altOS

altOS™

Advanced Learning Technology Operating System™

Ever since I learned to program, I was aware of the need to teach a machine how to do something. This required the programmer to first figure out how to do it. Then you had to give explicit instructions to the machine on how to do it.

I first learned about *fractals* at the *Institute of Fundamental Studies (IFS)*. Just before I left for the USA, I had the fortune of meeting with *Dr. Arthur C. Clarke* in *Colombo*. He had a recent laptop computer and he showed me a demonstration of a graphical program that generated interactive fractal images.

My first co-op job during my years at *Stevens Institute of Technology* was at *Maidenform*. I had to teach a computer how to recognize patterns on lace. Initially, I had to teach it how to recognize the pattern on a lace design called *Chantilly*. Then we had to evolve to add additional lace designs. Ideally, we wanted to recognize any given lace design introduced to the system. So the question arose as to how to *teach a computer to learn*.

In 1993 at Stevens, *Anurag Srivastava* gave me the book *Society of Mind* by *Marvin Minsky*. It was a conceptual framework for how the *society of neurons* work together in a brain in manifesting learning behavior. *I had an epiphany*!

I understood *something*. Rather, I had a *deep intuition*. A repeating web of patterns and processes. *Fractals*! My mind was intensely clear. I tried to communicate my clarity with *Professor James Scow (my Philosophy professor)* and *Professor Susan Schept (my Psychology professor)*. I did not succeed in communicating to them. It could have been that I had not gained enough clarity on my intuition. It could have been that I was not articulate enough.

> *The **kernel** of the operating system was in place but input and output was rudimentary!*

I had financial difficulties at the time. My scholarship was a fixed amount for each year. I was not earning enough money to cover my room, board and the difference in increasing tuition. I had thought I should contact *Professor Ralph Buultjens* in New York for financial help. But I never did. I had a great intuition and insight but was failing to communicate it. I was frustrated. I went nuts, literally! *I was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder in November 1993*.

The doctors who treated the illness both in America and Sri Lanka never said what caused the illness. It was supposed to be a mix of genetics and the environment. So the hardware (genetics) had a problem. My only solution was in software, the *data and algorithms* that was stored in the brain (environment).

> *I learnt **Java** in 1996 and it had something that **C++** was yet to have, **exceptions**!*

I had the idea that *every neuron could be considered a machine running an operating system*. Societies of these neurons perform specific functions collaboratively. The result was a higher level software operating system. This operating system in my brain was faulty! *What if I carved out a space for an operating system that handled exception*s! I would then have two operating systems in my brain, the faulty one and the one that handled the exceptions of the faulty one! That should fix the problem, or so I thought! I would, also, literally be bipolar in brain software.

I read books from multiple disciplines - *software development*, *psychology*, *philosophy* and *management* in my quest to find fixes to my *exception handling operating system* ever since.

> *I later learnt of **Linux**, a monolithic implementation of **Unix**.*

More than a decade later, I read some books about *Charlie Munger* who is an *INTP (I am also an INTP)*. His thesis is that we deal with reality using conceptual mental models and we keep adding to and improving our conceptual models. I realized that I am not simply holding two operating systems, but multiple operating systems that is part of my brain software.

> *I needed to refactor and integrate multiple conceptual mental models into one monolithic conceptual meta-framework.*

In *Artificial Intelligence*, there are the notions of *unsupervised* and *supervised* learning. Unsupervised learning allows natural and arbitrary classification of data and supervised learning is more directive.

The brain can handle much more complexity. Any given conceptual framework consists of *data*, *algorithms*, *patterns* and *concepts*. The brain accommodates multiple conceptual frameworks. These frameworks seem to be stored in clusters of *similarity* and *difference*.

The frameworks are connected and integrated via *similarity clusters*. This is done in a manner similar (exactly the same as, if you will) to *the Tao*. The book *Tao of Leadership* by *John Heider* helped me understand this conceptual framework in detail.

The *software of the brain* is *the mind*. The mind uses the brain to store *conceptual frameworks* (ඤාම) and *sensory data* (රූප). There is a natural way (*a mechanism*) that the hardware (*the brain*) operates on.

Our conceptual frameworks can be rather arbitrary. However, if we introduce a conceptual framework into our mind that is *congruent* with the way the brain operates, the whole system becomes more efficient. This *congruent conceptual framework* will work as *the supervisory framework* and will *absorb and refactor* any future conceptual framework or sensory data. It will also evolve to accommodate new conceptual frameworks. *It just so happens that the religious traditions have provided good candidates for supervisory frameworks*.

> *We now have **evolutionary learning** (**nature**). The **congruency** and **deep fractal integration** provides **clarity of mind** and **tranquility**.*

The conceptual framework is called ***A**dvanced **L**earning **T**echnology **O**perating **S**ystem* or the ***ALT**ernative **O**perating **S**ystem*, in a word **altOS™**.