Activity 4: What is an OS?

According to Google, an operating system is "the software that supports a computer's basic functions, such as scheduling tasks, executing applications, and controlling peripherals."

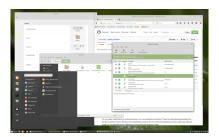
Model 1 Screenshots

Write the name of the operating system under each screenshot:













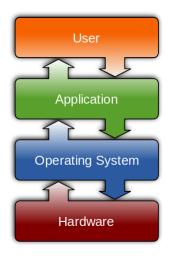
Questions (10 min)

Start time: _____

- 1. What do these operating systems have in common? Describe at least three similarities.
- 2. How are these operating systems different? Describe at least three major differences.
- 3. Based on your experience as a computer user, what does an operating system do?

Model 2 Interactions

To the right of each box, list several examples of what the word means in the context of the diagram:



Questions (10 min)

Start time: _____

- 4. Consider a smartphone or tablet. Describe how users interact with applications.
- 5. With respect to hardware interactions, what does the operating system need to do?
- 6. Why do applications need to go through the operating system to access hardware?