1 INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER OPERATING SYSTEM

An operating system (sometimes abbreviated as "OS") is the program that, after being initially loaded into the computer by a boot program, manages all the other programs in a computer.

An operating system is a program that acts as an interface between a user of a computer and the computer hardware.

The application programs make use of the operating system by making requests for services through a defined application program interface (API).

In addition, users can interact directly with the operating system through a user interface such as a command language (shell – CMD.EXE or Terminal) or a graphical user interface (GUI).

An operating system is an important part of almost every computer system. A computer system can roughly be divided into three components:

- The hardware (memory, CPU, arithmetic-logic unit, various bulk storage, I/O, peripheral devices)
- Systems programs (operating system, compilers, editors, loaders, utilities)
- Application programs (database systems, business programs, GUIs, IDEs)

![Figure 6-1 Conceptual View of a Computer System](image)

Compiled for TCS-2411 courtesy of MEMW Associates Consulting.
SUMMARY

The computer’s operating system is a group of programs designed to serve two basic purposes:

1. To control the allocation and use of the computing system’s resources among the various users and tasks.

2. To provide an interface between the computer hardware and the programmer that simplifies and makes feasible the creation, coding, debugging, and maintenance of application programs.