

What is an OS?

A program that acts as an intermediary between a user and the computer hardware.
Computer system can be divided into 4 parts:

- Hardware - CPU, memory, etc
- Operating System - Control and coordinate

OS is a resource allocator.

- Manages all resources, decides between conflicting requests

OS is a control program

- Controls execution of programs to prevent errors and improper use.

No universally accepted definition

"One program running all the time" is the kernel, everything else is the system programs or applications.
The kernel is the actual OS!

Computer Startup

Bootstrap program is loaded. Typically stored in ROM or EPROM, also known as firmware.
Initializes all aspects of a system, loads OS kernel and starts execution.