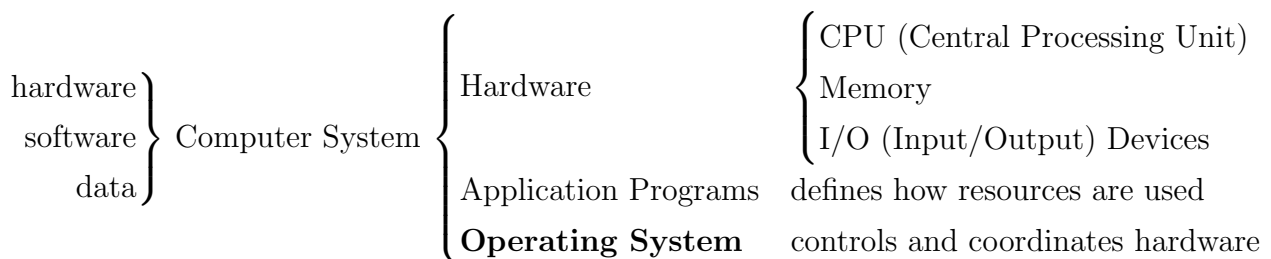


Chapter 1

Overview

1.1 What Operating Systems Do



Components of a Modern Computer System

An **operating system** is a software that

- manages and controls a computer's hardware;
- coordinates and optimizes utilization of hardware;
- provides a basis for application programs.

An operating system is similar to a *government*, who performs no useful function, but provides an environment within which other programs can do useful work.

