

Operating Systems

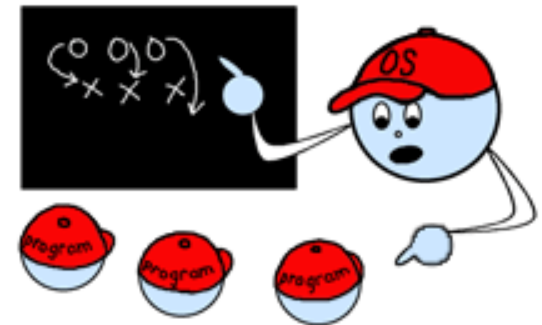
What is an Operating System?

The most important program on any computer is the **Operating System** or **OS**.

The OS is a large program made up of many smaller programs that control how the CPU communicates with other hardware components.

It also makes computers easier to operate by people who don't understand programming languages.

In other words, operating systems make computers **user friendly**.



OS tells programs what to do

ROM and RAM.....again

- Do you remember ROM (Read Only Memory) and RAM (Random Access Memory)
- ROM and RAM are very important to the OS.
- Part of a computer's operating system is built into ROM. That part contains the most essential programs that the computer needs in order to run correctly.

BIOS

The ROM operating system is also known as the BIOS (Basic Input Output System).

The BIOS is responsible for waking up the computer when you turn it on to remind it of all the parts it has and what they do.



Types of Operating Systems

- Different computer manufacturers use different operating systems.
- Apple has specific operating systems for its line of Macintosh computers.
- When IBM released their Personal Computer or PC back in the early 1980's, they did not get a copyright on it, which allowed many other companies to build similar computers that were IBM-compatible; in other words, they used the same operating system as the IBM PC.



Windows OS

- There are different operating systems available for PCs, but the most common is Windows, which was developed by a company named Microsoft.
- Windows is similar to the Macintosh operating system, because it also uses a mouse and a **GUI** (Graphical User Interface) that uses **graphics** or pictures to help the user navigate within the computer system.

Versions of OS

- There are several versions of Windows (XP, Vista, 7), just as there are several versions of Macintosh operating systems (System 9 and OS X).
- Operating systems are constantly being improved or **upgraded** as technology advances.
- When a company thinks that their operating system has been advanced enough from the one already on the market, they release their new version for sale.

The Computer Revolution

- The introduction of the Macintosh OS and the later introduction of Windows played a large part in making computers accessible to so many people.
- The user-friendly interfaces of both operating systems made it easier for people with no computer training to learn to use these amazing machines.
- Other machines, such as typewriters and payroll calculators quickly became a thing of the past, as computers became so easy to use and so affordable.

