

# OPERATING SYSTEMS & UTILITY PROGRAMS

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## System Software

- System software consists of the programs that control the operations of the computer and its devices.
- Functions that system software performs include:
  - Starting up the computer.
  - Opening, executing, and running applications.
  - Storing, retrieving, and copying files.
  - Formatting disks.
  - Reducing file sizes.
  - Backing up the contents of a hard disk.
  - Serves as the interface between the user, the application software, and the computer's hardware.
- The two types of system software are **operating systems** and **utility programs**.

## Operating Systems

- An **operating system (OS)** is a set of programs containing instructions that coordinate all of the activities among computer hardware resources.
  - A computer cannot function without an operating system.
- An operating system also contains instructions that allow a user to run application software.
  - Application software is written to run with particular operating systems.
  - The operating system is sometimes called the **software platform**.
  - **Cross-platform applications** run identically on more than one operating system.
- The **kernel**, or core, of an operating system is responsible for managing memory, files, and devices; maintaining the computer's clock; starting applications; and assigning the computer's resources.
  - The kernel and other frequently used instructions in the operating system are copied from the storage (e.g., hard disk) to the computer's memory each time when the computer is started up.
    - Any program or command that remains in memory while the computer is running (e.g., the operating system kernel) is called **memory-resident**.

# Quiz Yourself Ch4 Operating Systems And Utility Programs Answers

**Rachel Sandford**

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**Seven Keys to Building a Robust Research Program** Thomas B. Deen,Barbara T. Harder,1999 Identifies attributes necessary to build and maintain a robust research program *Computers in History and Political Science* Jerome M. Clubb,Erik W. Austin,Michael W. Traugott,1973 *Technology & Procedures for Administrative Professionals* Patsy Fulton-Calkins,2003 Maintaining a focus on preparing students for all levels of the office environment this text focuses on the technological changes currently taking place It is designed to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the workplace and to develop communication human relations and time and stress management This text was formerly named Office 2000 Technology Procedures

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**policy** United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture,2006    The Complete Sourcebook on Children's Software Children's Software Review,2001-03 5000 critical reviews of CDs videogames smart toys for ages 1 to 16

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