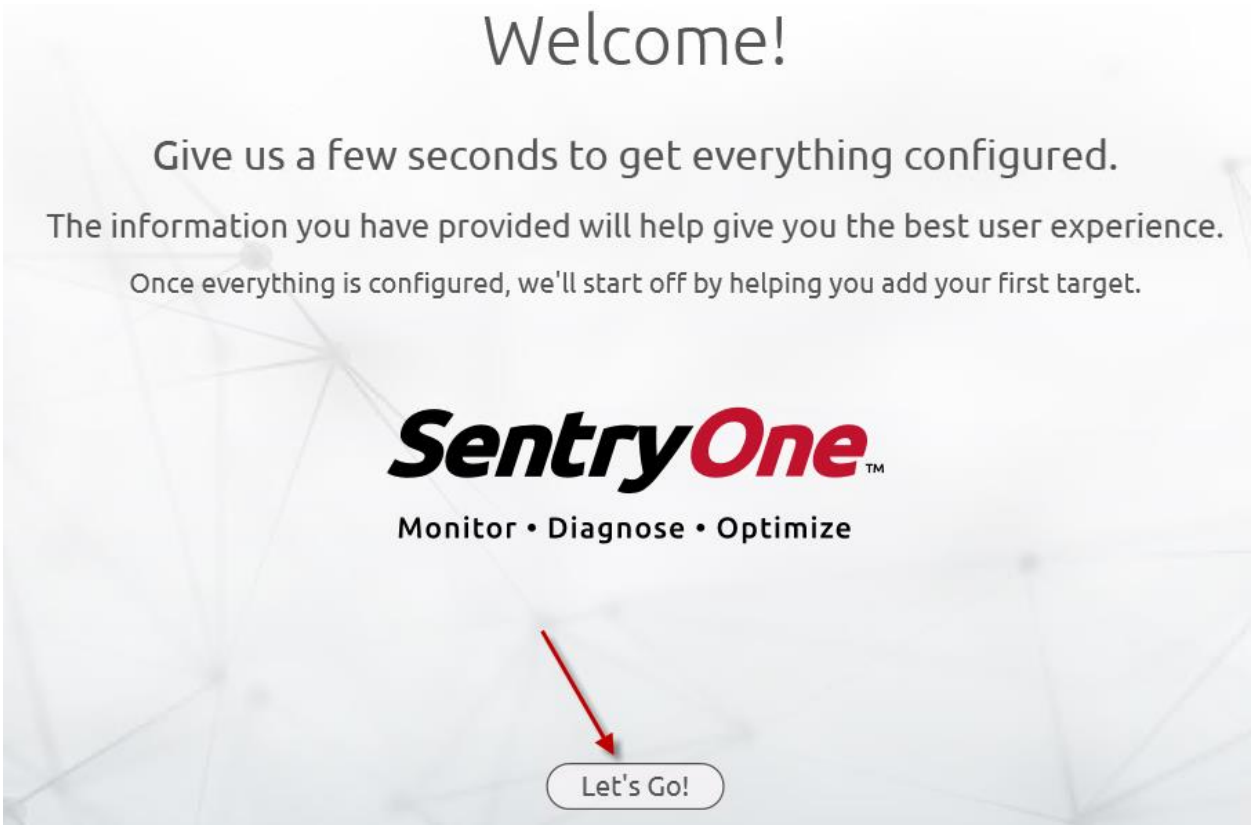


p. Select the severity level for your Advisory Conditions to be emailed to you and click the ‘Save’ button

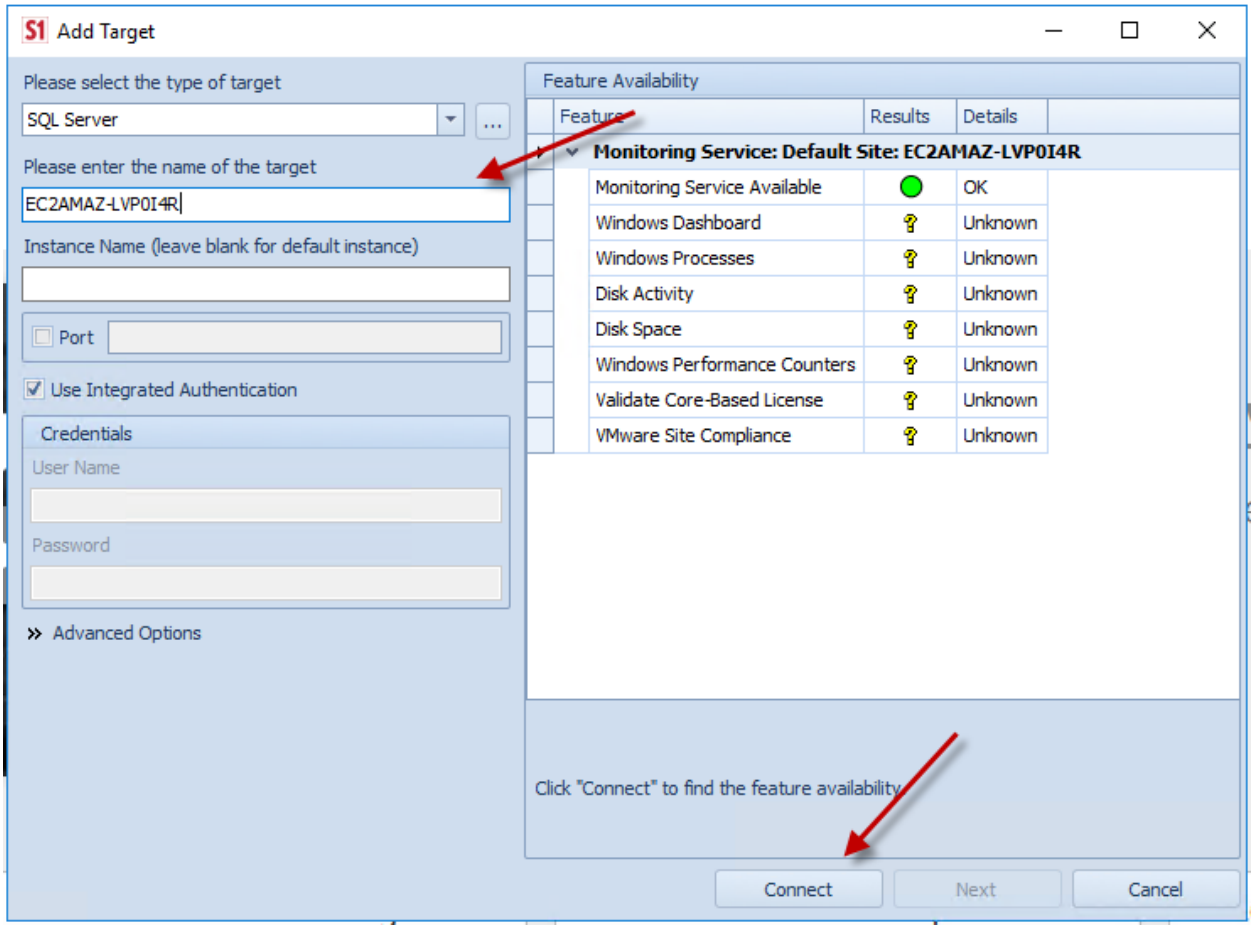


q. If you have a cloud.sentryone.com account you can enter it here, or create a new one by choosing the options below (I will skip this for now).

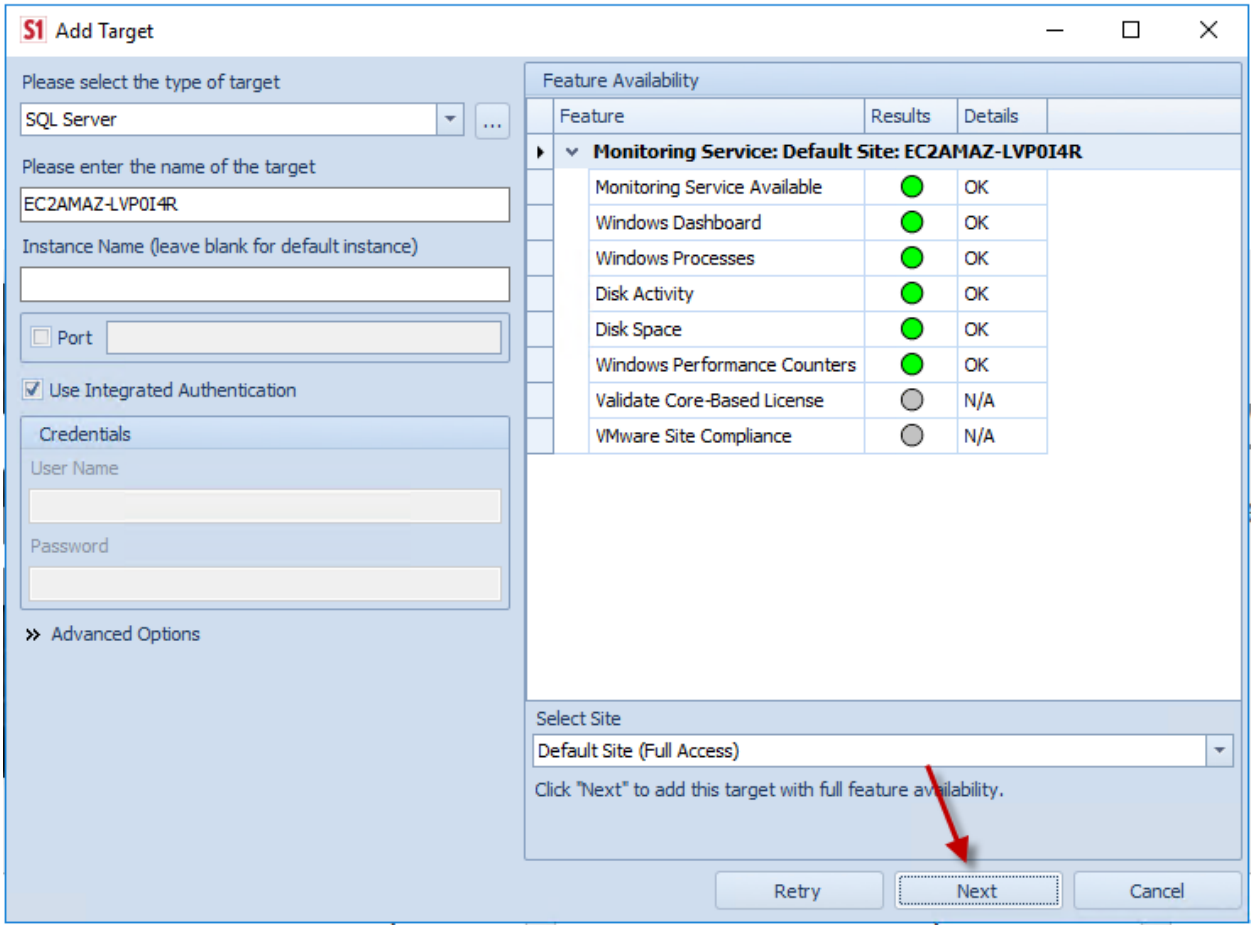
r. Click on the 'Let's Go!' button here



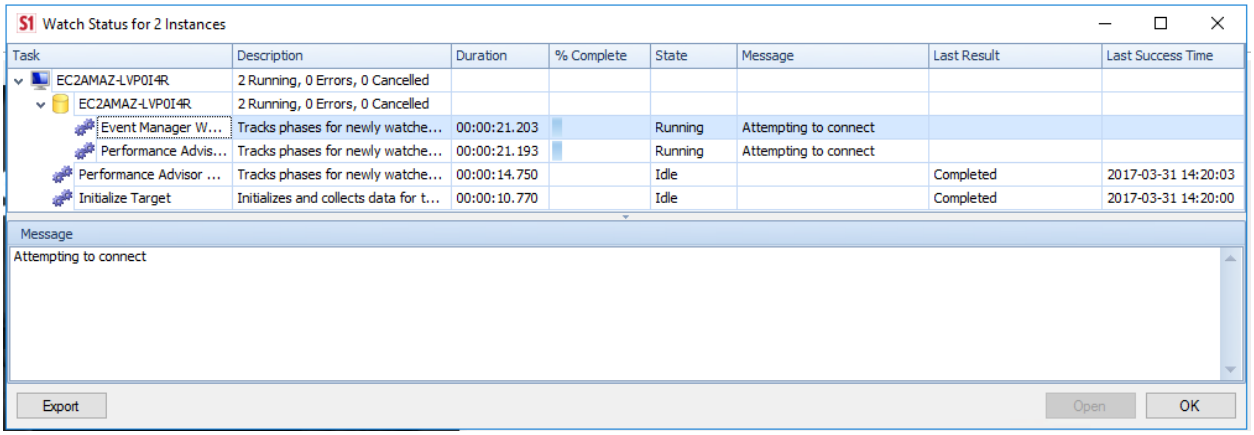
s. Now it is time to add our first target to be monitored. I'm going to choose our SentryOne server here



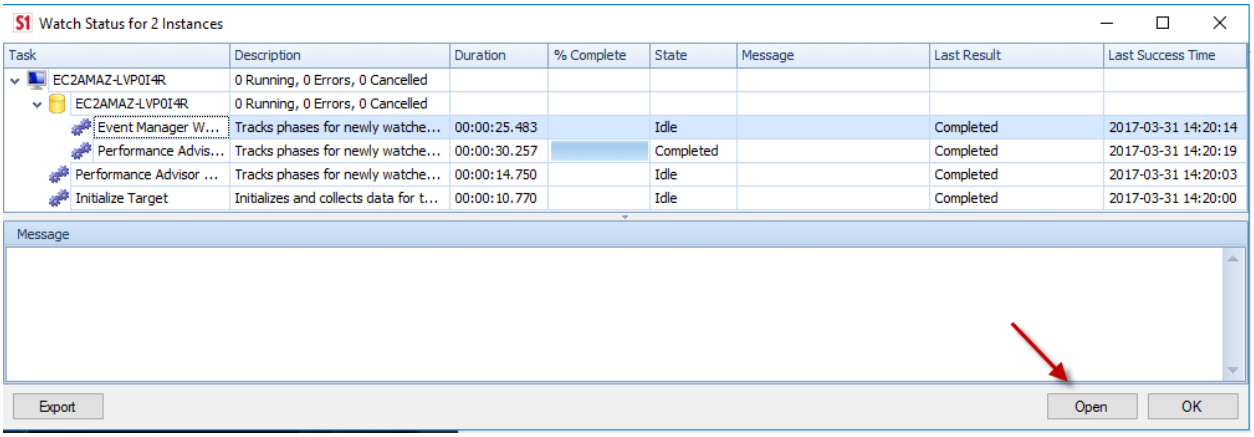
Click the ‘Next’ button here



The server is now being added



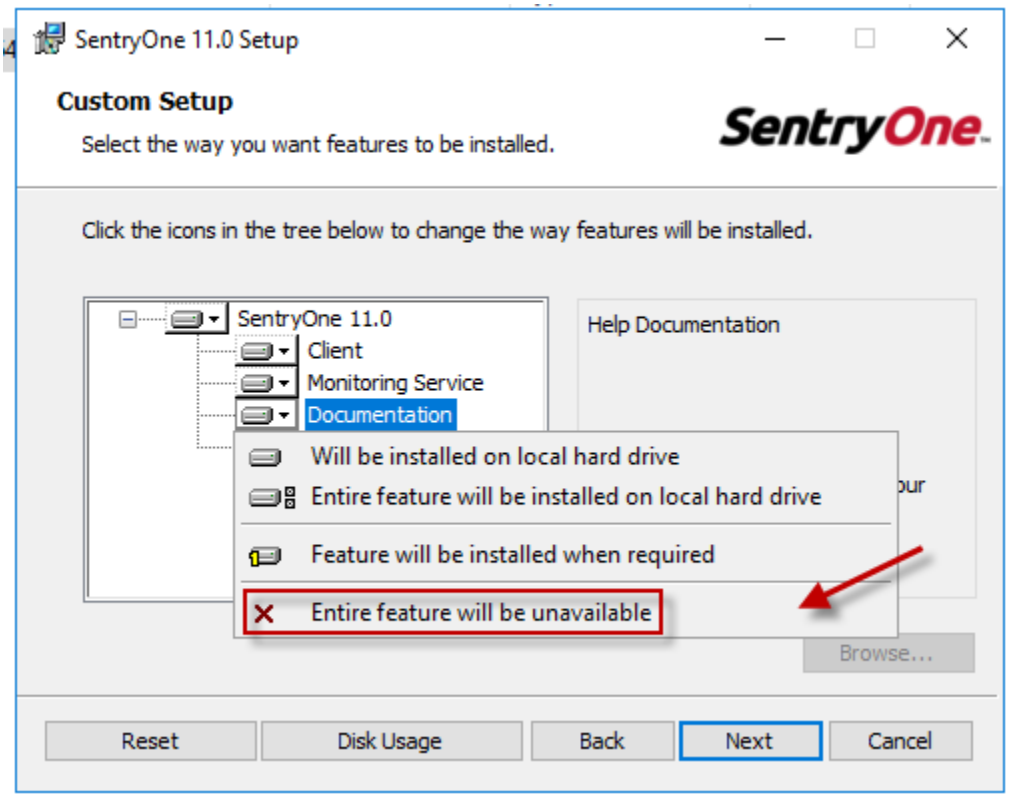
Initialization has been completed and the server can now be monitored



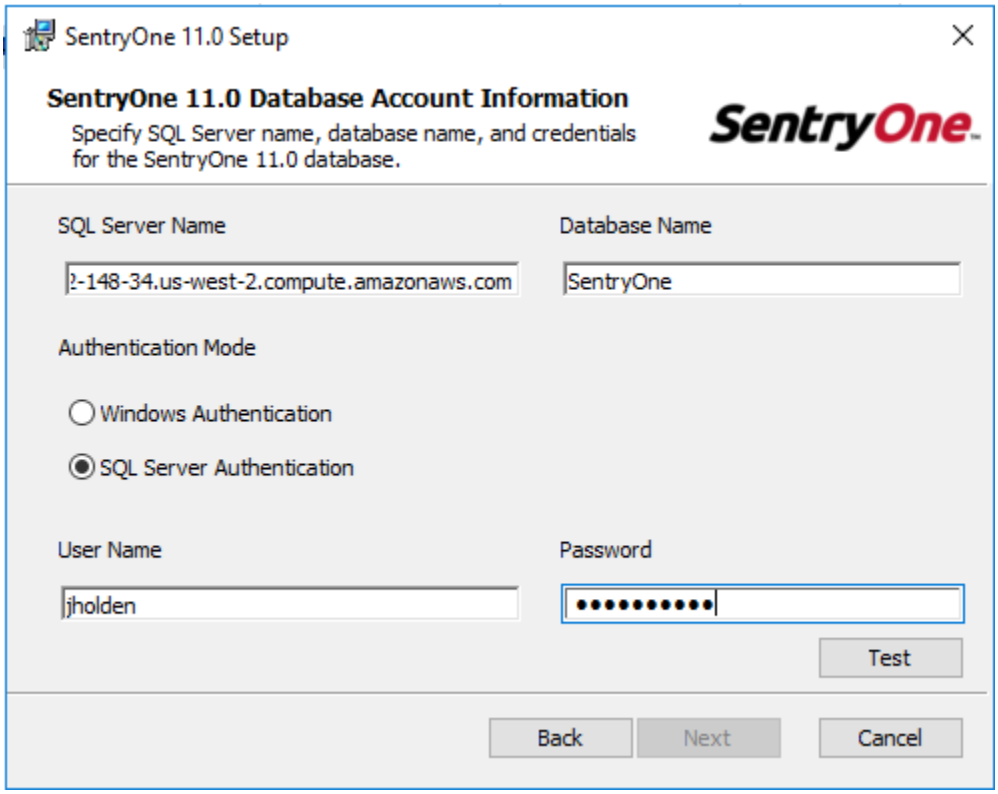
Part 4: Successfully monitoring additional EC2 instances

a. Because I am monitoring an EC2 Instance that is a Workgroup, I will install a monitoring service and client on the target server. The process of installation is the same as Part 3 above with a couple of exceptions

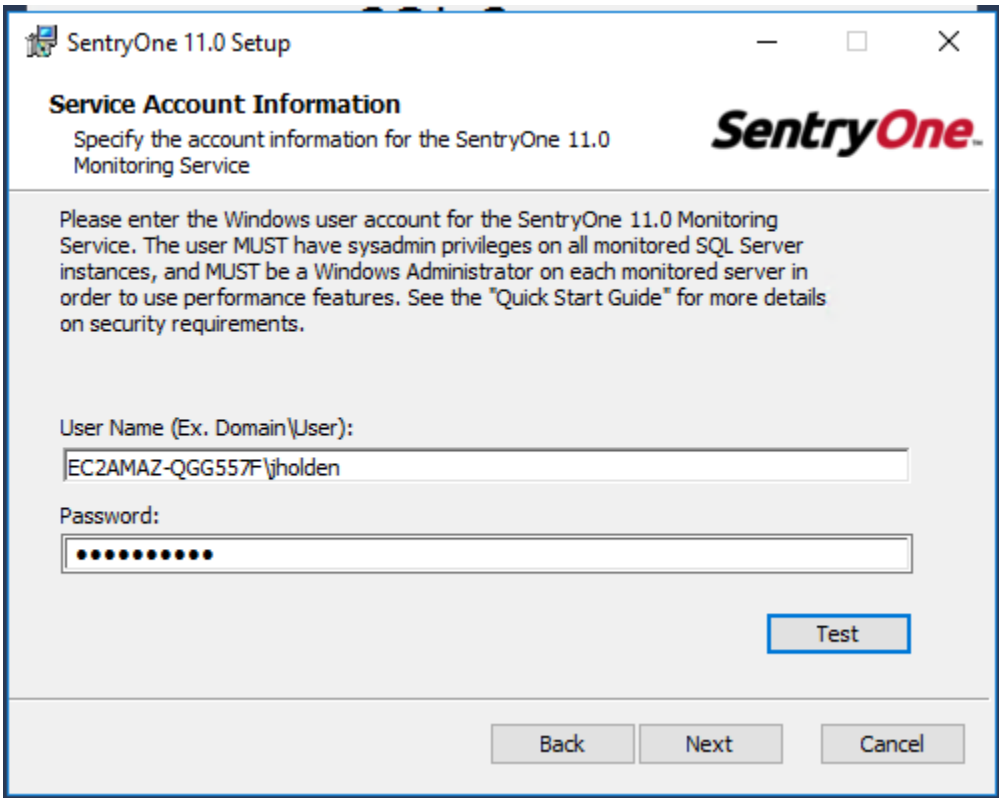
1. In the custom setup screen, I will only select the Client and the monitoring service from the list by choosing to disable the Documentation and the SNMP MIBs



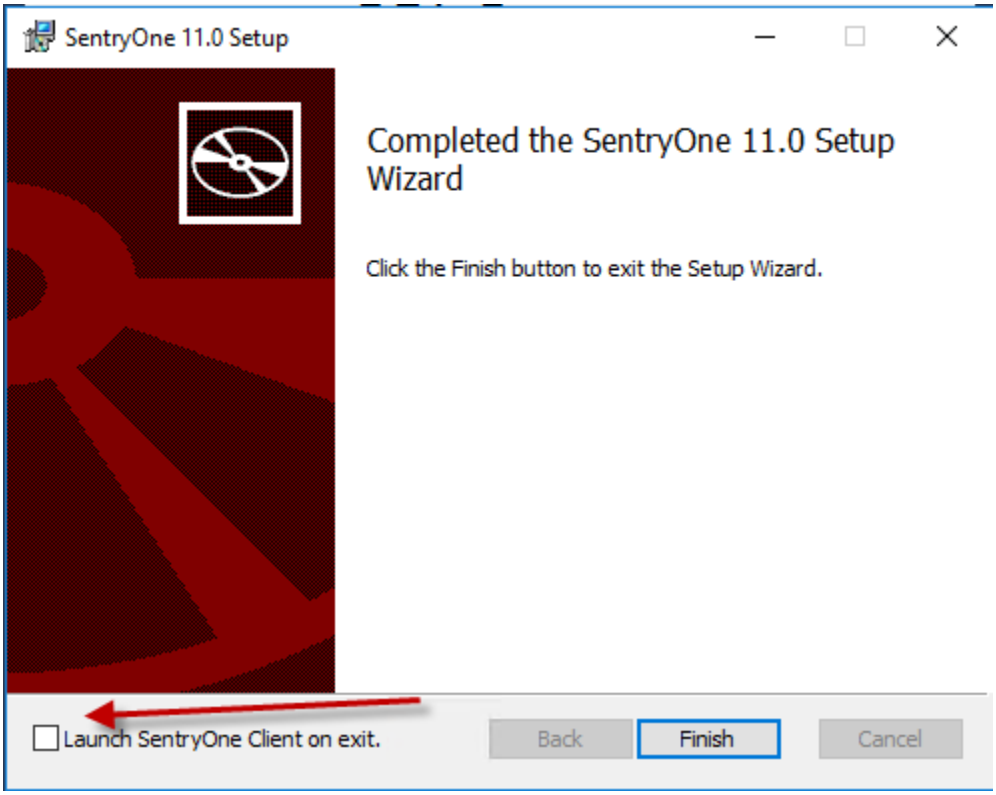
2. In the database account information screen, I will use the public DNS name for the workgroup and use SQL Authentication to connect to the SentryOne database



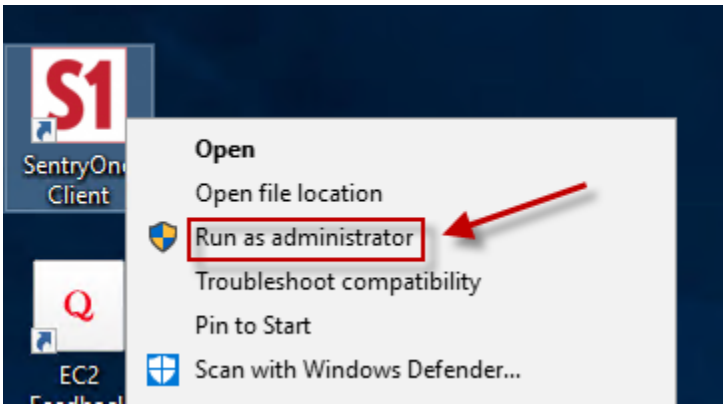
3. In the service account information screen, I will use the local account that we created for the SentryOne monitoring service to use



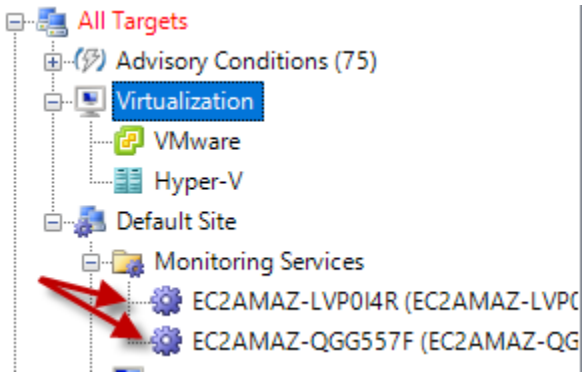
4. Once the installation completes, I have unchecked the box marked ‘Launch SentryOne Client on exit’, and then clicked ‘Finish’. The reason for this is that we need to run the client as Administrator when we first connect to the server where the client is running.



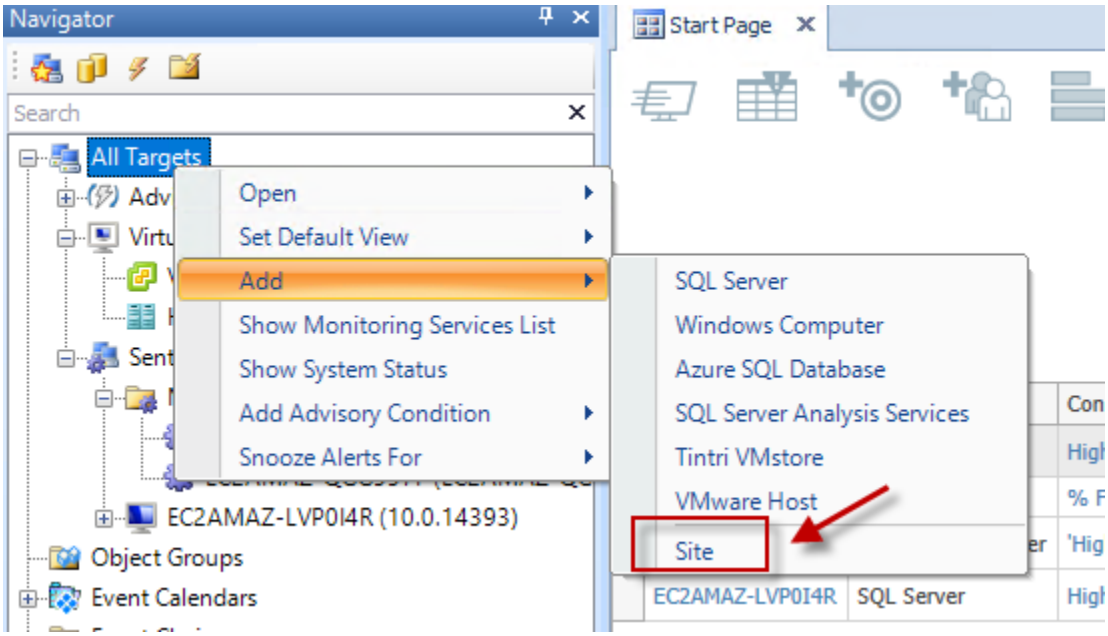
b. We will now want to right click on the SentryOne client icon and choose the ‘Run as administrator option’



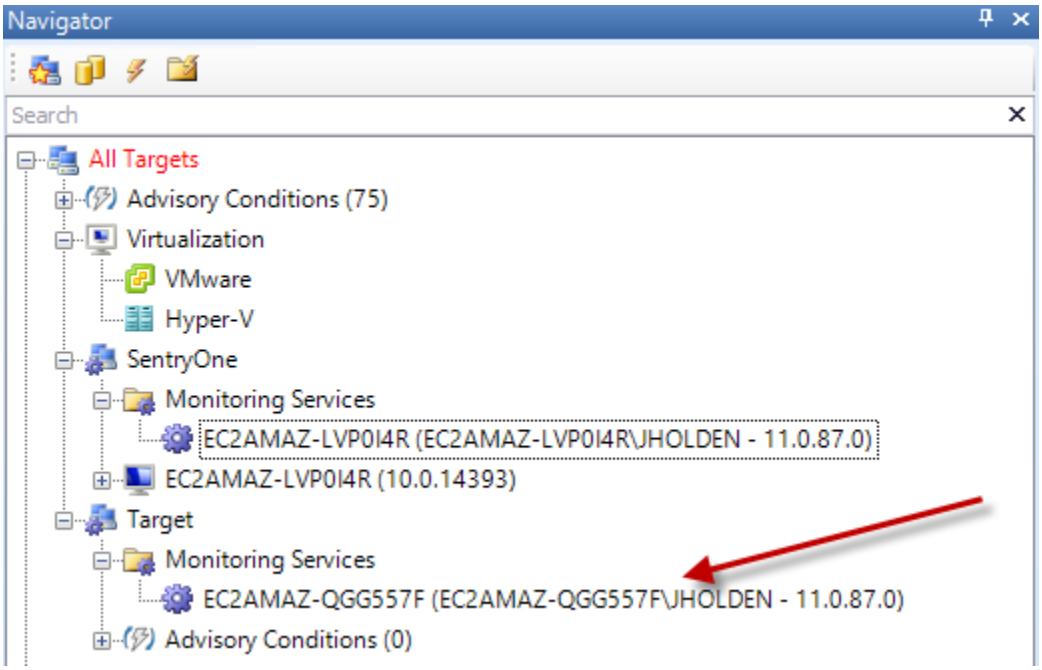
c. Once the client opens, we can expand the Monitoring Services folder under the Default Site in the Navigator pane and we will see both of our monitoring services



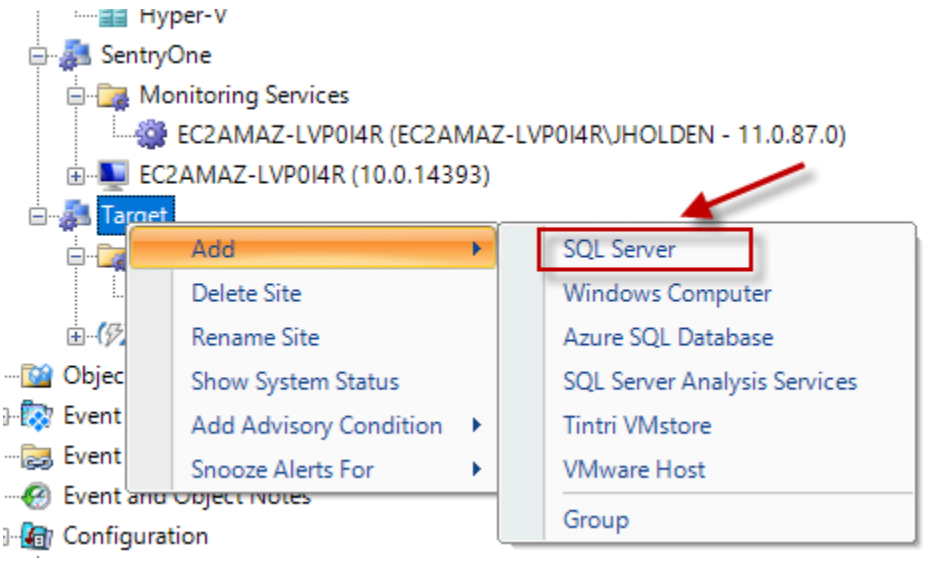
d. We can now create a separate site for our target to keep it separated from our SentryOne site (I right click and renamed from Default Site to SentryOne). I will call this new site Target.



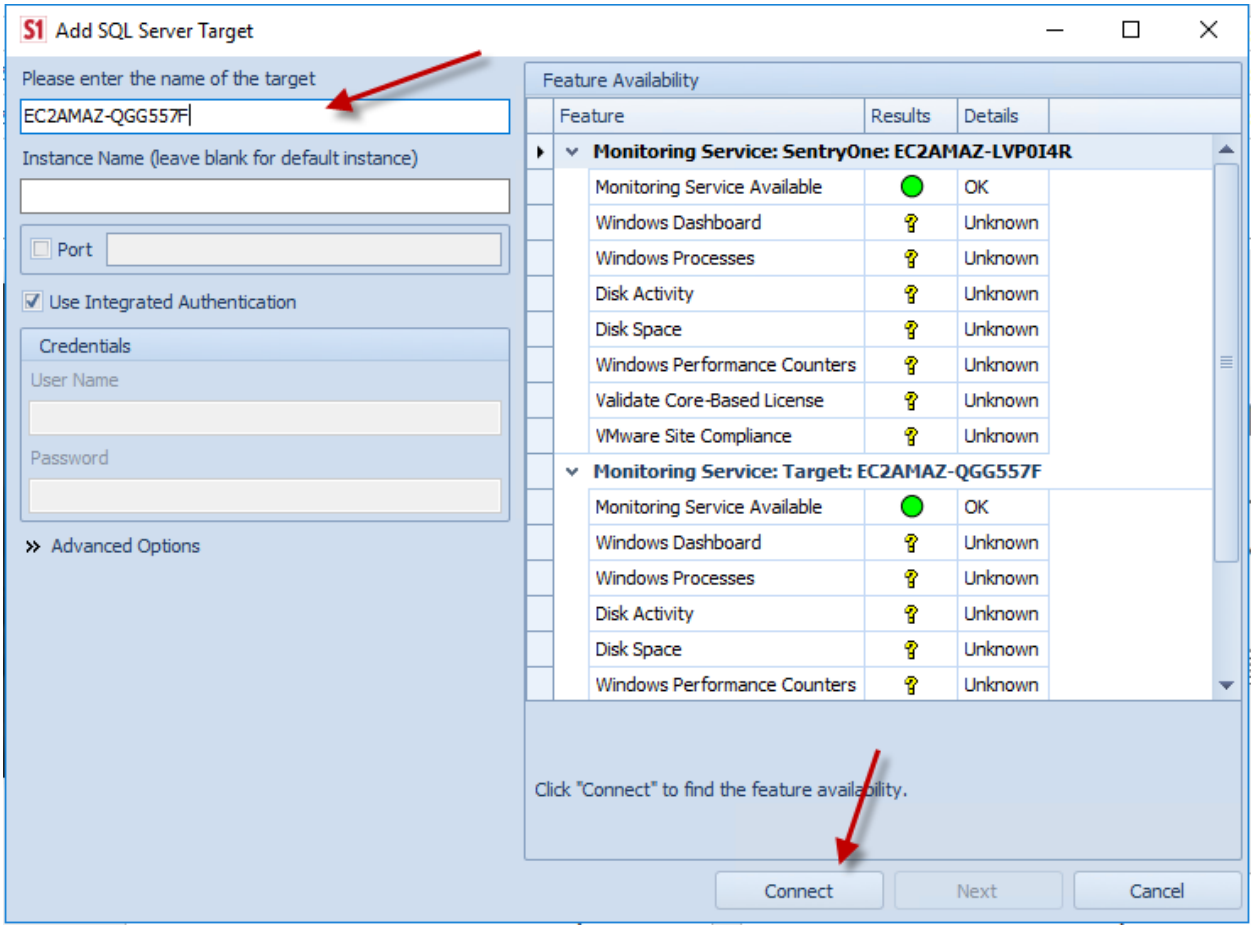
e. Now I can click and drag the monitoring service that we added on our target and drop it into the new site



f. From here, we can add our new target by right clicking on the Target site and choosing to Add SQL Server.



g. We can now add the new server (same process as Part 3 – s above)



I hope that you have found this useful.

Happy monitoring!