

SPOOLSV.EXE HOGGING 99% OF CPU - THE FIX

I came into lab to find the printer printing strange ASCII characters, one line per page, and a basically inoperably slow PC. Checking Task Manager, I found the culprit - one spoolsv.exe at 99% cpu which I killed.

About 30 seconds later, the cpu was once again clogged by a revived app.

Here's the fix:

First, get some breathing room - go to Control Panel, Administrative Tools, Services and stop the Print Spooler. Turn off the printer.

Now go to C:\WINDOWS\system32\spool\PRINTERS and delete the files there. I found '00020.SHD' and '00020.SPL'.

Now turn your printer back on and restart the service.

Check task manager, spoolsv.exe should be at 00%. Whew!