



# **OPERATING SYSTEMS**

## **A MODERN PERSPECTIVE**

**GARY NUTT**



# Operating Systems

A MODERN PERSPECTIVE

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# Introduction

*"The time has come," the walrus said, "to talk of many things."*  
—Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*

## >> CHAPTER OBJECTIVES <<

**T**his book addresses the principles of operating

the full spectrum of computers, from workstations to multiprocessors and distributed computer systems. Operating systems have earned the reputation for being the most critical software in a computer system. Hence, only skilled and experienced programmers are allowed to design and modify a computer's operating system.

Performance and functionality are key to the usefulness of an operating system. The operating system's performance sets the stage for the performance of all software on a computer. Perhaps one of the most important goals for studying operating systems is to learn how to extract the best performance from them. In addition, a high-performance operating system provides a wide range of functions to assist in processing a program. As a programmer, you want an operating system that provides little functionality forces more work onto its application programs. As a programmer, you