



Tecnicatura Universitaria
en Programación

INGLÉS II

Unidad Temática N° 1:
Organización Conceptual del Texto

Actividad Complementaria I
1° Año – 2° Cuatrimestre



OPERATING SYSTEMS AND THE GUI

A.Types of Software; the Operating System (OS)

1. **System software** controls the basic functions of a computer e.g. operating systems, programming software and utility programs.
2. **Application software** lets you do specific jobs such as writing letters, doing calculations, drawing or playing games. Examples are a word processor or a graphics package.

An **operating system** is a set of programs that control the hardware and allow people and applications to communicate with the hardware. Typical functions of the OS are handling input/output operations, running programs and organizing files on disks. The OS also gives access to networks and allows **multitasking**: a user can run several programs (and do various tasks) at a time. Examples are:

- the **Windows** family - designed by Microsoft and used on most PCs
- Mac OS** - created by Apple and used on Macintosh computers
- Unix** - found on mainframes and workstations in corporate installations, as it supports multi-users
- Linux** - developed under the GNU General Public License; anyone can copy its source code, modify and redistribute it. It is used on PCs and in appliances and small devices.

B.The Graphical User Interface

A **GUI** makes use of a **WIMP** environment: Windows, Icons, Menus and Pointer. This type of interface is **user-friendly**, where system functions are accessed by selecting self-explanatory **icons** (pictures representing programs or **documents**) and items from menus. A **drop-down menu**, or **pull-down menu**, is a list of options that appear below a menu bar when you click on an item.

The **pointer** is the arrow, controlled by the mouse, which lets you choose options from menus.

The background screen that displays icons, representing programs, files and **folders** (directories) is called the **desktop**.

Double-clicking a folder icon opens a **window** which shows the programs, documents and other folders contained within the folder.

C.System Utilities

These are small programs included with an OS that improve a system's performance. They can be desk accessories, device drivers, or system extensions activated when you turn on the PC.

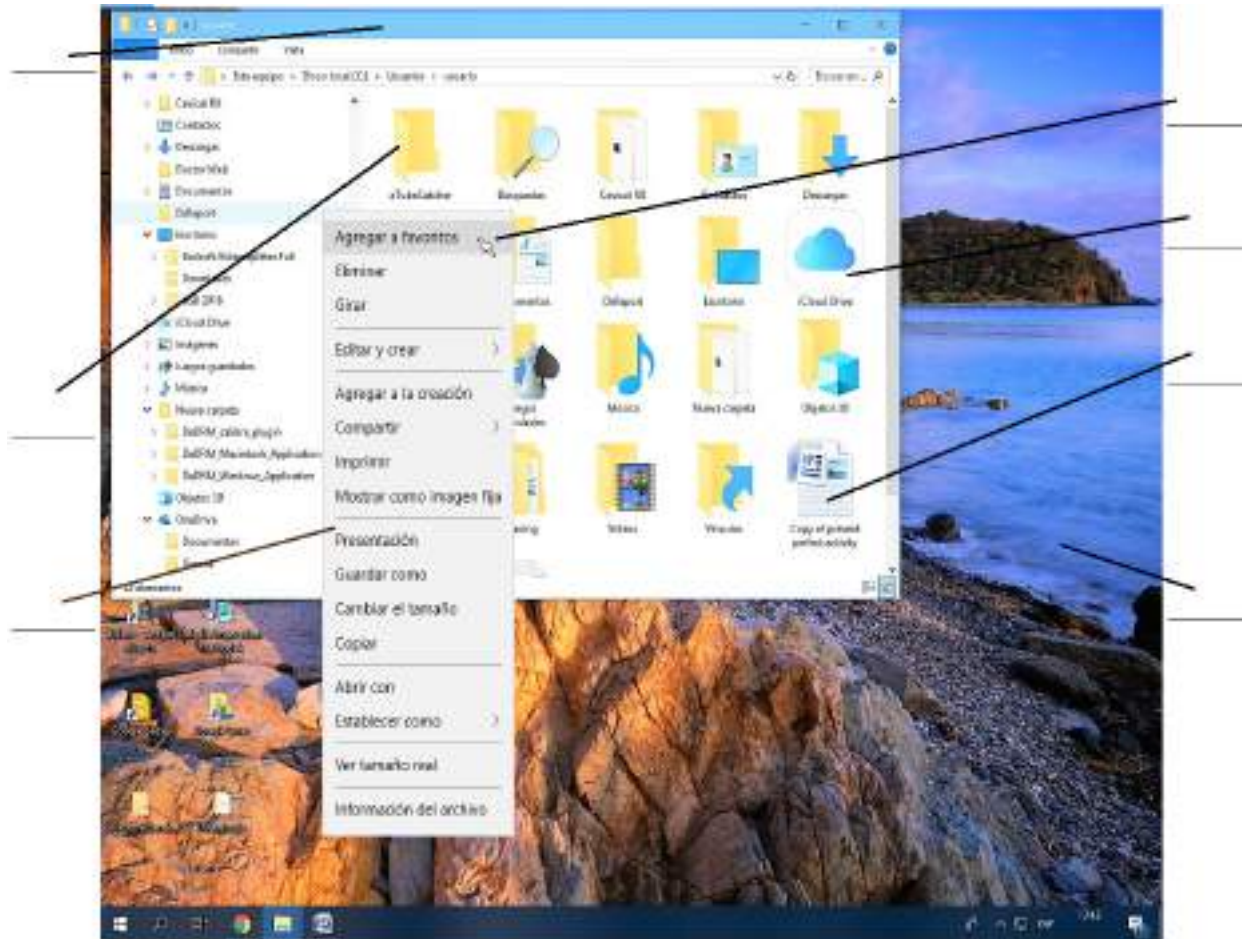
- A **crashed disk rescuer** is used to restore disks and corrupted files.
- An **accessibility program** makes a PC easier for disabled users to use.
- A **compression utility** rewrites data so that it takes less space on disk.
- A **media player** lets you watch DVDs, play music, listen to the radio on the Web.

1.Read sections A and B above and find the following.

1. the difference between system software and application software
2. software that enables users and programs to communicate with hardware
3. the meaning of 'multitasking'
4. a multi-user OS used on. large, powerful computer systems
5. the operating system that is freely distributed
6. the operating system designed by Apple
7. the OS created by Microsoft
8. the meaning of WIMP in a graphical user interface (GUI)
9. the expression used to describe a system that is easy to use

2.Look at section B above and then identify these interface elements.

desktop	window	drop-down menu
pointer	folder	program icon
document icon		



3. Look at section C above. Which utility would you use to do these tasks?

1. To play and organize multimedia on your PC
2. To diagnose and repair damaged disks
3. To help computer users with sight, hearing or mobility difficulties
4. To make files smaller, so you can send them with emails

Bibliografía

Marco Fabré, E. & S. Remacha Esteras. (2007). *Professional English in Use ICT* (Intermediate to Advanced). Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press.



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