

## Definitions

Take from <https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/os.htm>

**Active directory (AD)** – a directory service that is stored in the NTDS.DIT file. It provides a simplified query for administrators and users to manage resources, sites, services, and users on an Intranet.

**Application Programming Interface (API)** – set of routines, protocols, and tools for building software applications. APIs allow programmers easier entry into another company's program or service.

**Application software** – software on a computer that performs a special function or task.

**BIOS** – a ROM chip found on motherboards that allows you to access and set up your computer system at the most basic level.

**client/server systems** – a computer hardware and software design where different portions of an application execute on different computers or on different components of a single computer.

**client** – a computer that connects to and uses the resources of a remote computer, or server.

**clustering** – a special computer networking configuration in which multiple computers are connected in such a way that they can share processing tasks, frequently working on portions of the same software job at the same time.

**code** – Instructions written in a computer programming language.

**command line** – a user interface that is navigated by typing commands at prompts, instead of using the mouse.

**concatenation** – a term that describes combining a string, text, or other data in a series without any gaps. In programming languages, an operator is used to denote concatenation.

**CPU (Central Processing Unit)** – handles all instructions it receives from hardware and software running on the computer.

**directory** – a location for storing files on your computer.

**File Transfer Protocol (FTP)** – protocol for sending and receiving files between two computers.

**firewall** – a software utility or hardware device that acts as a filter for data entering or leaving a network or computer.

**GUI** – an interface that uses icons or other visual indicators to interact with electronic devices, rather than only text via a command line.

**Internet** – a global network used by individuals and business to connect, distribute, and share content.

**Intranet** – a private network for a corporation or organization that only those with permission can access. A computer residing on an intranet will almost always be using IP addresses in the reserved address space.

**Kernel** – the first section of the operating system to load into memory and is responsible for disk drive management, interrupt handler, file management, memory management, and process management.

**Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)** – is an Internet protocol that runs over TCP.

**Linux** – a monolithic, open-source kernel, and a family of operating systems based on that kernel.

**Machine code** – a collection of binary digits or bits that the computer reads, interprets, and is the only language a computer is capable of understanding.

**MS-DOS** – a non-graphical command line operating system derived from 86-DOS that was created for IBM compatible computers.

**Network File System (NFS)** – developed by Sun Microsystems and allows network users to access shared files over TCP/IP.

**networking** – a collection of computers, servers, mainframes, network devices, peripherals, or other devices connected to one another to allow the sharing of data.

**operating system (OS)** – software installed on a computer's hard drive that enables computer hardware to communicate with and run computer programs.

**Open Source Software (OSS)** – software source code that is freely distributed to help develop the software or allow for customization with the software.

**Package manager** – software used to install, maintain, and remove other software programs on a computer.

**path** – complete location or name of where a computer file, web page, or other object is located.

**pipelining** – advanced microprocessing technique capable of handling multiple stages of different computer instructions at one time.

**prompt** – text or symbols used to represent the system's readiness to perform the next command.

**real-time systems** – system designed to handle events as they occur.

**root** – a superuser account on a computer or network who has complete control over the system.

**root directory** – highest level in a directory hierarchy and includes all other directories under it.

**server** – an instance of a computer program or device that accepts and responds to requests made by another program.

**shell** – a software interface that's often a command line interface that enables the user to interact with the computer.

**software license** – a license agreement that gives an individual, company, or organization permission to use a software program.

**terminal** – an interface that allows you to access the command line from the GUI.

**UNIX** – an operating system developed by members of the MULTICS team at Bell Laboratories starting in the late 1960's. Primarily a command line operating system with additional applications such as X Window to give a graphic oriented operating system similar to Windows.

**User interface** – a description of any visible interface accessible by the user.

**Web browsers** – software program created as a simplified means to present and explore content on the World Wide Web.

**Web server** – computer or collection of computers used to deliver web pages and other content to multiple users.

**Windows Explorer** – a graphical utility program that allows access to the directories and files on the Windows operating system.

## References

Computer Hope. (2018, November 26). Operating system terms. Retrieved January 31, 2019, from <https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/os.htm>