Session 4: Software Part 1

Tech Skills 101: Driver's Ed for the Digital World

David Shamlin OLLI Fall 2025

Apps (i.e., software)

- This week (Session 4)
 - What is software?
 - The role of the operating system (a.k.a. OS)
 - User Interface (a.k.a. UI): how we interact with apps
 - Settings (a.k.a. "preferences")
- Next week (Session 5): the File System
 - How to find a file you previously saved
 - "Cleaning" storage
 - Backing up storage

The size of data is measured in bytes

byte	 A byte is the smallest unit of data One byte can represent 256 values is made up of eight bits 			
kilobyte	KB	1,000 bytes	one thousand bytes	
megabyte	MB	1,000,000 bytes	one million bytes	
gigabyte	GB	1,000,000,000 bytes	one billion bytes	
terabyte	ТВ	1,000,000,000,000 bytes	one trillion bytes	

Examples

War and Peace: 2MB

Bible KJV: 2.2 MB

• Harry Potter series: 20MB

• 5 minutes of HD video: 1GB

5 minutes of 4K video: 3.4GB

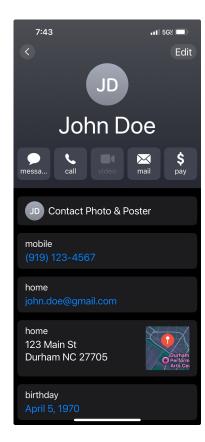
5 minutes of 8K video: 6.7GB

Note: You may see the acronyms "Gbps" (*gigabits per second*) and "Mbps" (*megabits per second*) sometimes—often by Internet providers. E.g., "1000 Mbps". These numbers describe the rate data moves between devices/components; the higher the number, the faster data moves.

More on data: basic data types

Number of bytes	Number of values	
1	256	
2	65,536	
4	4,294,967,296	

- Numbers
 - Integer
 - Decimal
 - Floating point
- Text
 - Individual characters: "char"
 - Words / phrases / sentences: "string"
- Date & time
- Lists / sets / collections



More on "it's all math to the processor"

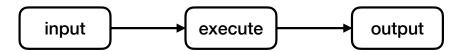
- Images: geometry & algebra
- Audio: trigonometry
- Recommendations: linear/matrix algebra
- Predictive typing: probability
- Al: calculus & statistics
- Also (used broadly)
 - Set theory
 - Graph theory

The power of mathematics is its ability to represent the physical world.

Processors can can perform arithmetic and logic.

All other kinds of math (i.e., algebra, geometry, calculus, etc) equations can be reduced/simplified to arithmetic and logic.

Software = Code + Data



Apps that run on	are called	
Desktop & Laptop	"Desktop", "fat", or "rich" apps	
phones & tables	"Mobile apps"	
In browsers (i.e., Safari, Chrome, Firefox, Edge, etc)	"Web apps"	



Original Nestlé® Toll House® Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 21/4 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups (12-ounce package) NESTLÉ TOLL HOUSE Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels
- 1 cup chopped nuts



PREHEAT oven to 375°F.

COMBINE flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl. Beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in morsels and nuts. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto ungreased baking sheets.

BAKE for 9 to 11 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Makes about 5 dozen cookies

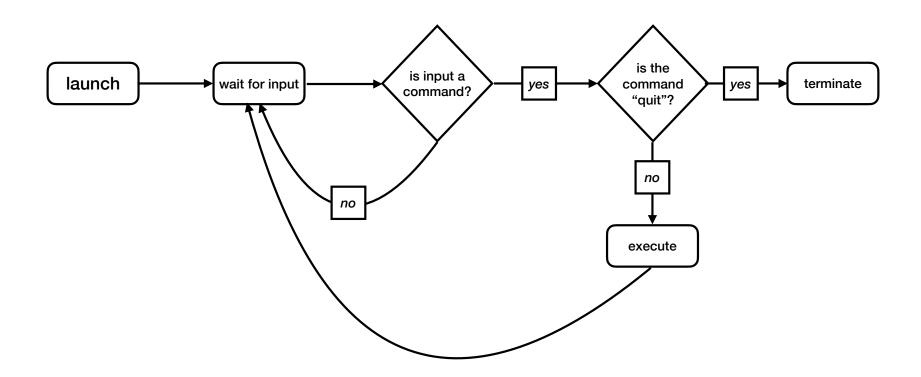
Pan Cookie Variation: GREASE 15×10-inch jelly-roll pan. Prepare dough as above. Spread in prepared pan. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool in pan on wire rack. Makes 4 dozen bars.



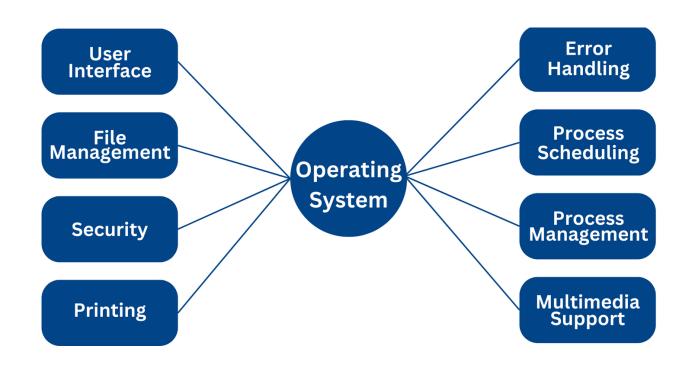
COOKIES



General "workflow" of an app



The role of the operating system (a.k.a. OS)



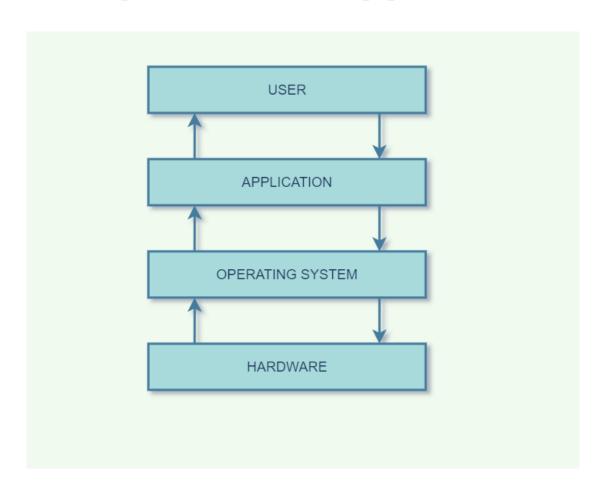
Kinds of Operating Systems

	Desktops & Laptops	Phones	Tablets
Apple	macOS	iOS	iOS
Microsoft	Windows	none	Windows
Google	ChromeOS	Android	Android

Note: You may encounter the names of other operating systems:

- Unix and Linux
 - Very commonly used by businesses
 - macOS and iOS are based on a "flavor" of Unix called BSD (a.k.a., "Berkley Software Distribution"); Apple renamed their "flavor" of BSD "Darwin".
 - ChromeOS is based on a "flavor" of Linux called ChromiumOS
 - Android uses some core parts of Linux
- DOS
 - Predecessor of Windows OS
 - DOS features are still included on Windows machines for compatibility reasons but DOS is not longer considered part of the Windows OS

The relationship between apps, OS, & Hardware



Examples of code

```
mylist = [7, 3, 9, 12, 11]
n = len(mylist)
for i in range(n-1):
  swapped = False
  for j in range(n-i-1):
    if mylist[j] > mylist[j+1]:
      mylist[j], mylist[j+1] = mylist[j+1], mylist[j]
      swapped = True
  if not swapped:
    break
print(mylist)
```

```
MYDATA ENDS
MYCODE SEGMENT
ASSUME CS:MYCODE. DS:MYDATA
 ; Initialize data segment
  MOV AX, MYDATA
  MOV DS, AX
 ; Bubble Sort Algorithm
 MOV CX. LEN
                    : Outer loop counter (number of passes)
OUTER_LOOP:
 DEC CX
                    ; Decrement counter
                   ; Initialize index for inner loop
 MOV DI, LEN
                  ; Load length of array for inner loop
INNER LOOP:
 MOV AL, ARRAY[SI] ; Load current element
  MOV BL, ARRAY[SI + 1] ; Load next element
  CMP AL, BL
                    ; Compare elements
  JBE NO_SWAP
                      ; If AL <= BL, no swap needed
  MOV ARRAY[SI], BL ; Move larger element to current position
  MOV ARRAY[SI + 1], AL ; Move smaller element to next position
NO_SWAP:
 INC SI
                 ; Move to the next index
 DEC DI
                  ; Decrement inner loop counter
  JNZ INNER_LOOP
                       ; Repeat inner loop if not done
  INC CX
                  ; Increment outer loop counter
 CMP CX, LEN
                   ; Check if we need to repeat outer loop
 JNZ OUTER_LOOP
                        ; Repeat if not done
  ; Print message before printing array
  MOV AH 09h
                    : Function to print string
  MOV DX, OFFSET MSG1 ; Address of message
 INT 21h
                 : Print message
 ; Print sorted array
  MOV CX, LEN
                    : Counter for printing array
 MOV SI, OFFSET ARRAY ; Address of array
PRINT LOOP:
 MOV DL, [SI]
                    ; Load element to print
 ADD DL. 30h
                    : Convert to ASCII
  MOV AH, 02h
                    ; Function to print character
  INT 21h
                  ; Print character
                 ; Move to next element
  LOOP PRINT_LOOP
                       ; Repeat loop until all elements printed
  ; Newline
  MOV DL, 0Dh
                     ; Carriage return
  MOV AH, 02h
                     ; Function to print character
                  ; Print character
  MOV DL, 0Ah
                     ; Line feed
  MOV AH, 02h
                     ; Function to print character
 INT 21h
                 ; Print character
  ; Program finished, halt
  MOV AX, 4C00h
                      ; Terminate program
 INT 21h
                 ; DOS interrupt
MYCODE ENDS
END START
```

MYDATA SEGMENT

LEN DW 5

ARRAY DB 5, 3, 8, 6, 2 ; Array of integers to be sorted

; Length of the array MSG1 DB 'Sorted array: \$'; Message to display before printing array

Icons are frequently used to represent actions