

No. 268: A Quick Printer Fix

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What a pain! You just finished something rather important and want to print it, so you send it to your printer and nothing happens! The printer icon is in your tray, but the darned machine never starts printing. So, you want to stop that job and restart it, without the bother of restarting the whole computer. Double-clicking the printer icon gives you something that says you can cancel all jobs, but it really doesn't work. What to do? You can reboot the computer and try to print again (after turning the printer off and back on), but that frustrating waste of at least 10 minutes of your time does not always work, either. Here is a simple fix that often (maybe not always, but often) will prevent having to reboot both the printer and the computer. Courtesy of Majorgeeks (https://www.majorgeeks.com/content/page/reset_and_clear_print_spooler.html). You can get the simple batch file shown below in red from there, or you can highlight it on your screen and copy it to a text file and save it as **Reset and Clear Print Spooler.bat**, then run it by double clicking it. Here is what it contains:

```
:: MajorGeeks.Com  
:: How to Reset and Clear Print Spooler in Windows  
:: https://www.majorgeeks.com/content/page/reset\_and\_clear\_print\_spooler.html
```

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@echo off  
powershell -windowstyle hidden -command "Start-Process cmd -ArgumentList '/s,/c,net  
stop spooler & DEL /F /S /Q %systemroot%\System32\spool\PRINTERS\* & net start  
spooler' -Verb runAs"
```

The stuff on the lines after a double colon (::) consists of labels for your reading, while everything after the "at sign" (@) is the actual batch file program read and executed by your computer. In essence, it stops the print spooler, clears all the print spooler arguments, and restarts the spooler. It will reflect all that on your screen for you to read so you can see what is happening. Then, try your print job again. Quick, nifty, and it often solves the problem.

Fred Schwierske, W9KEY, is interested in knowing about all the "reborn" computers I have put out there with Linux on them. If you have one, what favorite software (ham radio or otherwise) are you using with them? What games, utilities or other software do you use with them? Fred says he will be adding the Libre Office suite, but, Fred, that already comes with the Linux Cinnamon 19.3 package, the latest and greatest. Anything else? Any underlying tips or tricks you can suggest? Write a note with this info and send it to fred.schwierske@gmail.com and copy me, as well. Or send to me (address below the byline above) and I'll be sure to send a copy to Fred. Happy computing!