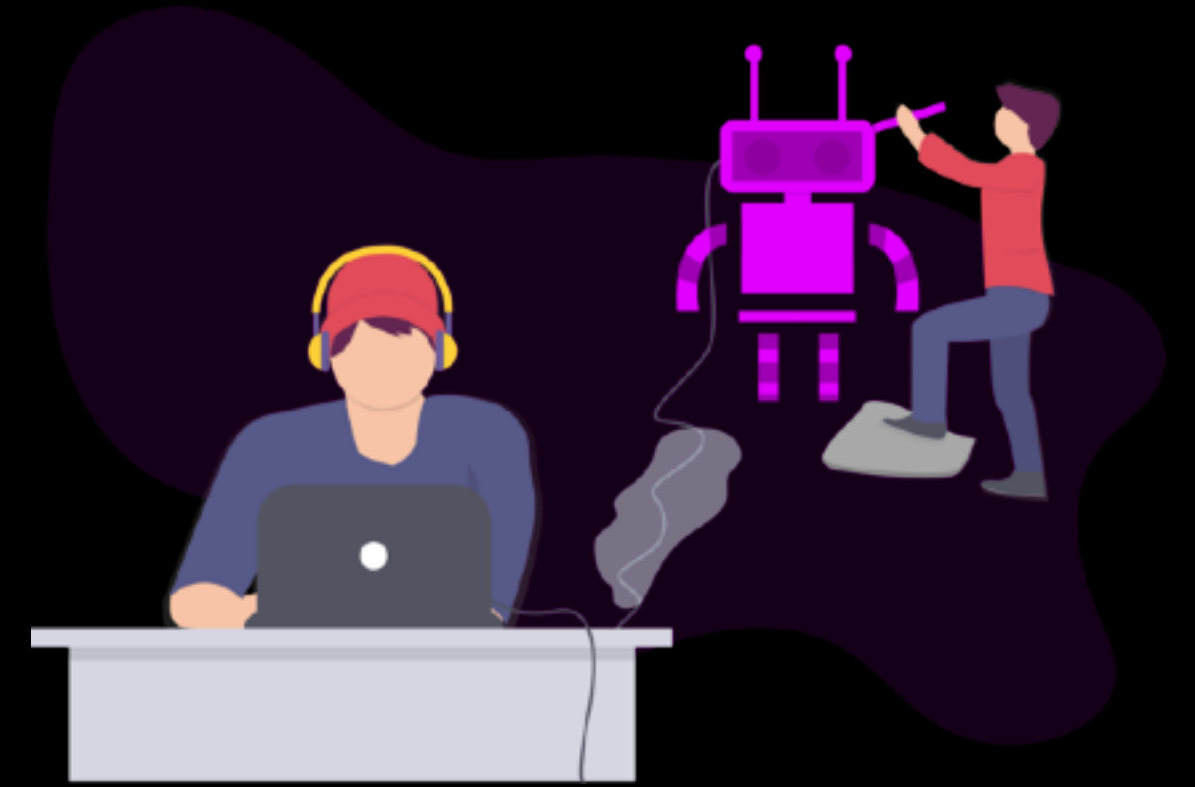


What are operating systems?



Operating systems (OS) are system software that manage computer hardware, software resources, and provide common services for computer programs.

An operating system schedules tasks for efficient use of the system and may also include accounting software for cost allocation of processor time, mass storage, printing, and other resources.

For hardware functions such as input and output and memory allocation, the operating system acts as an intermediary between programs and the computer hardware, although the application code is usually executed directly by the hardware and frequently makes system calls to an OS function or is interrupted by it. Operating systems are found on many devices that contain a computer – from cellular phones and video game consoles to web servers and supercomputers.



Operating systems history

How it all started

- 1950's ~ Resident Monitors

In the early days of computing, resident monitors were used to manage system resources such as (very limited) memory.

The resident monitor could clear memory from the last used program (with the exception of itself), load programs, search for program data and maintain standard input-output routines in memory.

Although rudimentary and only useful for simple devices like calculators, resident monitors were the early indication that any computing device would need software to manage its resources.



The very first operating systems:

- LEO I (1951)
- DYSEAC (1954)
- MIT's Tape Director (1954)
- General Motors Operating System for IBM 701 (1955)
- GM-NAA I/O (1956)

