**The Classification and Function of Operating System**

Name

Professor

Institutional Affiliations

Course

Date

**The Classification and Function of Operating System**

An operating system (OS) is a software ensemble responsible for overseeing computer hardware resources and delivering shared services to computer programs. Serving as a fundamental element of system software in a computer system, the operating system is indispensable. Typically, application programs rely on an operating system for proper functionality (Sahu et al., 2021).

**Classification of Operating System**

Operating systems can undergo classification according to their capacity to manage tasks, accommodate users, present user interfaces, exhibit architectural features, and support network functionalities. Operating systems can be classified based on the number of tasks they can handle simultaneously. Single-tasking operating systems execute one task at a time, commonly found in early personal computers (Katzan, 1970). Multi-tasking operating systems, such as Windows, macOS, and Linux, allow the concurrent execution of multiple applications, providing users with the ability to run several tasks simultaneously (Sahu et al., 2021). Real-time operating systems are designed for tasks with strict timing constraints, and they can be either single-tasking or multi-tasking depending on application requirements.

Operating systems can also be classified based on the number of users they can support, with single-user operating systems designed for individual users on personal computers, providing an exclusive experience (Sahu et al., 2021). In contrast, multi-user operating systems enable concurrent access and operation by multiple users, supporting resource sharing and collaboration. These systems include features such as user authentication and time-sharing to facilitate simultaneous execution. Batch processing systems, on the other hand, focus on managing large volumes of tasks with minimal user interaction, commonly found in server environments.

In the User Interface-based Classification, two main interfaces shape user interaction with the system. The Command Line Interface (CLI) involves users typing commands directly, exemplified by Command Prompt on Windows and Terminal on Unix/Linux. In contrast, the Graphical User Interface (GUI) offers a visual experience with icons, windows, and menus, enhancing user intuitiveness (*Classification of Operating Systems*, 2023). These interfaces represent distinct approaches to user-system interaction, catering to diverse user preferences and experiences.

In architecture-based classification, a monolithic OS has a single, large kernel for all core functions, prioritizing speed but complexity. In contrast, a micro-kernel OS features a small kernel providing basic services, relying on external modules for additional functions, offering modularity at the expense of speed. A hybrid OS combines elements from both architectures, aiming to balance performance and modularity (Sahu et al., 2021).

Network-based classification can be categorized into Network Operating System (NOS) and Distributed Operating System. Network Operating Systems excel in the management of network resources, offering services such as file and print sharing. In contrast, Distributed Operating Systems efficiently distribute computing tasks among interconnected computers, elevating performance and fortifying fault tolerance. Examples in this category encompass Google Chrome OS and Amoeba.

**Functions of Operating System**

The operating system performs diverse tasks crucial for smooth computing. Among these functions is processor management, where, in a multi-programming environment, the OS uses process scheduling to determine the sequence and duration of processor access for various tasks. It efficiently assigns tasks to the processor, monitors process statuses, and deallocates the processor upon task completion, ensuring optimal utilization in a streamlined manner (Solanki & Paliwal, 2018).

Memory management is a crucial operating system function, efficiently overseeing Primary Memory to load and execute programs. It tracks memory usage, controls process access order and duration in multiprogramming, and allocates/deallocates memory, optimizing system performance and preventing conflicts among concurrent processes (Singh, 2019). Another key function is device management, where the operating system supervises device communication through drivers. It manages connected devices, assigns Input/Output controllers, determines process access, and efficiently allocates/deallocates devices, ensuring seamless functioning, task execution, and communication with requesting processes.

The operating system manages file systems, organizing data into directories for efficient navigation. Essential file management tasks, such as tracking file locations, user access settings, and status, are overseen by the OS. It handles file operations like creation, deletion, transfer, copy, and storage, ensuring data integrity and security against unauthorized access (Odun-Ayo et al., 2021). Additionally, the operating system acts as an intermediary between users and computer hardware, offering a user interface through commands or a graphical interface, facilitating interactions with applications and the underlying machine hardware.

The operating system ensures security with password protection and measures like login protection, an active firewall, and secure system memory to prevent unauthorized access and maintain data integrity (Odun-Ayo et al., 2021). Additionally, it plays a vital role in optimizing system performance by efficiently allocating CPU time, memory, and I/O devices to processes, ensuring fair resource utilization. Process scheduling is a critical function, preventing any task from monopolizing the CPU, enabling effective multitasking (Solanki & Paliwal, 2018).

The operating system serves as a network manager, orchestrating internet traffic by overseeing data packaging and transmission. Additionally, it acts as a settings and security guard, enabling users to configure Wi-Fi or Ethernet settings, monitor network performance, and optimize internet speed (Singh, 2019). Beyond network functions, the operating system is accountable for job accounting, tracking time and resources utilized by tasks and users, as well as error detection to prevent system malfunctions. Additionally, it collaborates with other software and users by allocating interpreters, compilers, and assemblers to different users within the computer system.

In conclusion, the varied classifications and functions of operating systems are tailored to meet the diverse requirements of different computing environments. As technology advances, operating systems are poised to assume a pivotal role in influencing the trajectory of future computing. A comprehensive grasp of their classifications and functions is indispensable for developers, administrators, and users alike.

**References**

*Classification of Operating Systems*. (2023, August 29). Davido Digital Solutions. <https://www.davidodigitalsolutions.com/2023/05/classification-of-operating-systems.html>

Katzan, H. (1970). Operating systems architecture. *Proceedings of the May 5-7, 1970, Spring Joint Computer Conference on - AFIPS ’70 (Spring)*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1476936.1476960>

Odun-Ayo, I., Okokpujie, K., Oputa, K., Ogbu, H., Emmanuel, F., Shofadekan, A., & Okuazun, G. (2021, April). Comparative Study of Operating System Quality Attributes. In *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering* (Vol. 1107, No. 1, p. 012061). IOP Publishing. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1757-899X/1107/1/012061/pdf>

Sahu, A., Singh, S., Hod, R., & Chawda. (2021). RESEARCH PAPER ON OPERATING SYSTEM. *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts*, *9*(6), 2320–2882. <https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT2106251.pdf>

Singh, A. (2019, February 7). *Functions of operating system*. GeeksforGeeks. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/functions-of-operating-system/>

Solanki, M., & Paliwal, M. (2018). *An Overview on Operating System*. *5*. <https://www.jetir.org/papers/JETIRFH06005.pdf>