To access the services of an operating system, the interface is provided by an Application Programming Interface (API).

An API is a set of programming instructions and standards that allow software applications to interact with an operating system or other software components. The API defines the types of requests that can be made, how to make those requests, and the expected response formats.

Operating system APIs provide a way for applications to access the underlying resources and services provided by the operating system, such as file I/O, memory management, process management, and network communication. These APIs provide a standardized way for developers to write code that works across different operating systems and hardware platforms.

Examples of operating system APIs include the Windows API for Windows operating systems, the POSIX API for Unix and Linux-based systems, and the Cocoa API for macOS. Developers can use these APIs to create software applications that run on a particular operating system and take advantage of its services and resources.