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Intro to Computers

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Comparing Operating Platforms

Today’s operating systems are multi-purpose devices that are used for both business and consumer use. An operating platform is the hardware or software that is used to host the application or service, but which one of the many operating platforms is the best? Some of the more common operating systems are Windows, Mac, and Linux. There are many different opinions about which O/S is the best, but each of these have their own benefits and fallbacks. An operating system is what allows the different functions and features that are available for a device. Like Windows 10, MacOS has started to use regular updates, so there will not be an annual update like previous Mac OS X. With all the different operating systems today it is hard to prove that one is considerably better than another.

The first version of Windows was released in 1985 simply as a GUI, since then there have been 14 other versions of Windows. Windows 7 is one of the most used operating system from Windows OS and is considered much better than past windows and even the latest version of windows. According to many reviews from users of windows 8 they actually went back to windows 7 and used this operating system instead. Harley Mike from the amazon reviews stated “I can wait another 3-4 years until Microsoft stops supporting Windows 7 before I make another leap forward.” Windows 7 has been designed much better when it comes to touchscreen interaction and making it easier for its customers. Windows 10 is very similar to Windows 7 which makes the customers very happy because of how much they enjoyed Windows 7. Windows 7 is a very secure operating system with the available free download of Microsoft Security Essentials, and in later versions of windows comes equipped with Windows Defender. Although Windows has a lot of cool new features and fewer crashes than previous versions, the downfall to the later Windows is that is takes at least a RAM capacity of 1GB. Compared to Mac, the amount of applications that windows can use is considered to have a greater selection. There is a lot of new software that is easily used with windows 7, however there are many complaints by customers that the old software’s are not able to be used. Windows is a great Operating system, but this past April, Microsoft began denying updates to some windows 7 users. Gregg Keizer states in his article “Microsoft this week began blocking Windows 7 and 8.1 PCs equipped with the very newest processors from receiving security updates” (InfoWorld).

Mac OS X, released in 2001, is a huge Apple operating system still today. Like most products today there are tons of opinions about Mac and how well their system works. Mac OS X is considered to have a much greater security system than windows, and the maintenance required for windows is more frequent and challenging than Mac. Mac OS X is nice to have when it comes to working from one device to the other. With all apple devices you can start your work with one device and finish it with a whole different device. With the newer operating system like MacOS sierra, the integration between devices improves tremendously “But Sierra doesn’t just add features found in iOS, it also does more to make your Mac and your iOS devices work together” (MacWorld). Mac OS X is great to have, but the amount for a MacBook, MacBook pro, or MacBook air is considerably more amount of money than windows or Chrome OS. Another drawback for Mac OS X is that upgrading a standard Mac computer is not very easy because of the hardware components are integrated both at a design and at engineering levels.

Chrome OS is another operating system to be considered. Chrome OS is quick for simple needs, but should not be used for a high-end system. Although Chrome OS should not be used as a high-end system it is a lighter operating system that requires a much smaller amount of hardware resources. If the amount of work being done is able to be done within the Chrome browser than Chrome OS is a great operating system to have, but graphic design or video editing Mac OS or Windows would be much more useful. The maintenance is hassle-free and the updates are regular and automatic. Security for a computer is always a huge impact for the users, and Chrome OS has a built-in security system. According to James A. Martin's article about Chrome OS there are more businesses that are starting to attract some high-profile businesses. Sumit Dhawan adds “Chrome OS as a platform makes a lot of sense for customers looking for a low-footprint endpoint that’s easy to manage and secure” (Computerworld). Unlike Mac and Windows, Chrome OS has some downfalls when it comes to the capability of running high-end applications. The internet connection is needed to use the full potential of the operating system, which is a huge downfall for businessmen who are always on the move. Finally, for Chrome OS the applications that are used, Google Docs and Google Slides, can also be used with the other operating systems, however with the other operating systems the added functions of their operating system are included.

Overall, each of these operating systems have many of their own benefits and downfalls that cause a ton of different opinions. They have some similarities, such as c++ being the main programming platform, but they mainly end up having more differences than similarities. MacOS and Windows overall are much higher in the standings of being one of the top operating system. Chrome OS does hold its own, and is continuously being projected to grow in sales for its operating system. According to IDC analyst Linn Huang predicts “In 2017, 5.5% of all PCs sold will be Chrome OS devices”(ComputerWorld). In conclusion, these three operating systems have their own ups and downs, but each of these will continue to expand and gradually get better and better.

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