



# OPERATING SYSTEMS

Explained to a 6 year-old



Think of your computer as  
a kitchen in a restaurant.



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You have to cook a lot of different dishes (i.e. run a lot of different programs) with a single set of shared resources.



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If you just had a wild pack of chefs without any management, it would be chaos.



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They'd be taking one  
another's ingredients  
and using one another's  
knives and pans.



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The food is coming out late (if at all), and when it does come out, it's all wrong.

You order spaghetti and meatballs and get half a breakfast burrito and a bowl full of chicken bones.



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Think of the **OS** as an executive chef who whips the staff into shape.



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He oversees what's going on, makes sure everything is in its right place, and tells the staff what to do.

Now the kitchen assistants are chopping the right amount of onions, the line chefs aren't stealing one another's ingredients, and food comes out as intended and in a timely fashion.



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There's no shortage of ingredients because they're being ordered as needed, and the dishes are being cleaned quickly enough to keep up with the food that's going out.



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operating system

In other words, you need an OS to manage how your programs work. Without direction, you have a horde of programs running amok across the shared hardware of your computer.

Check out my IG guide  
for more ELI6 topics

(Explain Like I'm six)

