TOPIC: Operating Systems (OS)

Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

- Define an Operating System (OS)
- List and explain the functions of an Operating System
- Identify and classify types of Operating Systems (GUI and CLI)
- Compare and contrast GUI and CLI operating systems with examples

1. What is an Operating System?

Definition:

An Operating System (OS) is a system software that controls and manages all activities of a computer. It serves as a link between the user and the computer hardware.

It allows the computer to **start (boot)**, **manage files**, **run applications**, and **control devices** like printers, keyboards, and storage.

Simple Explanation:

Think of the OS as the **manager of a factory (the computer)**:

- It supervises every activity
- It controls workers (hardware components)
- It takes instructions from the owner (the user)
- It ensures everything works together smoothly

2. Functions of an Operating System

Function	Explanation	Example
1. Resource Management	Allocates CPU time, memory, and storage space to different programs	Ensures one program doesn't use all the memory
2. File Management	Organizes files in folders, allows saving, retrieving, or deleting files	Saves documents to specific locations
3. Device Control	Manages input/output devices like printers, keyboards, etc.	Allows printer or USB connection
4. Security and Access Control	Protects the computer with passwords, firewalls, and permissions	Login screens, admin controls
5. User Interface	Provides a way for the user to interact with the computer	Desktop, icons, command prompt
6. Program Execution	Loads and runs application software	Opens Word, Excel, or games
7. Error Detection and Handling	Detects hardware or software errors and gives messages	Displays "Low Battery" or "Disk Full" alerts

3. Types of Operating Systems Based on Interface

Operating systems can be **classified based on how users interact with them**:

A) Graphical User Interface (GUI)

Definition:

A **GUI (Graphical User Interface)** allows users to interact with the computer by **clicking icons, menus, and buttons**, usually with a **mouse or touchscreen**.

Features of GUI:

- Uses pictures, icons, and windows
- Users **click or tap** to open programs
- Easy to use for beginners
- Supports **multitasking** (running many programs at once)

Examples of GUI Operating Systems:

GUI OS Device/Usage

Windows (e.g., Windows 10/11) Laptops, desktops

macOS Apple computers

Android Smartphones, tablets

Ubuntu (Linux with GUI) Personal computers

B) Command Line Interface (CLI)

Definition:

A **CLI (Command Line Interface)** is an OS that requires users to **type text commands** to perform tasks.

Features of CLI:

- No graphics or icons
- Only uses the keyboard
- Requires memorization of commands
- Faster for experts but difficult for beginners
- Commonly used by system administrators, programmers, and hackers

Examples of CLI Operating Systems:

CLI OS Usage

MS-DOS (Microsoft Disk Operating System) Early computers

Unix Servers, technical tasks

Linux (CLI Mode) Servers, programming environments

CLI OS Usage

Command Prompt (CMD) Part of Windows

4. Differences Between GUI and CLI

Feature GUI (Graphical User Interface) CLI (Command Line Interface)

Interaction Method Uses icons, windows, menus Uses typed commands

Ease of Use Easy for beginners Hard for beginners

Input Device Uses mouse, touchpad, keyboard Uses keyboard only

Speed Slower for some tasks **Faster** for experts

Learning Curve Simple to learn Requires training

Examples Windows, macOS, Android MS-DOS, Unix, Linux CLI

Summary of the Comparison

GUI CLI

Visual interaction Text-based interaction

Friendly for all users Best for advanced users

Slower for batch tasks Faster for repetitive tasks

5. Importance of the Operating System

- Controls the entire computer system
- Manages hardware and software resources
- Provides security and file management
- Allows users to run applications easily
- Makes computing more efficient and user-friendly

6. Real-Life Examples of OS Use

Activity OS Used

Using a phone Android, iOS

Using a laptop Windows, macOS, Linux

Browsing the internet Runs through an OS interface

Managing files OS handles file storage

Printing documents OS manages printer drivers

7. Diagram of Operating System Role

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CopyEdit

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User |

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| Operating System|

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| Computer Hardware |

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8. Summary of Key Points

- The **Operating System (OS)** is essential for running a computer.
- It manages hardware, software, and user interaction.
- There are **two main types** of OS interfaces:
 - GUI (Graphical User Interface)
 - CLI (Command Line Interface)
- GUI is easy to use, while CLI is faster for experts.