1. Introduction to Operating Systems

1.1 Introduction

- No single definition of what an operating system (OS) is
- The OS is the software that is closest to the computer hardware. Goals:
 - Abstract/hide the hardware complexity
 - \Rightarrow Interface or <u>virtual machine</u>, easier to use than the hardware
 - Guarantee the correct functioning of the computer
 - \Rightarrow <u>Balanced management</u> of resources (CPU, memory, I/O devices)
- What is an operating system? Two viewpoints:
 - User/programmer: set of routines that allow using the resources of a computer, ignoring its precise characteristics

 \Rightarrow Functional viewpoint (use of the OS): virtual machine

- Designer: software running on top of the hardware in order to manage the resources in an efficient manner

 \Rightarrow This viewpoint corresponds to the implementation of the OS

1.2 Functional viewpoint of operating systems

- Interfaces of an operating system:
 - System calls (OS primitives)
 - Command Interpreter: text oriented (command-line, shell), graphical...
- System call interface (functions of the virtual machine):
 - Interface between applications and the OS (set of routines)
 - Source-code level compatibility among different computers



1.3 Operating system functions

• <u>Program execution</u>. Load instructions and data into main memory, initialize files and I/O devices, prepare other resources...

• <u>Access to Input/Output devices</u>. Hide their complexity, allowing programs to do I/O operations in terms of simple reads and write instructions

• <u>Controlled access to files</u>. Manage file formats and storing. Control concurrent accesses to files

• <u>Access to the system</u>. Control the permission to enter the system. Control the permission to access the resources

• <u>Error detection and recovery</u>. Detect both hardware and software errors. Actions: retry, finish program, warn...

• <u>Accounting</u>. Measure the use of resources. Goals: detect new needs, improve efficiency, correct mistakes, billing...

1.4 Evolution of operating systems

• Batch systems:

- First OS: monitor program, punch cards, operator. The monitor chained programs. The CPU was most of the time idle, waiting for I/O completion. In order to improve CPU usage, multiprogramming was developed

• Time sharing systems:

- Together with multiprogramming, in the 60s. Interactive systems, dumb terminals (no CPU, no memory, no disk), *quantum*. Goal: response time as short as possible

• Teleprocessing systems:

- Remote terminals (PCs nowadays), connected to the system via a proprietary protocol: reservation systems, banking transaction systems

1.4 Evolution of operating systems (continued)

• Personal systems (PCs, workstations):

- 80s, hardware becomes cheaper. They were initially single-user and monoprogrammed (e.g., MS-DOS). Today they are multiprogrammed, with sophisticated graphical user interfaces. User = administrator

- Networked systems:
 - computers are connected via a network protocol
 - TCP/IP (public) vs. Novell, AppleTalk (proprietary)
 - each computer has its own OS
 - servers \leftrightarrow clients
 - types of networks: local (*Ethernet*), wide area (*Internet*)
- Distributed systems:
 - resources/services of various machines are transparently integrated. Goals: resource sharing, improve efficiency, fault-tolerance...

1.5 Classification of operating systems

- Monoprogrammed / Multiprogrammed:
 - Concurrent program execution \equiv processesMultitasking \rightarrow programs of a single userMultiprocessing (many CPUs) \rightarrow real parallel execution
- Single terminal / multiterminal
- Single user / multiuser: distinguish users
- Proprietary / open source: related to a specific brand/company

* Microcomputer OS \rightarrow minicomputer OS \rightarrow mainframe OS (old classification)

* User friendly / not friendly: graphical interfaces

A computer can host more than one OS (e.g., Windows and Linux in a PC). Also, there are OS emulators (e.g., *Win4Lin*, *VMWare*, *VirtualPC*...)

1.6 Examples and families

1.6.1. Unix: families and versions

• 1970 Bell-Labs AT&T. C programming language. 1974 public version available

• Unix families:

- Ultrix–DigitalXenix–MicrosoftAIX–IBM
 System V ATT
 BSD Univ. Berkeley: Sun (Solaris)
- PCs SCO, SantaCruz – Linux (RedHat, Debian, SuSe, Ubuntu...): www.linux.org
- Multiprogrammed, multiuser, multiterminal. Text oriented command interpreters (shell, C-shell, K-shell...), also graphical (Openwin, Motif, KDE, Gnome...). Some versions support multiprocessing



<u>1.6.2. Microsoft: MS-DOS, Windows, Windows95/98/ME, WindowsNT/2000,</u> <u>WindowsXP...</u>

- 1980: IBM. Contract with Microsoft $(1981) \rightarrow MS-DOS$
- MS-DOS 1.0 (12 KB): Compatible with CP/M, better disk management, faster

Single directory per floppy disk, limited to 64 files

- MS-DOS 2.0: (1983, PC/XT) Hard disk, hierarchical directory system, Input/Output redirection (imported from Unix)
- 1984 (PC/AT): Intel 80286 (extended address space, memory protection mechanisms). MS-DOS 3.0 (same as 2.0, 36 KB)

3.1 version: network support

• 1990: Windows (not a real OS): graphical interface on top of MS-DOS, offering multitasking

• 1995: Windows95, multitasking, memory protection, and 32 bit addressing. Windows98 and WindowsME as evolutions

Windows NT (New Technology) \rightarrow Windows 2000 \rightarrow Windows XP $\rightarrow \dots$



1.6.3. IBM: MVS, AS/400, VM

Mainframes. Proprietary OS

- MVS: 1 complex, 1 big; teleprocessing applications, fast access to huge databases, security mechanisms
- VM: virtual machine operating system
- AS/400: similar to MVS, but for minicomputers
- OS/2 (Warp): microcomputers (PCs)

1.6.4. Others: Macintosh, Digital, Google....

- MacOS: first graphical user interface. Proprietary system: only in Apple computers \downarrow
- Digital VMS: used heavily in academia (minicomputers)
- Mach, Amoeba, Chorus: distributed operating systems
- Real-time OS: Windows XP Embedded, QNX, RTLinux...
- PDA, smartphone, tablet: iOS, Windows Phone, Palm OS, Symbian, Android