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UNIT 3. The Operating Systems

An operating system is the core set of software on a device that keeps everything together. Operating systems communicate with the device's hardware. They handle everything from your keyboard and computer mouse to the Wi-Fi radio, storage devices, and display. In other words, an operating system handles input and output devices. In addition, operating systems use device drivers written by hardware creators to communicate with their devices.

Common desktop operating systems include Windows, OS X, and Linux. While each OS is different, most provide a graphical user interface, or GUI, that includes a desktop and the ability to manage files and folders. They also allow you to install and run programs written for the operating system. Windows and Linux can be installed on standard PC hardware, while OS X is designed to run on Apple systems. Therefore, the hardware you choose affects what operating system you can run.

Mobile devices, such as tablets and smartphones also include operating systems that provide a GUI and can run applications. Common mobile OSes include Android, iOS, and Windows Phone. These OSes are developed specifically for portable devices and therefore are designed around touchscreen input. While early mobile operating systems lacked many features found in desktop OSes, they now include advanced capabilities, such as the ability to run third-party apps and run multiple apps at once.

Operating systems also include other software, including a user interface that lets people interface with the device. This may be a desktop interface on a PC, a touchscreen interface on a phone, or a voice interface on a digital assistant device.

When software developers create applications, they must write and compile them for a specific operating system. This is because each OS communicates with the hardware differently and has a specific application program interface, or API, that the programmer must use. While many popular programs are cross platform, meaning they have been

developed for multiple OSes, some are only available for a single operating system. Therefore, when choosing a computer, make sure the operating system supports the programs you want to run.

In conclusion, I want to say that, without the invention of the operating system, computers would not have nearly the amount of power, diversity, and applicability they do today.