

# The Structure of a Computer

## Separation of a computer in four sections

- **Hardware :**  
collection of devices that allow the execution of programs
- **OS :**  
management and coordination of system hardware
- **Software :**  
any program that can be executed inside the OS
- **User :**  
any device or being that can interact with the system

## Hardware (simplified)

- Systembus connects all devices
  - one or more CPUs for program execution
  - shared memory for tasks of the CPU and other devices
  - Controller for IO devices
    - \* Hard Drives
    - \* HID
    - \* Network Interface
    - \* ...

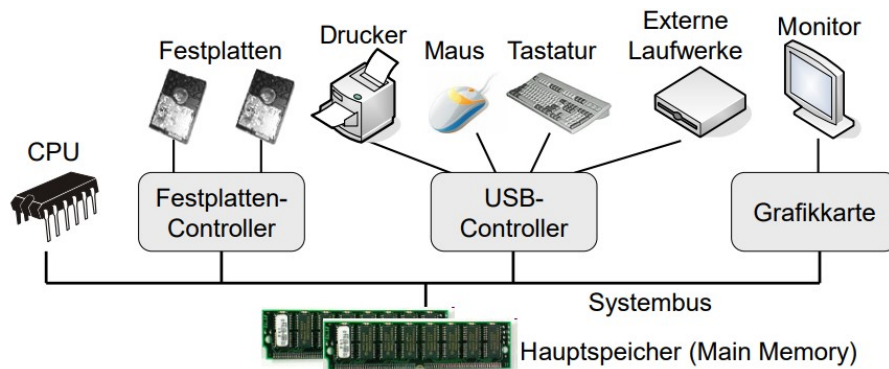


Figure 1: "Systembus Floiwwchart"

## Computer Architecture : von-Neumann

- reference model for computers
- separation between code execution and data

- Separation between CPU and memory
- Separation between Execution Unit and ALU
- this adds component communication overhead in program execution
  - Data has to be moved from memory to CPU and back, to be used
  - the OS provides functionality to use the given resources efficiently

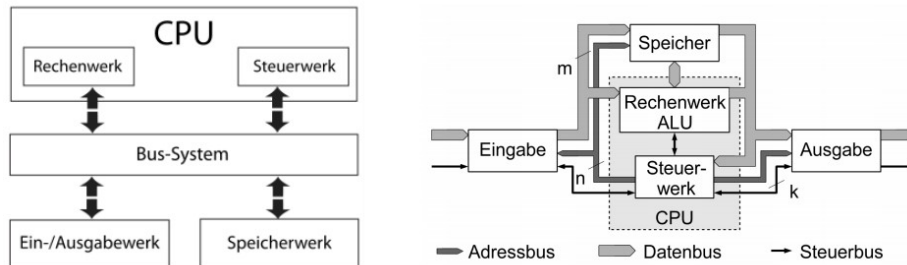
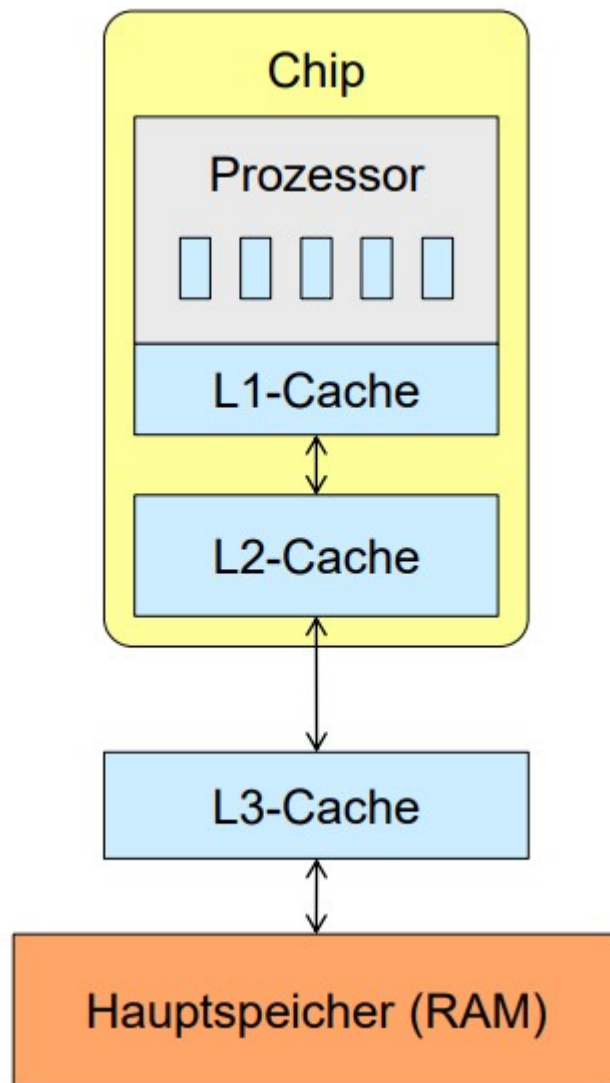


Figure 2: “CPU Model Flowchart”

- CPU has multiple registers
  - data registers, address registers, special registers, ...
- additional cache
  - fast buffer memory
  - access to cache is much faster compared to memory access
  - smaller cache = lower access times
  - caches are transparent to the OS
  - Types of cache
    - \* L1-cache
      - close to the main execution unit, very small, very little latency
      - saves future instructions for fast execution
    - \* L2-cache
      - larger and slightly slower
    - \* L3-cache
      - faster than main memory
      - smaller than main memory
      - extra chip outside the main processor



- registers tend to be very small, no more than the size of a DWORD but extremely fast
  - used for calculation or comparison
- cache is still very fast, but is usually slower than registers, while having a larger size
- main memory is very large, but needs many cycles to move data to CPU
  - OS needs to handle access times and data transport
  - every time we access data from a hard drive, we have to stop program execution so the processor can continue

## Processor Cores and Caches

- each CPU tends to have its own L1 and L2 cache, sharing the L3 cache between all cores
- all processors can access system BUS and main memory individually
- communication and access latency is still a bottleneck in modern hardware
- Hyperthreading
  - process interweaving, so that program execution can be sped up

## Hardware component interplay

- CPU executes operations
- CPU and IO-devices are used asynchronously
  - every IO-controller controls one type of device
  - the CPU is needed to execute an operation
    - \* every controller has its own registers
    - \* CPU moves data from main memory and cache
    - \* operation is started after moving the data
  - Today: *DMA (Direct Memory Access)*
    - \* separate controller for the movement of data
    - \* takes load away from CPU
- Hardware Interrupts tell the CPU when an external task is done
  - CPU tries to access HDD
  - HDD Controller starts to work on retrieving the data
  - CPU continues to work on other stuff
  - HDD controller sends an interrupt signal to CPU
  - CPU stops and listens to HDD controller
  - data has an end-marker, if end is reached, CPU continues to work.

## Simplified computer architecture

### The OS

- Collection of Programs that allow efficient and comfortable use of a computer
  - Platform for program execution on computer hardware
- System resources can be Hardware or software
  - **Processors, Processes, Threads**
  - **Memory**
    - \* Main Memory, Cache, virtual Memory
  - **Filesystem**
    - \* Directories, Files
  - **I/O devices**
    - \* Graphics card, Network interface card, Harddrives, Peripherals
- Classification:

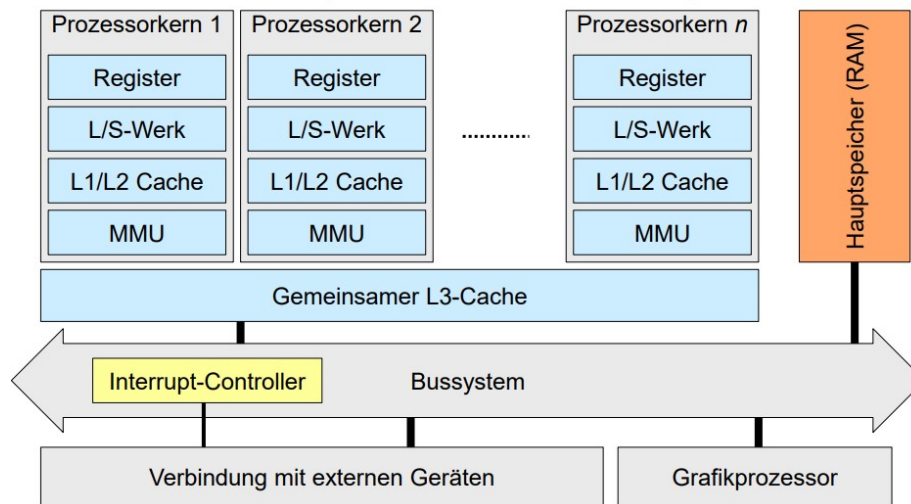


Figure 3: “Main Components of a computer”

- can it be shared between processes? (y/n)
- can we remove a resource from a process?

## The Development of Operating Systems

### Main Focus of OS development

- Mainframes (1950)
- “Mini-computers” (1960)
- Desktop-Computers (1970)
- Handheld-Computers (1990)
- AP’s, Sensor-nodes, Smartphones, Tablets... (2000)
- IoT, Cyber-physical systems, Smartwatches... (2010+)

## Today’s Operating Systems:

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- **MS-DOS Kernel** (EOL in 2001):
  - Windows 1.0 - 3.11
  - Windows 95
  - Windows 98
  - Windows Me
- **Windows NT Kernel:**
  - Windows NT
  - Windows 2000
  - Windows XP

- Windows Vista
- Windows 7
- Windows 8/8.1
- Windows 10
- Windows Server
- **UNIX Kernel:**
  - Sun Solaris
  - HP UX
  - Linux
    - \* Debian (APT)
      - Ubuntu
      - Parrot OS
    - \* Arch Linux (Pacman)
      - Manjaro
      - Arco Linux
    - \* RHEL
    - \* SUSE
    - \* Gentoo
    - \* LFS
    - \* Android
  - BSD
  - Mac OS
  - iOS
  - ...
- TinyOS
- Contiki
- ...

## OS Distribution in Germany

- **March 2014**
- **January 2016**
- **January 2009 to January 2019 (Desktop OS)**
- **January 2009 to January 2019 (Mobile OS)**

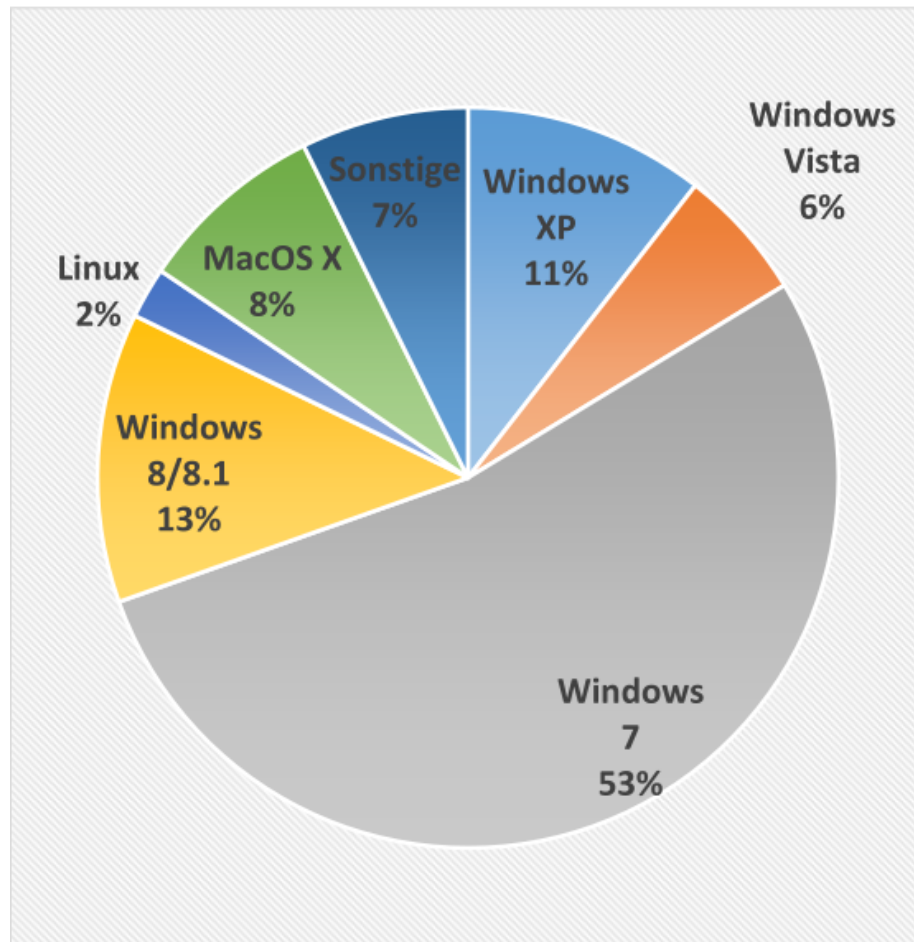


Figure 4: “OS Distribution in Germany, March 2014”

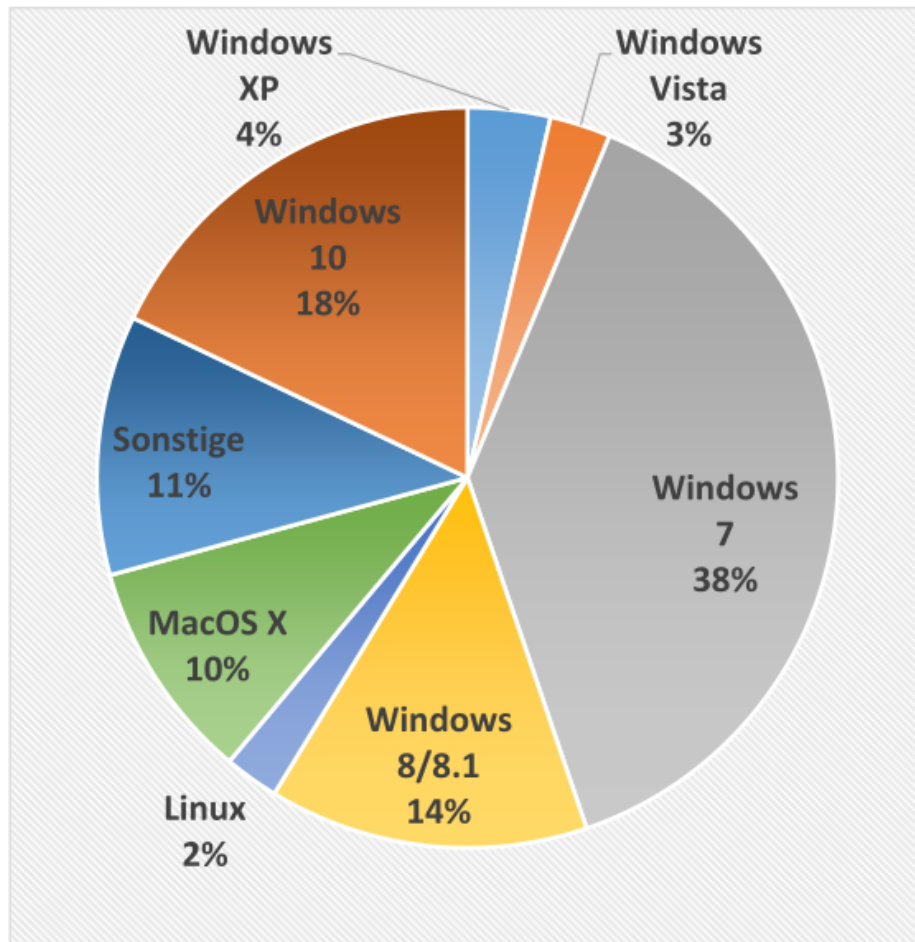


Figure 5: “OS Distribution in Germany, January 2016”



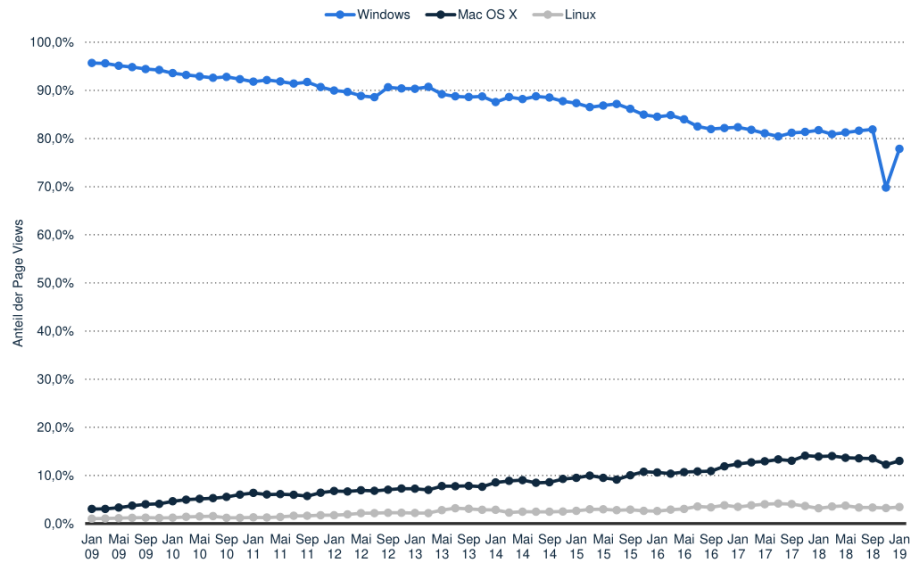


Figure 6: “OS Distribution in Germany, January 2016”

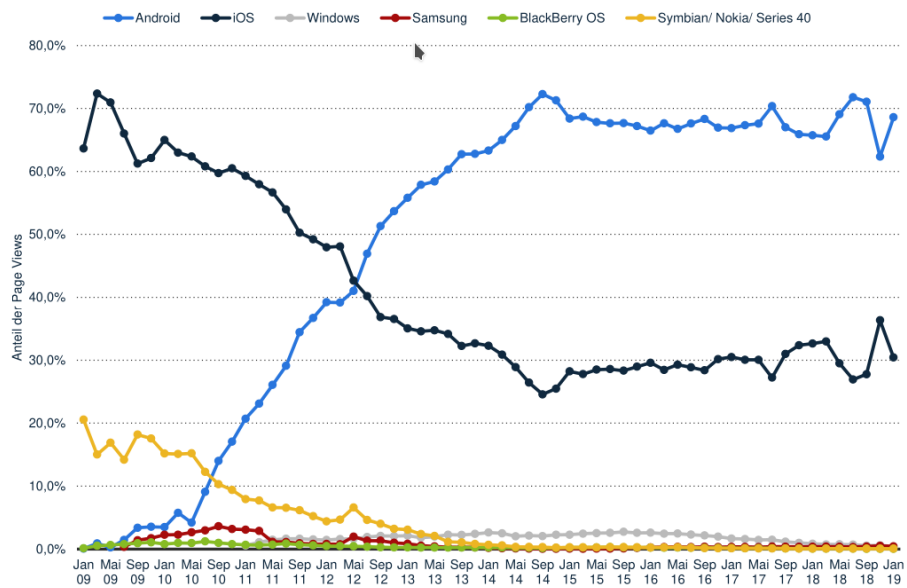


Figure 7: “OS Distribution in Germany, January 2016”