Level 3: History of Operating Systems

1. What is a “Operating System”?

a. How is it different from a software program

An operating system is the software that supports a computer's basic functions, such as scheduling tasks, executing applications, and controlling peripherals. The difference between an operating system and a software program is that an operating system will allow you to run the computer and will let you do what you need to while a software system is installed onto a compatible operating system.

b. What is a “Driver”?

A driver is a group of files that enable hardware devices to communicate with the computer’s operating system. Without a Driver the computer wouldn’t be able to send or receive signals to the a hardware device.

c. What is a “Service”?

A service is a program that would run in the background and in windows and it would control many things such as sharing files, printing and Bluetooth devices.

2. Research the history of the “Windows” operating system. Make notes on the following:

a. What is DOS and how is it related to Windows?

DOS is short for Disk Operating System and DOS is an operating system that runs from a hard disk drive. When Microsoft first introduced windows it was a graphical user interface for MS-DOS and you would have to type “WIN” at the DOS prompt to launch a windows program.

b. What was the first version of Windows, when was it released and what did it contain?

The first version od windows was Microsoft Windows and it was released on November 20, 1985. It had programs like file management, paint, Windows writer, notepad, calculator, calendar, card file, a clock. It also had scroll bars, icons and dialog boxes.

c. Compare the history of the Apple OS with Windows?

Apple was known for having the more inexpensive and simple personal computer in 1976. Then in 1990 Windows 3.0 came out and it was more user-friendly and less expensive than a mac was. In 1995 Apple created the Macintosh Clone Program which meant Windows users could purchase the Mas OS and use it inside their own PCs.

d. How has Windows evolved over time?

Windows was the first graphical user interface. In 1985 Windows 1.0 came out. In 1987 Windows 2.0 came out and you could now overlap applications. In 1990 Windows 3.0 came out. In 1995 Windows 95 came out and in 1998 Windows 98 came out. In 2000 Windows 200 came out. In 2001 Windows XP came out and it had better hardware support and multimedia capabilities. In 2007 Windows Vista released. In 2009 Windows 7 released and in 2012 Windows 8 came out. Windows 8 could support tablets as well. In 2015 Windows 10 released which a lot of PCs today use.

3. Research the history of “UNIX”. Make notes on the following:

a. What is UNIX and what is the history of UNIX.

UNIX Is an operating system that Kernighan in the 1960s. UNIX is an operating system that is a stable, multi-user, multi-tasking system for servers, desktops and laptops.

b. What is LINUX and how is it related to UNIX?

LINUX is an open-source operating system. This means anyone in the world can accessed and edited by anyone with a PC. Both Unix and LINUX are both similar because they were developed by Linus Torvalds and thousands of other people.

c. How is UNIX related to the Apple OS?

The Apple operating system was based on the UNIX operating system.