Chapter 1: Introduction

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- What Operating Systems Do
- Computer-System Organization
- Computer-System Architecture
- Operating-System Structure
- Operating-System Operations
- Process Management
- Memory Management
- Storage Management
- Protection and Security
- Distributed Systems
- Special-Purpose Systems
- Computing Environments

Objectives

- To provide a grand tour of the major operating systems components
- To provide coverage of basic computer system organization

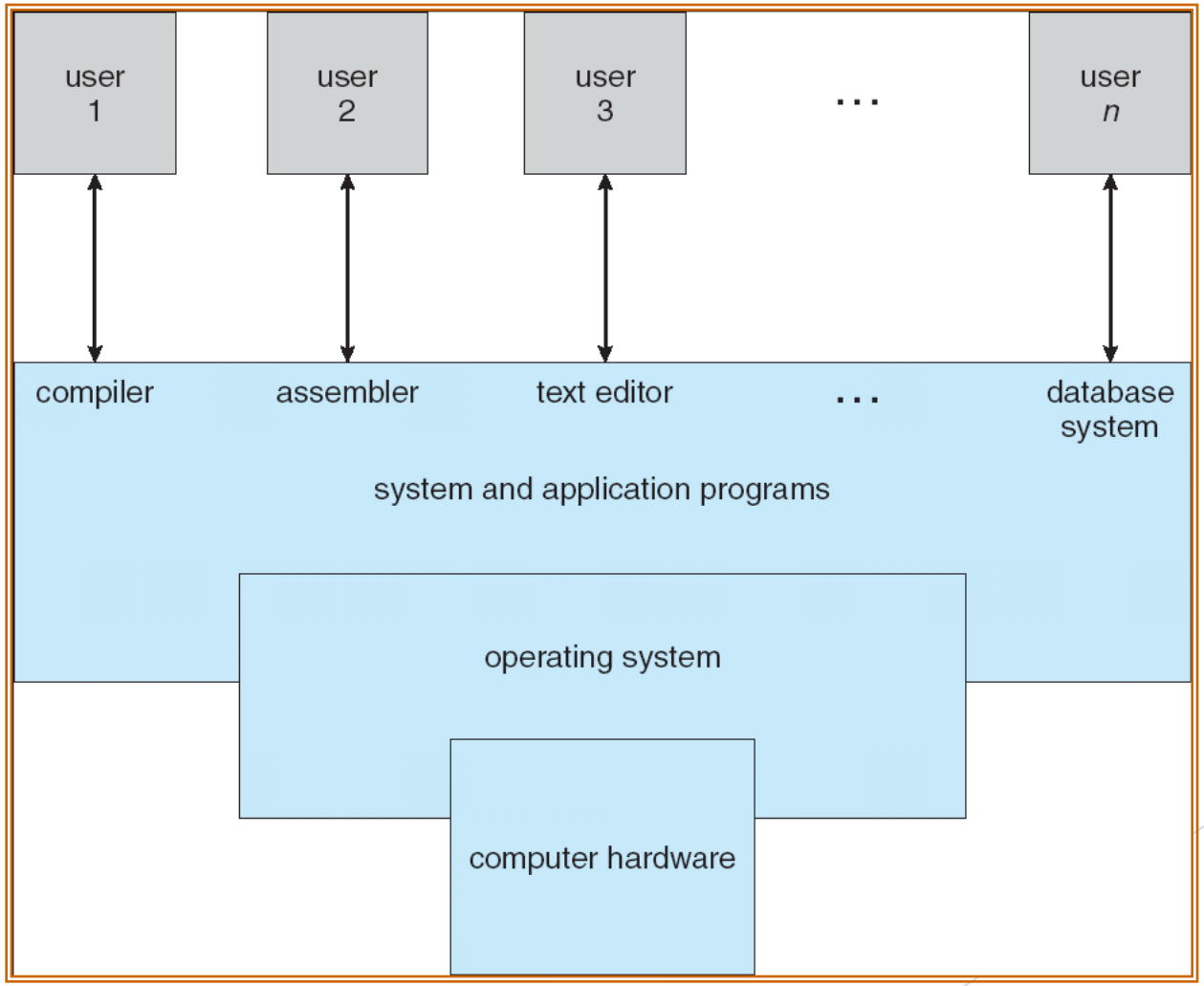
What is an Operating System?

- A program that acts as an intermediary between a user of a computer and the computer hardware.
- Operating system goals:
  - Execute user programs and make solving user problems easier.
  - Make the computer system convenient to use.
- Use the computer hardware in an efficient manner.

Computer System Structure

- Computer system can be divided into four components
  - Hardware – provides basic computing resources
    - CPU, memory, I/O devices
  - Operating system
    - Controls and coordinates use of hardware among various applications and users
  - Application programs – define the ways in which the system resources are used to solve the computing problems of the users
    - Word processors, compilers, web browsers, database systems, video games
  - Users
    - People, machines, other computers

Four Components of a Computer System



Operating System Definition

- OS is a **resource allocator**
  - Manages all resources
  - Decides between conflicting requests for efficient and fair resource use
- OS is a **control program**
  - Controls execution of programs to prevent errors and improper use of the computer

Operating System Definition (Cont.)

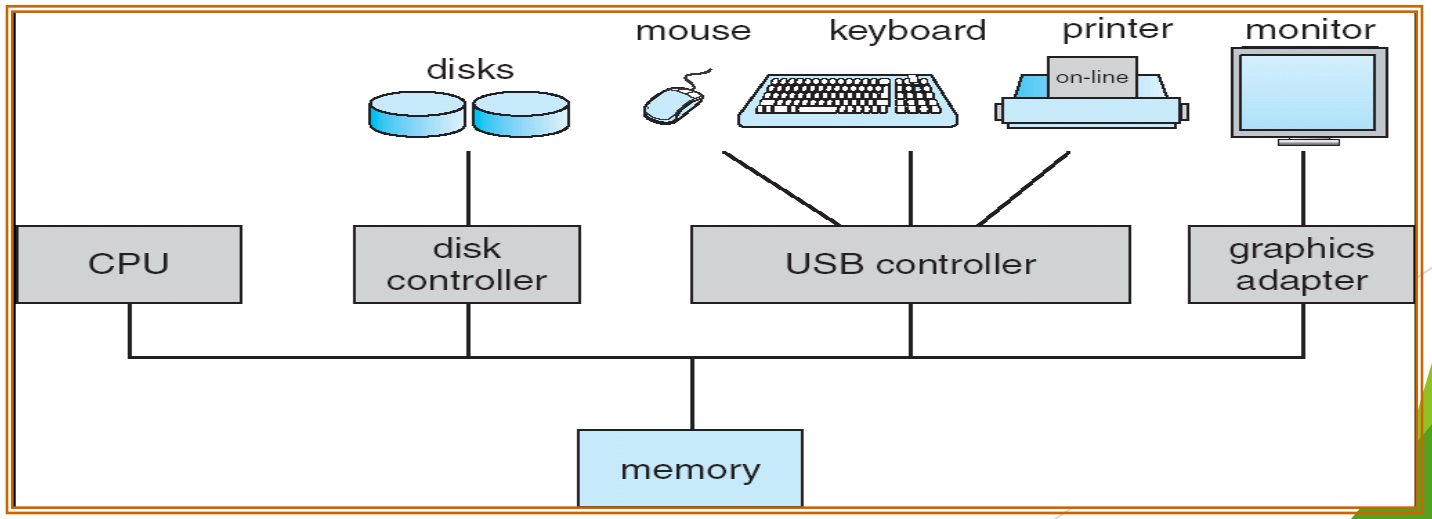
- No universally accepted definition
- “Everything a vendor ships when you order an operating system” is good approximation
  - But varies wildly
- “The one program running at all times on the computer” is the **kernel.** Everything else is either a system program (ships with the operating system) or an application program

Computer Startup

- **bootstrap program** is loaded at power-up or reboot
  - Typically stored in ROM or EPROM, generally known as **firmware**
  - Initializates all aspects of system
  - Loads operating system kernel and starts execution

Computer System Organization

- Computer-system operation
  - One or more CPUs, device controllers connect through common bus providing access to shared memory
  - Concurrent execution of CPUs and devices competing for memory cycles



Computer-System Operation

- I/O devices and the CPU can execute concurrently.
- Each device controller is in charge of a particular device type.
- Each device controller has a local buffer.
- CPU moves data from/to main memory to/from local buffers
- I/O is from the device to local buffer of controller.
- Device controller informs CPU that it has finished its operation by causing an *interrupt*.

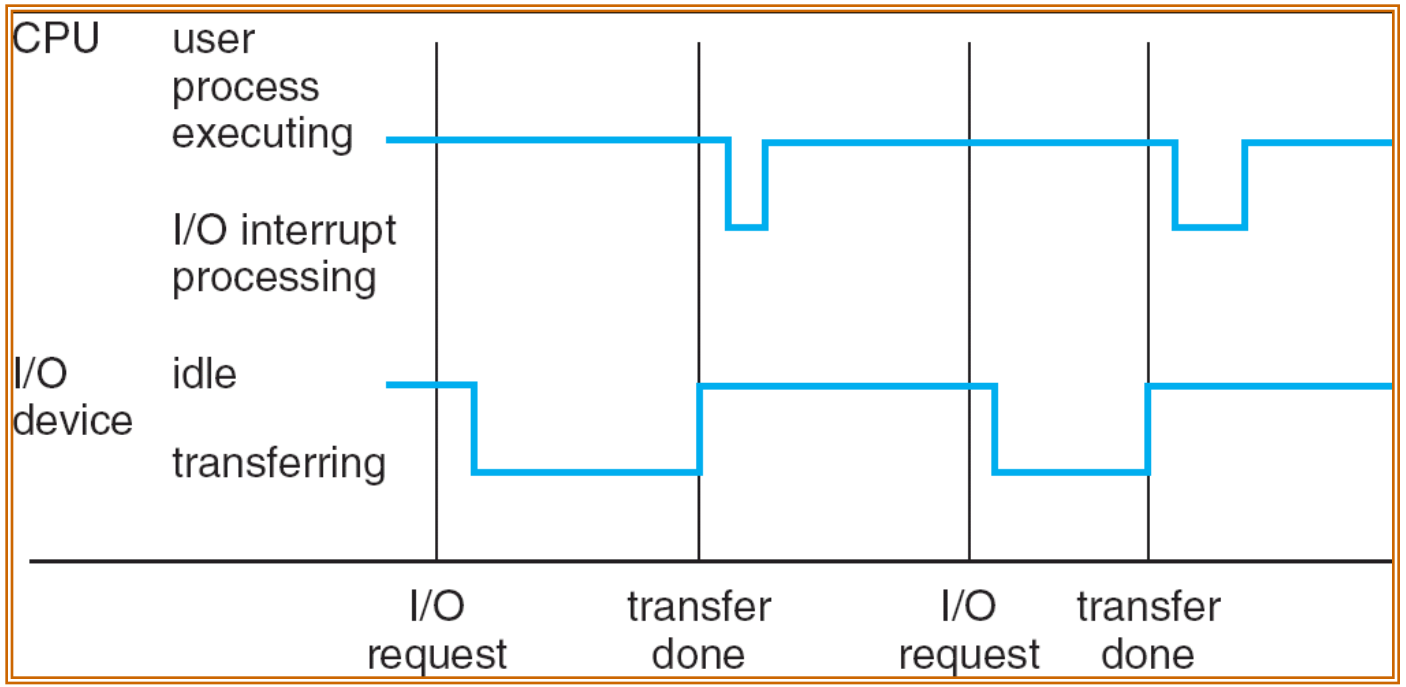
Common Functions of Interrupts

- Interrupt transfers control to the interrupt service routine generally, through the *interrupt vector*, which contains the addresses of all the service routines.
- Interrupt architecture must save the address of the interrupted instruction.
- Incoming interrupts are *disabled* while another interrupt is being processed to prevent a *lost interrupt*.
- A *trap* is a software-generated interrupt caused either by an error or a user request.
- An operating system is *interrupt* driven.

Interrupt Handling

- The operating system preserves the state of the CPU by storing registers and the program counter.
- Determines which type of interrupt has occurred:
  - *polling*
  - *vectored* interrupt system
- Separate segments of code determine what action should be taken for each type of interrupt

Interrupt Timeline



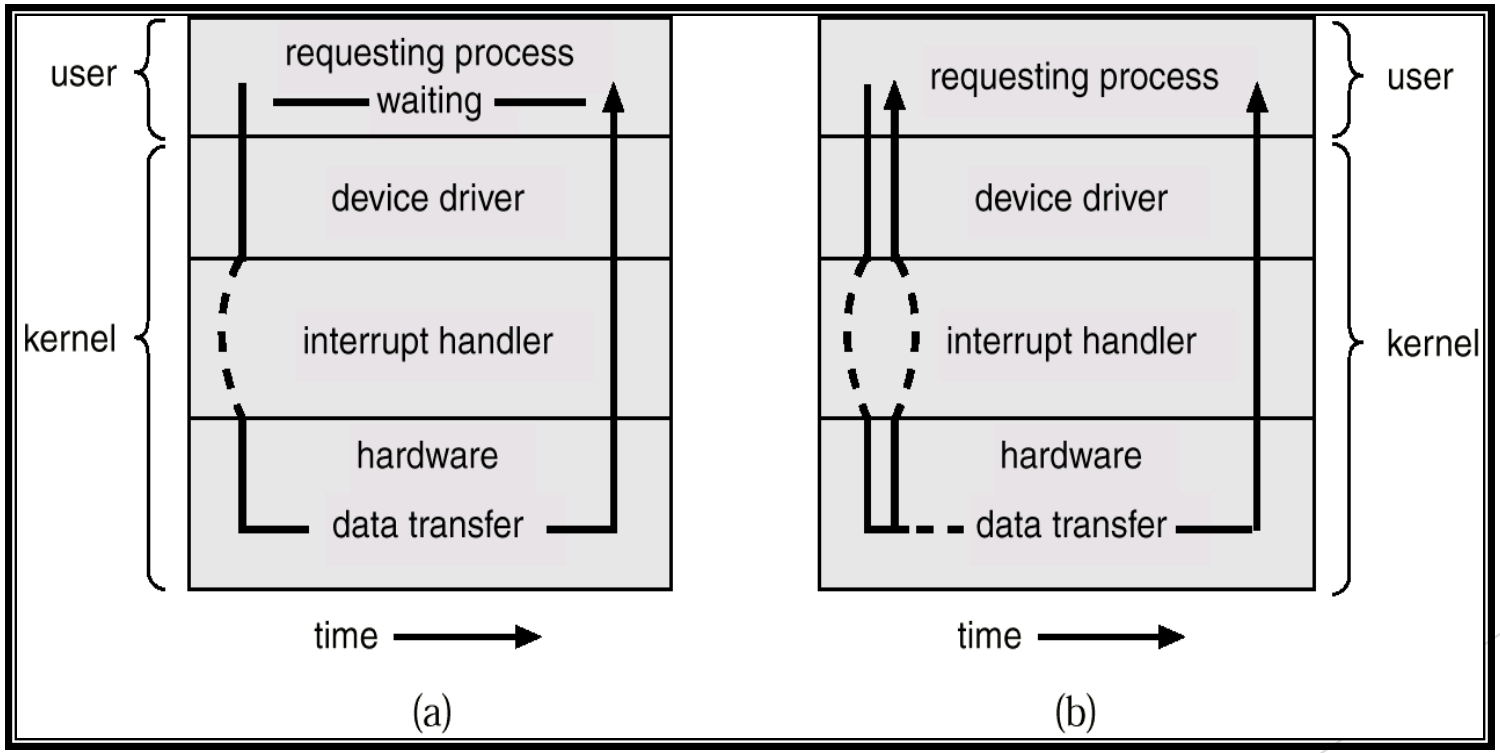
I/O Structure

- After I/O starts, control returns to user program only upon I/O completion.
  - Wait instruction idles the CPU until the next interrupt
  - Wait loop (contention for memory access).
  - At most one I/O request is outstanding at a time, no simultaneous I/O processing.
- After I/O starts, control returns to user program without waiting for I/O completion.
  - *System call* – request to the operating system to allow user to wait for I/O completion.
  - *Device-status table* contains entry for each I/O device indicating its type, address, and state.
  - Operating system indexes into I/O device table to determine device status and to modify table entry to include interrupt.

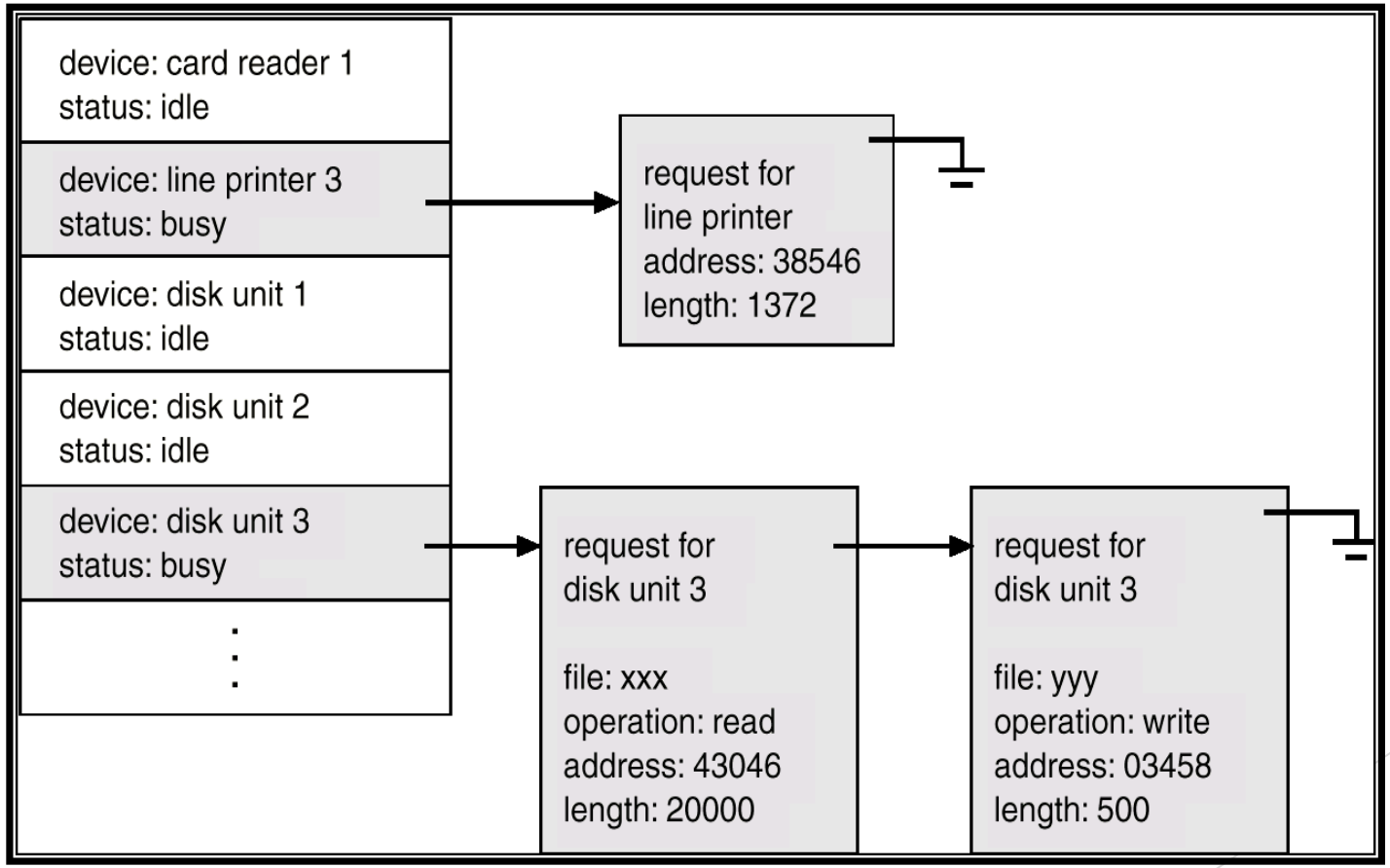
Two I/O Methods

Synchronous

Asynchronous



Device-Status Table



Direct Memory Access Structure

- Used for high-speed I/O devices able to transmit information at close to memory speeds.
- Device controller transfers blocks of data from buffer storage directly to main memory without CPU intervention.
- Only one interrupt is generated per block, rather than the one interrupt per byte.

Storage Structure

- Main memory – only large storage media that the CPU can access directly.
- Secondary storage – extension of main memory that provides large nonvolatile storage capacity.
- Magnetic disks – rigid metal or glass platters covered with magnetic recording material
  - Disk surface is logically divided into *tracks*, which are subdivided into *sectors*.
  - The *disk controller* determines the logical interaction between the device and the computer.

Storage Hierarchy

- Storage systems organized in hierarchy.
  - Speed
  - Cost
  - Volatility
- *Caching* – copying information into faster storage system; main memory can be viewed as a last *cache* for secondary storage.

Storage-Device Hierarchy