Unit 2 — Operating Systems



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CLI (Command line interface)

a text-only link between a computer and its operator

"The technician enjoyed administering the Unix server with the CLI tools."

Compression

a method of packing data in order to save disk storage space or download time

"Zip and mp3 are examples of two common file compression algorithms."

Customizable

able to be changed or adjusted to fit a user’s personal needs or preferences

"Most operating systems today are customizable, allowing users to change themes, security settings, and default applications."

Device driver

software which converts the data from a component or peripheral into data that an operating system can use

"The IT support technician asked the end user if he had recently updated any device drivers."

Efficient manner

a way of doing something that saves time, energy, or resources

"Good programmers write code in an efficient manner so that it runs quickly and uses less memory."

File permissions

a set of strict rules for controlling read, write, and execute access to a file or directory

"The company switched from FAT32 to NTFS file system because the former did not support file permissions."

Format

prepare a device to store data, erasing any existing data

"One must format a flash memory drive or a hard disk drive before it can be used to store data."

Foundational

something that is basic and important because other things are built on it

"Concrete and steel are foundational elements of a building, because they support all the floors above."

GUI (Graphical user interface)

an icon based link between a computer and its operator

"Most users prefer an icon-based GUI over a command line option."

Hidden file

a file which does not appear by default in a directory listing; normally for security reasons or to spare confusion in end users

"The administrator was upset when the end user found a way to display and then delete several hidden files."

HCI (Human-Computer Interaction)

how people and computers work together, especially through screens, keyboards, and other controls.

"A UX consultant with a deep background in HCI and WCAG was called in to study the proposed UI changes in the proposed operating system update."

Kernel

the fundamental part of an operating system responsible for resource management and file access

"The system administrator needed to upgrade the kernel in order to provide native support for Serial ATA drives."

Linux

an open source version of Unix developed by Linus Torvalds

"Linux was originally developed by Linus Torvalds, who wanted a free Unix-like operating system that ran on standard PC hardware."

Multitasking

concurrent execution of two or more tasks by a processor

"UNIX is the original multitasking environment and was designed from the beginning to share resources over a network."

OS (Operating system)

a GUI or CLI software link between the computer and operator; also provides a framework for productivity software such as an office suite, web browser, or programming languages

"The programmer tested his Java code on many operating systems including: Windows, Linux, and Macintosh."

Sign in

to enter information related to an account name and its password in order to access a computer resource

"The man could not sign in to his Windows computer because he forgot his username and password."

Sign out

to end a session with computer or network resource

"The server was set to automatically sign out users after 10 minutes of inactivity."

Ubuntu

a popular linux distribution based on Debian linux and available in both desktop and server editions

"Ubuntu is known for its ease of use, compatibility, and long term support options"

VM (Virtual machine)

a software program which mimics the performance of one or more hardware devices in order to run software independently of the actual hardware

"In order to run Java programs in Windows one needs to download an appropriate virtual machine."