**Windows Case Study**

**Introduction**

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Every computer needs an operating system to function. Microsoft Windows is one of the most popular Graphical User Interface (GUI). Multiple applications can execute simultaneously in Windows, and this is known as “Multitasking”. Windows Operating System uses both keyboard and mouse as input devices. Mouse is used to interact with Windows by clicking its icons. Keyboard is used to enter alphabets, numerals and special characters. Windows makes it possible to complete all types of **everyday tasks** on your computer. For example, you can use Windows to browse the Internet, check your email, edit digital photos, listen to music, play games, and do much more.

**History of Windows**

1. Windows 1.0 (1985):

* Introduced as a graphical extension for MS-DOS.
* Featured a graphical user interface with overlapping windows and mouse support.

2. Windows 3.0 (1990) and Windows 3.1 (1992):

* Significant improvements over Windows 2.0 with better performance and usability.
* Introduced Program Manager and File Manager, popularizing graphical interfaces for PC users.

3. Windows 95 (1995):

* Major milestone, featuring the iconic Start menu and taskbar.
* First version to support plug and play hardware.
* Internet Explorer bundled for the first time.

4. Windows NT (1993) and Windows 98 (1998):

* Windows NT targeted business users with a more robust architecture.
* Windows 98 focused on consumer experience with improved stability and multimedia support.

5. Windows 2000 (2000) and Windows ME (2000):

* Windows 2000 offered enhanced stability and security for business users.
* Windows ME (Millennium Edition) targeted consumers but faced criticism for instability.

6. Windows XP (2001):

* Highly successful, combining stability of Windows NT with consumer-friendly features.
* Introduced System Restore, improved networking, and a redesigned UI.

7. Windows Vista (2007):

* Significant visual overhaul with Aero Glass theme.
* Enhanced security features, but criticized for performance issues.

8. Windows 7 (2009):

* Addressed Vista's shortcomings with improved performance and stability.
* Introduced taskbar enhancements and better multitouch support.

9. Windows 8 (2012) and Windows 8.1 (2013):

* Introduced a touch-centric interface (Metro UI) alongside traditional desktop.
* Controversial changes but aimed at unifying experiences across devices.

10. Windows 10 (2015):

* Current flagship OS with a focus on a unified platform across PCs, tablets, and phones.
* Regular feature updates via Windows as a Service model.
* Introduced Cortana, Microsoft Edge, and Universal Windows Platform (UWP) apps.

11. Windows 11 (2021):

* Latest major version, featuring a redesigned Start menu, centered taskbar, and improved multitasking.
* Built on Windows 10 foundation but with visual and usability enhancements.

**Features:**

It continues to be a dominant force in the world of systems because of its flexibility, efficiency and stability. Some of the features are:

1. MS-DOS:

* It is a 16-bit operating system.
* Character-based interface system where commands are entered by the users in the command line prompt.
* Makes file management i.e. creating, editing, deleting, etc.
* A single-user operating system.
* File names in MS-DOS are limited to eight characters.

2. Windows:

* Provides an efficient speed.
* Allows disk access as well as file systems.
* Program execution is done in a smooth way.
* Protected and supervisor mode is always there.
* Memory Management is supported to allow multiprogramming.
* Provides regular updates to ease the usage.

**Advantage and Disadvantage**

MS-DOS (Microsoft Disk Operating System)

Advantages:

1. Simplicity: MS-DOS is straightforward and less complex compared to modern operating systems, making it easier to learn and use.

2. Performance: Because it is a command-line interface, MS-DOS requires fewer system resources, resulting in faster performance on older hardware.

3. Compatibility: Many legacy applications and games were developed to run on MS-DOS, making it essential for running older software.

Disadvantages:

1. Limited Functionality: MS-DOS lacks many features found in modern operating systems, such as multitasking, a graphical user interface (GUI), and advanced networking capabilities.

2. Command-Line Interface: For users accustomed to graphical interfaces, the command-line interface of MS-DOS can be intimidating and less intuitive.

3. Hardware Support: MS-DOS may not support newer hardware components, limiting its compatibility with modern devices.

**Windows**

Advantages:

1. User-Friendly Interface: Windows offers a graphical user interface (GUI) that is intuitive and easy to navigate, making it accessible to a broad range of users.

2. Multitasking: Windows supports multitasking, allowing users to run multiple applications simultaneously, enhancing productivity.

3. Hardware and Software Support: Windows has extensive hardware and software compatibility, supporting a wide range of devices and applications.

Disadvantages:

1. Resource Intensive: Windows can be resource-intensive, requiring more RAM and CPU power compared to lighter operating systems.

2. Security Concerns: Being a popular operating system, Windows is often targeted by malware and viruses, requiring users to install and maintain security software.

3. Cost: Windows licenses can be costly, especially for professional versions, which might be a barrier for some users.

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