

Operating systems

History of operating systems

What is an operating system

A program that acts as an intermediary between a user of a computer and the computer hardware

Operating systems goals

Execute user programs and make solving user problems easier

Make the computer system convenient to use

Use the computer hardware in an efficient manner

History of operating systems

Later computers used card readers or tape readers, and a 'library' could be stacked along with a user program, allowing more sophisticated input and output

Early commercial computers came with vendor specific variety of operating systems

Late 1960's IBM/MIT/GE developed MULTICS

Ken Thompson goes on to build a more efficient version for the DEC PDP-7 then PDP-11

Called UNICS and then UNIX. Source code as available

The development of microcomputers made inexpensive computing available for the small business and hobbyist

Apple DOS for the apple II

MS-DOS for the IBM-PC

MacOS

Windows

Linux, linux torvalds, 1991 since UNIX had become proprietary

GNU/LINUX

Freely distributed