

# Unit 3 — Operating Systems

## Reading: Learning About Operating Systems



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An operating system is a generic term for the multitasking software layer that lets you perform a wide array of 'lower level tasks' with your computer. By low-level tasks we mean:

- the ability to sign in with a username and password
- sign out the system and switch users
- format storage devices and set default levels of file compression
- install and upgrade device drivers for new hardware
- install and launch applications such as word processors, games, etc
- set file permissions and hidden files
- terminate misbehaving applications

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## Discussion Questions

Which operating systems have you tried? Which do you like best? Why?

What users typically prefer CLI operating systems? What users typically prefer GUI operating systems? Why?

Research one of the following operating systems and write a short review: MS-DOS, Windows 7, Mac OSX, Android, IOS, FreeBSD, Linux.