

How do I hide a window without blocking on it?

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A customer was working on improving their application startup performance. They found that if their application was launched immediately after a fresh boot, the act of dismissing their splash screen was taking over 5% of their boot time. Their code removed the splash screen by calling `ShowWindow(hwndSplash, SW_HIDE)`. They suspect that the splash screen thread has, for some reason, stopped responding to messages, and while an investigation into that avenue was undertaken, a parallel investigation into reducing the cost of hiding the splash screen was also begun. One of the things they tried was to remove the `WS_EX_TOOLWINDOW` style and call `ITaskbarList::DeleteTab(hwndSplash)` but they found that it wasn't helping. The reason it wasn't helping is that editing the window style generates WM_STYLECHANGING/WM_STYLECHANGED messages to the target window, and now you're back where you started.

A better way is to use `ShowWindowAsync(hwndSplash, SW_HIDE)`. The `-Async` version of the `ShowWindow` function is the `SendMessage` version of `ShowWindow`: If the window belongs to another thread group, then it schedules the operation but does not wait for it to complete.

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