

XP General question – wrong ng though?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2004-03/2023.html>

From: PopRivet (*r91658_at_usadatanet.net*)

Date: 03/10/04

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 2004 13:43:00 -0500

Hi all,

I haven't frequented this specific ng much but have been lurking for a bit. So if I'm right church-wrong pew, please, don't hesitate to send me elsewhere. I've searched several archives, MS KBs, etc. to no avail but it's likely I don't know what specifically to ask.

Any help with anything related would be a pleasure at this point.

Gateway 2.6 GHz, 512 RAM, dual 80 Gig hds, XP Pro, Home LAN, one laptop client, this desktop Server.

PROBLEMS:

— HISTORICALLY: ALL worked fine for last 7 months, up to about a week ago.

— LAN not an issue (yet); that can come later. It works, but only in half duplex, allows data collisions.

— PRINTERS: Two. One Epson Stylus C82, one HP Laserjet 6P.

— PROBLEM: Neither printer will print. Well, more accurately, about an hour ago both were working perfectly, then they quite – again!!

A reboot got the Epson working again, the HP only prints garbage whether fed text or graphic.

RECENT HISTORY:

I'll try to keep it Readers Digest style: I'm only looking for leads, I understand there isn't likely any one size fits all answer here.

— First I noticed a svchost.exe trying to access the net (dialup connection). I denied it, but didn't create a rule 'cause I wanted to know what it was. I just disallowed it whenever it popped up since there were no other noticeable problems.

— Upon cold or warm boot, started getting boot error

about Epson Printer Port errors. Boot time seemed long, I thought because of searching/looking for the drivers it needed. Don't think that's true though, now.

— Even Viewer showed the Epson driver eplpdx02 was failing to start. This has been consistent.

— Updated (several times & also use Live Update) NAV and ran – nothing.

— Spyware, virus scans, debrag, firewall running, nothing found anything wrong – all logs looked fine too – no Security Warnings.

— Researching, I discovered on the hd: SK9910DM.EXE I went to Symantec & got the removal instructions. It's a worm, forget the name. It could have been the reason for the svchost.exe outgoing attempts though. Anyway, I removed what I could find of it – registry, sys files, hd, etc.. it appeared to be incomplete as a worm though, unless it was an undiscovered variant. I don't recall when for sure because I was ill for a day or so, but the outgoing svchost.exe outgoing requests are gone.

ASIDE: I'm a foster parent. Kids did use the machine, in fact caught one at rotten.com. No more kids – they have a "special" machine of their own now out in the laundry room to play their games on. No internet connections.

So, I can see how my protection may have been compromised. Yes, I've changed passwords, etc etc etc: Even usernames/machine names except for one account.

— Then printers stopped working, LAN gave up, and "funny" things started to happen. Long story short, ended up using Install disk to do the "upgrade" process. Went thru the re-activation process, did all the updates, & nothing changed.

— Redid the install, this time using Repair Console – the "funny" things stopped happening, but still no printers working.

— Fiddled, resintalled printers, drivers, etc etc, after doing all the updates again, of course, including the office updates by the way.

— Suddenly Epson printer started working. Eventually, had them both working A-OK this morning, Even Viewer clean except for the LAN startups, and it seemed to work good. Did a couple cold and warm boots, left to have lunch.

Came back from lunch, the HP quit working again!! Epson quit, too!

A Restart brought back the Epson, the HP is still out to lunch. Yes, I've reinstalled the drivers many times, deleted the LPT port with Device Manage and put it back, several times for all. All the HP will print is garbage again.

Oh, and yes, I've been to the Epson and HP sites to update drivers: No matter what I download, including the XP compatible HP driver, it says the driver isn't compatible and of course is unsigned. **BUT IT WORKED ORIGINALLY! IT'S GOTTA BE ABLE TO WORK AGAIN! YES, I AM THE ONE WHO DID ALL THE INSTALLS ORIGINALLY TOO!**

SO: My next step is here, and/or a MS tech. I was hoping that someone here may have some advice that might help me make more sense to a MS tech, or maybe point me in a direction that will let me pin things down a little better.

It's like the HP isn't compatible with XP, but it WAS working, for several months, so I know there is a way to get it going.

I'm no guru and no MVP by any means, but I am fairly computer literate – at least to the point of knowing the buzz words and how to get around the system files – e g enough to be dangerous!

Any thoughts/comments will be humbly appreciated.

TIA

Pop