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The Print Spooler in Windows holds printing jobs in memory until you or the printer is ready. You may find situations where you need to start and stop the print spooler temporarily. If you're having problems, you might consider resetting and clearing the print spooler.Video tutorial:1: How to Enable or Disable Print Spooler Service - ServicesPress the Windows Key + R, type in services.msc, and press Enter.Double-click on Print Spooler.Click on Start or Stop.2: How to Enable or Disable Print Spooler Service - Command PromptOpen the Command Prompt as an administrator. Powershell will not work.Type in one of the following:Stop: net stop spoolerIf you want to clear the print spooler, type in DEL /F /S /Q %systemroot%\System32\spool\PRINTERS* now.Start: net start spooler3: How to Enable or Disable Print Spooler Service - System ConfigurationPress the Windows Key + R, type in msconfig, and press Enter.Click on the Services tab.Find Print Spooler. Clicking once on Service will list alphabetically.Check the box next to Print Spooler and click on OK.Reboot when prompted.Similar: How to Reset and Clear Print Spooler in Windows 10 How to Remove a Printer in Windows 10 How to Backup and Restore Printers in Windows Fixing Printer Problems on Windows 10 comments powered by Stop, Start, or Restart Print Spooler Service in Windows 11 The Print Spooler service in Windows 11 plays a crucial role in managing print jobs sent to the printer or print server. It allows users to queue print jobs, manage them, and ensure that they are printed in the correct order while providing efficient handling of multiple print requests. Sometimes, users may encounter issues where print jobs are stuck in the queue, printers are unresponsive, or they simply need to manage printing tasks more efficiently. This is where stopping, starting, or restarting the Print Spooler service can come in handy.In this detailed guide, we will explore the Print Spooler service in Windows 11, how to manage it effectively, and common troubleshooting steps to resolve printing issues.Understanding the Print Spooler ServiceBefore we dive into managing the Print Spooler service, its important to understand what it is and how it functions within the Windows 11 environment. The Print Spooler service is a software program that temporarily holds print jobs in memory until they can be sent to the appropriate printer. When you send a document to print, the Print Spooler service creates a queue of documents that have been sent to the printer. This allows users to continue working while the documents are being printed in the background. The Print Spooler service operates on a client-server model, meaning that it can communicate with both local and network printers. It ensures seamless interaction between the operating system and printers, allowing users to print documents without the need for further intervention.However, like many services, the Print Spooler can sometimes run into issues. Its not uncommon for print jobs to become stuck, which can be caused by various factors such as corrupted files, faulty drivers, or even network issues. In these cases, stopping, starting, or restarting the Print Spooler can resolve most problems.How to Stop, Start, or Restart the Print Spooler ServiceWindows 11 provides various methods to manage the Print Spooler service. Below, we detail each method to either stop, start, or restart the service. Method 1: Using the Services AppOpen the Services app:Press Windows + R to open the Run dialog box.Type services.msc and press Enter.Locate the Print Spooler service:In the Services window, scroll down to find "Print Spooler".You can also click on the "Name" column to sort the services alphabetically, making it easier to locate.Stopping the Print Spooler:Right-click on "Print Spooler" and select "Stop" from the context menu. This action will stop the Print Spooler service.Starting the Print Spooler:If you need to start the Print Spooler service, right-click on "Print Spooler" again and select "Start".Restarting the Print Spooler:To restart the service, you can either stop it and start it again using the methods described above or right-click on "Print Spooler" and select "Restart".Method 2: Using Command PromptFor users who prefer using the command line, you can manage the Print Spooler service using Command Prompt:Open Command Prompt as Administrator:Press Windows + X to open the Quick Link menu.Click on "Windows Terminal (Admin)" or "Command Prompt (Admin)".Stop the Print Spooler service:Type the command:net stop spoolerPress Enter.Start the Print Spooler service:Type the command:net start spoolerPress Enter.Restart the Print Spooler service:To restart, you can use the following commands one after the other:net stop spoolernet start spoolerMethod 3: Using Windows PowerShellPowerShell is another powerful tool that lets you manage services, including the Print Spooler:Open Windows PowerShell as Admin:Press Windows + X to open the Quick Link menu.Click on "Windows PowerShell (Admin)".Stop the Print Spooler service:Type the command:Stop-Service -Name spoolerPress Enter.Start the Print Spooler service:Type the command:Start-Service -Name spoolerPress Enter.Restart the Print Spooler service:Use the following commands one after the other:Stop-Service -Name spoolerStart-Service -Name spoolerWhy You Might Need to Stop, Start, or Restart the Print Spooler ServiceAt times, you may find it necessary to manage the Print Spooler service. Here are some common scenarios where stopping, starting, or restarting the service becomes crucial: Print Jobs Stuck in Queue:Users often experience situations where print jobs do not complete and remain stuck in the print queue. This can often be resolved by restarting the Print Spooler service.Printer Not Responding:If your printer appears offline or unresponsive, this could be due to issues with the Print Spooler. Restarting may restore communication between your PC and the printer.Updating or Changing Printer Drivers:When installing or updating printer drivers, it might be necessary to restart the Print Spooler to ensure changes take effect.General Printer Troubleshooting:Regularly managing the Print Spooler can be part of routine troubleshooting for printing issues. It can resolve conflicts or hiccups that may arise over time.Common Printing Issues and SolutionsClearing Stuck Print Jobs:After stopping the Print Spooler service, navigate to C:WindowsSystem32spoolPRINTERS and delete any files within this folder. Restart the Print Spooler once done.Checking Printer Connections:Ensure your printer is connected properly, whether its wired or wireless. If youre using a network printer, verify that your computer is on the same network.Updating Printer Drivers:Go to Device Manager by right-clicking the Windows Start button and selecting "Device Manager." Look for your printer under "Printers" or "Print Queues", right-click, and select "Update Driver."Running the Printer Troubleshooter:Go to Settings > Update & Security > Troubleshoot > Additional troubleshooters and select "Printer." This built-in troubleshooter can identify and fix common issues.Checking Windows Updates:Ensure your Windows 11 is updated, as Microsoft may offer updates that improve printer compatibility and functionality. Go to Settings > Windows Update and check for updates.Printing Errors: Understanding Common Error CodesWhile managing print tasks, you might encounter specific error codes. Familiarizing yourself with these can help in troubleshooting:Error 0x00000709: Indicates that Windows cannot connect to the printer. This often requires checking printer settings or drivers.Error 0x03: This typically means that the file path is incorrect. Make sure the printer is properly configured.Error 0x0000000C: This error might indicate that there is not enough memory to complete the print job. Consider resizing the document or checking printer specifications.Final ThoughtsManaging the Print Spooler service is an essential skill for every Windows 11 user, especially for those who rely heavily on their printers. Whether dealing with stuck print jobs, printer connection issues, or general troubleshooting, knowing how to efficiently stop, start, or restart the Print Spooler can save time and frustration.By comprehending the functionality of this service and utilizing the various management methods available in Windows 11, users can ensure smooth and efficient printing experiences. Regularly performing maintenance and troubleshooting can further enhance the performance of your printer and the reliability of your print jobs. In conclusion, the Print Spooler service may seem like a minor component of your Windows experience, but its impact on your day-to-day tasks can be significant. With the knowledge gained from this article, youll be equipped to handle print-related issues swiftly and effectively. Embrace the power of understanding the Print Spooler, and take control of your printing tasks in Windows 11. How can I restart Print Spooler if it crashes, hangs or stops? Print Spooler is a built-in service in Windows that temporarily stores print jobs in the computers memory until the printer is ready to print them. If your documents get stuck in the printer queue or your system has difficulty sending a print job to a printer, you may need to stop or restart the Print Spooler service manually. In this tutorial well show you different ways to stop, restart or disable Print Spooler service in Windows 10.Method 1: Stop or Restart Print Spooler Service from Service ManagerPress the Windows key + R to open the Run box, type services.msc and hit Enter.In the Services window, scroll down the list of services and right-click on Print Spooler, you can then select either Stop or Restart option from the pop-up menu.Method 2: Stop or Restart Print Spooler Service from Command PromptOpen the elevated Command Prompt or PowerShell, run the following commands to stop or start the Print Spooler service.net stop spoolernet start spoolerMethod 3: Use a Batch File to Stop or Restart Print Spooler Service Create a blank text file and rename the extension from .txt to .bat, then open it with Notepad and paste the following:@echo offNET stop spoolerNET start spoolerWhen its saved, right-click on the batch file and select Run as administrator. It will restart the Print Spooler service immediately.Method 4: Enable or Disable Print Spooler Service from System ConfigurationPress the Windows key + R to open the Run box, type msconfig and hit Enter.When the System Configuration utility launches, select the Services tab. To disable Print Spooler service, uncheck the box next to Print Spooler. Or check that box to enable Print Spooler service.Click Apply and then OK. Restart the system to apply the changes. Clear the print spooler from the CMD Open CMD from start menu by typing cmd or Win+R / cmd Type:net stop spoolerPress enter Type:del %systemroot%\System32\spool\printers* /QPress enter Print spool is now clear 7 Spice ups We can script this, right? Would love to be able to click a magic button to apply a fix. The Print Spooler Service is basically a software program in Windows operating system, which has been specifically designed to manage printers and print jobs issued from the computer.Sometimes, the Print Spooler service stops working, in which case you will have to manually Start or Restart the Print Spooler Service on your computer.Depending on your preference, you can Start, Stop and Restart Print Spooler Service using the Task Manager, Command Prompt, and Services.Start, Stop, Restart Print Spooler in Windows 10/11If you find the need to Stop, Start or Restart the Print Spooler Service, you can find below 3 different ways to Stop, Start, Restart the Print Spooler Service on your Windows 10/11 computer. 1. Start, Stop, Restart Print Spooler Using Task ManagerPerhaps the easiest way to Start, Stop or Restart the Print Spooler Service in Windows 10/11 is by using Task Manager.1. Right-click the Start button and select Task Manager.2. On Task Manager screen, switch to Services tab, right-click on Spooler entry and click on Start.Similarly, you can Restart Print Spooler by right-clicking on the Spooler entry and selecting the Restart option.Note: The Restart option may not be available if the Spooler is not working.3. At any time, you can Stop the Print Spooler Service by right-clicking on the Spooler entry and selecting the Stop option.2. Start, Stop, Restart Print Spooler Service Using ServicesAnother way to Start, Stop or Restart the Print Spooler service is by going to the Services screen on your Windows 11/10 computer.1. Right-click on the Start button and click on Run.2. In the Run command window, type services.msc and click on OK.3. On the Services screen, right-click on Print Spooler and click on the Restart option.Also, make sure that Print Spooler service is set to Start Automatically. If it is not, double-click on the Print Spooler entry. On the next screen, change the startup type to Automatic.4. Click on Apply and OK to save this change to the Print Spooler service on your computer.After this, make sure you restart the computer and you should be able to Print.3. Stop, Start, Restart Print Spooler Using Command PromptIf you like using the Command Prompt, you can use the net user Command to Start and Stop the Print Spooler.1. Type CMD in the Search bar > right-click on Command Prompt in the search results and select Run as Administrator option.2. In Command Prompt window, type input net stop spooler and press the Enter key to Stop Printer Spooler on your computer.If the problem is being caused by a corrupted Print Queue, open the File Explorer and navigate to C:\Windows\System32\Spool\Printers and delete all contents in the Printers folder.3. Go back to Command Prompt, type net start spooler and press the Enter key to start print spooler.After this, you should be able to Print from the computer, without encountering any error codes. Clearing the printer spooler on Windows 10 can resolve pesky printing issues, like stuck print jobs or the printer not responding. First, open the Run dialog using Windows + R, then type services.msc to access the Services window. Next, scroll to find Print Spooler and right-click to stop the service. Navigate to the spooler folder in File Explorer, delete all files, then return to Services and restart the print spooler. This quick fix should get your printer back to working smoothly. To clear the printer spooler on Windows 10, follow these steps to stop the spooler service, delete stuck print jobs, and restart the service. This process can help resolve common printer problems and improve your printing experience. Press Windows + R on your keyboard to open the Run dialog box. The Run dialog is a quick tool that helps you access various Windows settings and applications. By typing commands here, you can swiftly navigate to different system utilities. Type services.msc in the Run dialog and hit Enter. This command opens the Services window, which lists all the services running on your computer. These services include the Print Spooler, which manages your print jobs. Scroll down to find Print Spooler in the list. Right-click it and select Stop. Stopping the Print Spooler halts all printing tasks, allowing you to clear stuck jobs without interference. This step is essential before you can delete backlog files. Navigate to C:WindowsSystem32spoolPRINTERS using File Explorer. Delete all files in this folder. These files are temporary print job files. Removing them clears the spool, effectively resolving any document jams or print errors youve been experiencing. Return to the Services window, right-click Print Spooler again, and select Start. Restarting the Print Spooler reactivates the printing process on your device. Any issues with previously stuck print jobs should now be resolved. After completing these steps, your printer should be free of any stuck print jobs, and it should function as expected. If you previously experienced problems with documents failing to print or getting stuck in the queue, they should now be resolved, and you can resume printing seamlessly. Regularly clearing the print spooler can prevent future printing issues. Temporarily stop the Print Spooler to troubleshoot print jobs safely without affecting ongoing tasks. If you frequently encounter spooler issues, consider updating your printer drivers. Remember to restart the Print Spooler after clearing the print jobs to re-enable printing. Use caution when deleting files in the spool folder to avoid removing necessary files. A print spooler is a service that manages print jobs by sending them to the printer one by one. It helps the computer communicate with the printer effectively, handling multiple printing tasks seamlessly. Clearing the printer spooler resolves issues like stuck print jobs or unresponsive printers. It removes any backlog of print tasks that might be causing disruptions in your printing process. No, you must stop the Print Spooler service before clearing print jobs. This ensures that no files are in use, allowing you to safely delete temporary print job files without causing further issues. Restarting your computer is not necessary after clearing the spooler. Simply restarting the Print Spooler service should suffice to resume normal printing operations. If clearing the spooler doesnt resolve your issues, consider checking for driver updates, inspecting printer connections, or consulting the printers troubleshooting guide for further help. Press Windows + R to open Run dialog. Type services.msc and press Enter. Locate Print Spooler and stop it. Delete files in C:WindowsSystem32spoolPRINTERS. Restart Print Spooler. Clearing the printer spooler on Windows 10 is like hitting the reset button for your printer. It alleviates those frustrating moments when your printer just wont cooperate. Think of it as decluttering your printers queue, akin to tidying up a messy desk to boost productivity. This simple task doesnt require fancy tools or deep technical knowledge, just a few steps to restore order. If youre grappling with recurring printer issues, clearing the spooler should be your first troubleshooting step. But remember, like any good practice, consistency is key. Regular maintenance by clearing the spooler can prevent issues before they arise, saving you from unexpected hiccups during critical print jobs. For those eager to ensure a seamless printing experience, consider exploring further printer maintenance tips or even delving into advanced printer settings that could improve your overall workflow. Keep in mind that technology is here to make our lives easier, so take charge of your devices, and keep them running smoothly. Happy printing!Matt Jacobs has been working as an IT consultant for small businesses since receiving his Masters degree in 2003. While he still does some consulting work, his primary focus now is on creating technology support content for SupportYourTech.com.His work can be found on many websites and focuses on topics such as Microsoft Office, Apple devices, Android devices, Photoshop, and more.1Open the Start menu. You can open the Start menu by pressing either the Windows key on your keyboard, or by clicking the Start icon in the lower left corner of your screen. 2Type cmd. In the start menu, type cmd, which is the code for Command Prompt. You should see the Command Prompt program listed. Advertisement 3Open the Command Prompt as an administrator. Right-click the Command Prompt icon and select Run As Administrator from the dropdown menu. Click yes on the pop-up warning dialog box.The command prompt allows you to enter in text-based commands to your computer. These commands can also be accomplished by using the graphical interface, your keyboard, and the mouse, but you can sometimes save time by using the command prompt4Type "net stop spooler". Type net stop spooler into the command prompt, then press Enter. You will see a line saying, The Print Spooler service is stopping. After a bit of time, and if successful, you will see The Print Spooler service was stopped successfully.[1]5Delete print jobs. In order for the printer to not just start printing out documents once you restart spooling, you will have to cancel any outstanding print jobs. Enter C:\Windows\system32\spool\PRINTERS into the File Explorer address bar and press Enter. You may be asked to Continue as an admin from a pop-up dialog box. Click Continue if prompted.[2]Do not delete the PRINTERS folder, only the entries inside.6Restart the spooling. In order for your system to print documents in the future, you will have to restart the spooling service. Type net start spooler into the command prompt and press Enter. If successful, you will see The Print Spooler service was started successfully.7Close the Command Prompt. The spooling service should now be terminated and your printer will no longer print any documents from the queue. You can close the command prompt. Advertisement 1Pause printing. If possible, pausing printing will stop the queue momentarily and will give you time to cancel the tasks already in the queue.2Open Control Panel. Press the Windows key, type Control Panel, then press Enter.3Find and double-click on Administrative Tools. Within the Control Panel, you should see an option listed, titled Administrative Tools. Opening this option will allow you to access system preferences and settings.Note that altering too many options within the Administrative Tools program does have the potential to damage your system. Try to stick to the task of stopping printer spooling.4Find and double-click on Services. Within the Administrative Tools window, you should see an option titled, Services. Double-click this option to open up a list of current services running on your computer.If you have trouble finding this option, try tapping the 's' key while in the Administrative Tools window. Each time you press the 's' key, you will automatically cycle through all the options in the list which start with the letter 's'.5Right-click "Print Spooler" and select Stop. Within the Services window, find and right-click on the Print Spooler option. From the dropdown menu, select the Stop option. This will end the spooling service and cancel any documents in the printer queue. If you have trouble finding the Print Spooler option, try tapping the 'p' key to cycle through all options in the list that start with the letter 'p'.6Delete print jobs. In order for the printer to not just start printing out documents once you restart spooling, you will have to cancel any outstanding print jobs. Enter C:\Windows\system32\spool\PRINTERS into the File Explorer address bar and press Enter. You may be asked to Continue as an admin from a pop-up dialog box. Click Continue if prompted.Do not delete the PRINTERS folder, only the entries inside.7Restart spooling. Right-click the same Print Spooler option and click Start. Your printer should now be ready to accept new print jobs. Advertisement 1Open Task Manager. Press Ctrl + Alt + Delete, then click Task Manager.2Click the services tab. From the tabs on the top of the Task Manager window, click the one titled, Services You will see a list of all services currently running on your computer.3Stop spooling. Find the Spooler service, right-click, and select Stop from the dropdown menu.[3]If you have trouble finding the Spooler service, try tapping the 's' key to cycle through all items in the list that start with the letter 's'.4Delete print jobs. In order for the printer to not just start printing out documents once you restart spooling, you will have to cancel any outstanding print jobs. Enter C:\Windows\system32\spool\PRINTERS into the File Explorer address bar and press Enter. You may be asked to Continue as an admin from a pop-up dialog box. Click Continue if prompted.Do not delete the PRINTERS folder, only the entries inside.5Restart the spooler. Right-click the Spooler option from the Task Manager's service list and select Start from the dropdown menu.[4] Advertisement Add New Question Question What if I got in trouble for printing too much on the school printer? Apologize and tell the school staff it won't happen again. They may ask you to refrain from using the printer for a week or so as punishment, but that's about the worst that will happen. Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Advertisement Co-authored by: Computer & Tech Specialist This article was co-authored by Luigi Oppido. Luigi Oppido is the Owner and Operator of Pleasure Point Computers in Santa Cruz, California. Luigi has over 25 years of experience in general computer repair, data recovery, virus removal, and upgrades. He is also the host of the Computer Man Show! broadcasted on KSQD covering central California for over two years. This article has been viewed 616,031 times. Co-authors: 11 Updated: March 27, 2024 Views:616,031 Categories: Printers PrintSend fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 616,031 times. "The administrative tools were helpful. A quick and easy fix, thanks!" Share your story

Cmd print spooler restart. Stop spooler command. Stop spooler cmd. Command to stop and start print spooler. Command to stop print spooler. Stop print spooler powershell. Cmd command to stop print spooler.