An **operating system** (**OS**) is [system software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_software) that manages [computer hardware](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_hardware) and [software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_software) resources and provides common [services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daemon_(computing)) for [computer programs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_program).  It also allows you to **communicate** with the computer without knowing how to speak the computer's language. **Without an operating system, a computer is useless**.

 Most people use the operating system that comes with their computer, but it's possible to upgrade or even change operating systems.

Types:The three most common operating systems for personal computers are **Microsoft Windows**,**Mac OS X**, and **Linux**.

Need: An **operating system** is a software which performs all the basic tasks like file management, memory management, process management, handling input and output, and controlling peripheral devices such as disk drives and printers

Windows os: The application programs must be written to run on top of a particular **operating system**. Your choice of **operating system**, therefore, determines to a great extent the applications you can run. For PCs, the most popular **operating systems** are DOS, **OS**/2, and **Windows**, but others are available, such as Linux.

Workstation:  
Any PC running Windows **.**Using a Windows server as a client PC. The server versions of Windows are occasionally used as desktop computers to take advantage of the additional robustness and features built into server products

Microsoft Windows Server OS ([operating system](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/operating-system-OS)) is a series of enterprise-class [server](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/server)operating systems designed to share services with multiple users and provide extensive administrative control of data storage, applications and corporate networks.

Windows Server 2012 System Requirements

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Minimum Requirement** | **Recommended** |
| Processor | 1.4GHZ 64-bit | 2GHZ or faster dual core |
| Memory | 512MB RAM | 2GB RAM or greater |
| Disk space | 32GB | 40GB Full installation or 10GB Server Core installation |

**Windows Client OS with their Version Numbers**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Operating System** | **Version Number** |
| Windows 1.0 | 1.04 |
| Windows 2.0 | 2.11 |
| Windows 3.0 | 3 |
| Windows NT 3.1 | 3.10.528 |
| Windows for Workgroups 3.11 | 3.11 |
| Windows NT Workstation 3.5 | 3.5.807 |
| Windows NT Workstation 3.51 | 3.51.1057 |
| Windows 95 | 4.0.950 |
| Windows NT Workstation 4.0 | 4.0.1381 |
| Windows 98 | 4.1.1998 |
| Windows 98 Second Edition | 4.1.2222 |
| Windows Me | 4.90.3000 |
| Windows 2000 Professional | 5.0.2195 |
| Windows XP | 5.1.2600 |
| Windows Vista | 6.0.6000 |
| Windows 7 | 6.1.7600 |
| Windows 8.1 | 6.3.9600 |
| Windows 10 | 10.0.10240 |

Server versions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Release date** | **Release version number** |
| Windows Server 2016 | 2016 | NT 10.0 |
| Windows Server 2012 R2 | 2013 | NT 6.3 |
| Windows Server 2012 | 2012 | NT 6.2 |
| Windows Server 2008 R2 | 2009 | NT 6.1 |