

Assignment

Submitted by :-

Jayanandan. K. J

Operating System

⇒ Introduction

The history of operating systems is a testament to how technology evolves to meet the needs of users and machines. Operating systems have transitioned from simple setups to complex, distributed systems that support modern computing requirements. This assignment explores the stages of operating system evolution, the benefits and challenges of each phase, and the structural components that define contemporary operating systems.

⇒ Evolution of Operating Systems

The evolution of operating system began with serial processing, where programs were executed one at a time. This system allocated all computer resources to a single program until its completion. Although this approach represented a significant improvement over bare machines, it had notable drawbacks. Program execution was slow, requiring extensive manual intervention, and system resources were underutilized, as there was no parallel task execution.

To address the inefficiencies of serial processing, batch processing systems emerged. In this setup, jobs with similar requirements were grouped together and executed sequentially. A resident monitor, a small program always present in memory, was introduced to sequence jobs automatically, reducing idle CPU time. Batch processing proved beneficial for applications demanding long computation times without user interaction. However, it lacked real-time interactivity and had high turnaround times, making debugging a slow and challenging process.

With advancements in hardware and the need for efficient resource use, multiprogrammed systems came into existence. These systems enabled and simultaneous execution of multiple programs by a single processor. By keeping multiple jobs in memory and switching between them, multiprogramming significantly reduced CPU idle time. While this approach improved memory and processor utilization, it required advanced memory management and CPU scheduling, as well as mechanisms to ensure the proper mixing of CPU bound and I/O bound jobs.

Finally network operating systems facilitated resource sharing among interconnected computers, unlike distributed systems, where users remain unaware of underlying systems, networked systems made users explicitly aware of multiple machines and their locations. This distinction highlighted the differences

In user experience and system design between networked and distributed operating systems.

The evolution also saw the rise of Multiprocessor Systems, where multiple processors worked together, sharing memory and peripheral devices. Symmetric multiprocessing (SMP) allowed all processors to run identical copies of the operating system, promoting load sharing. Asymmetric multiprocessing, on the other hand, assigned specific tasks to individual processors, with a master processor coordinating their activities.

⇒ Operating System Structures

Modern operating systems are defined by their intricate structures and the diverse functionalities they offer. Key components include process management, memory management, file management, I/O system management and secondary storage management.

Process Management :- Involves handling programs in execution, referred to as process. It includes creating, deleting, and synchronizing processes, as well as providing mechanisms for communication and resolving deadlocks. Efficient process management ensures smooth multitasking and optimal use of system resources.

Memory Management :- It is another critical aspect, as Memory serves as a temporary storage space for data and programs in execution. The operating system is responsible for tracking memory usage, allocating and deallocating memory, and ensuring memory protection to prevent process from interfering with one another.

File Management :- Simplifies information storage by presenting a logical view of data, regardless of its physical storage medium. It involves organizing files into directories, supporting file operations, and mapping files onto secondary storage devices. Backup mechanisms are also implemented to ensure data safety.

I/O System Management :- Abstracts the complexities of hardware devices, providing users with a seamless interface. This includes device drivers, buffering, caching and spooling, which enhance the performance and usability of I/O devices.

Lastly, Secondary Storage Management :- it addresses the limitations of volatile main memory by utilizing disks for permanent data storage. Disks serve as the primary medium for storing programs and data, ensuring they are available even after system shutdowns.

⇒ Conclusion

The evolution of operating systems has been driven by the need for efficiency, user convenience and reliability. From serial processing to distributed systems, each phase introduced groundbreaking innovations that addressed specific challenges. Modern operating systems, with their robust structures and advanced capabilities, form the backbone of contemporary computing, supporting a wide range of applications and user needs. This journey highlights the critical role of operating systems in shaping the technological landscape.