**user mode is the mode in which the applications are running and kernel mode is the privileged mode** to which the computer enters when accessing hardware resources.

A computer operates in two modes which are user mode and kernel mode. When the computer is running [application software](https://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-system-software-and-application-software/), it is in user mode. After the application software request for hardware, the computer enters kernel mode. The kernel is the core of the computer system. Subsequently, the computer frequently switches between user mode and kernel mode. Most critical tasks of the operating system are executing in the kernel mode. The **key difference** between User Mode and Kernel Mode is that **user mode is the mode in which the applications are running and kernel mode is the privileged mode to which the computer enters when accessing hardware resources.**