

Computer system is a combination of hardware and software. Software consists of instructions to perform desired tasks, while hardware enables the software to run.

A computer is a machine that understands machine language. We cannot directly give commands to the computer. So, to make it understand our instructions, we need a program which helps us to communicate with computer. This program is the Operating System (OS).

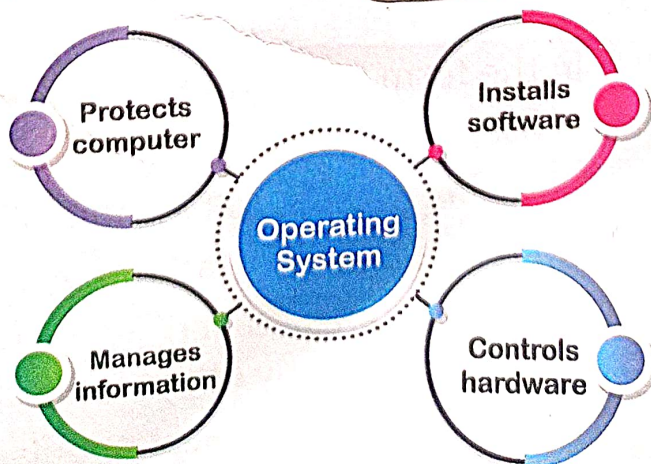


An operating system is a system software. It is the first software installed in a computer. A computer is useless without an operating system. Windows, Linux, and Mac OS are some examples of operating system.

FUNCTIONS OF AN OPERATING SYSTEM

An operating system performs the following functions in a computer system:

1. It controls all the hardware devices connected to a computer.
2. It manages the overall functioning of the computer.
3. It allows us to install and use other software on the computer.
4. It helps manage information in the computer in the form of files and folders.
5. It helps protect the computer from viruses and other threats.

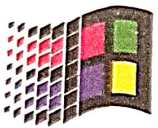




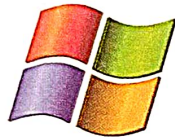
The **operating system** is stored permanently in the hard disk of computer. When we switch on the computer, the operating system is loaded into the main memory of the CPU. The process of loading the operating system into the main memory is called **Booting**.

MICROSOFT WINDOWS

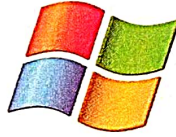
Microsoft Windows is a series of operating systems developed and marketed by Microsoft Corporation. It is the most popular operating system worldwide. Each new version of Windows brings new features, better performance, and ease of use. Some popular versions of Microsoft Windows are **Windows XP**, **Windows 7**, **Windows 10** and **Windows 11**.



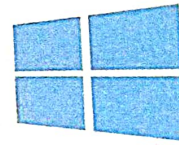
Windows 95
(1995)



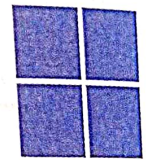
Windows XP
(2001)



Windows 7
(2009)

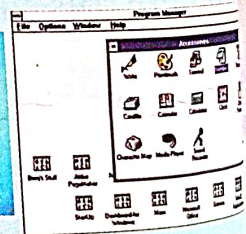


Windows 10
(2015)



Windows 11
(2021)

The first version of the Windows operating system was called **Windows 1**, and it was an operating environment launched in November 1985. The first popular version of Windows was **Windows 3.1**. **Windows 95** was the first full-fledged operating system.



Let's Learn

Some important features of the Microsoft Windows operating system are:

- It provides a **Graphical User Interface (GUI)** which represents commands, programs, and files in the form of pictures and graphics.
- It is easy to learn and use.
- It allows all known hardware devices to be connected to a computer.
- It allows most software to be installed and run on a computer.
- It provides many utility programs, called **apps**, that can be used to perform most tasks without using any other application software.

Let us learn about **Windows 10**, one of the most popular operating systems.