

Components of a Process

A process contains three components:

- an executable program
 - the associated data needed by the program (variables, work space, buffers, etc.)
 - the execution context (or “process state”) of the program
- The execution context is essential:
 - it is the internal data by which the OS is able to supervise and control the process
 - includes the contents of the various process registers
 - includes information such as the priority of the process and whether the process is waiting for the completion of a particular I/O event