

B.com 6th Semester
Information Technology
Unit -2

❖ **Short note on Windows**

The Windows operating system (Windows OS) refers to a family of operating systems developed by Microsoft Corporation. We look at the history of Windows OS from 1985 to present day. The Windows operating system (*Windows OS*) for desktop PCs is more formally called Microsoft Windows and is actually *a family* of operating systems for personal computers. Windows has traditionally dominated the personal computer world, running, by some estimates, more than 75 percent of all personal computers. Beginning in the early 2000s, Windows dominance has lessened with the growth of the Linux and Mac operating systems.

Windows provides a graphical user interface (GUI), virtual memory management, multitasking, and support for many peripheral devices. In addition to Windows operating systems for personal computers, Microsoft also offers operating systems for servers and mobile devices.

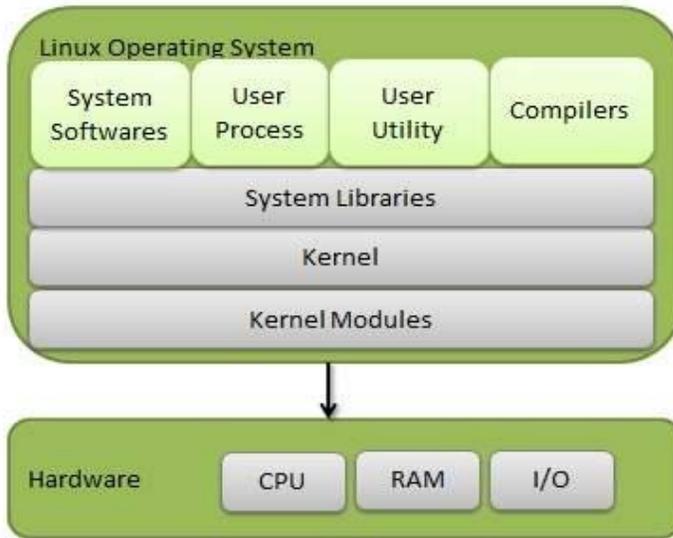
❖ **Short note on Linux**

Linux is one of popular version of UNIX operating System. It is open source as its source code is freely available. It is free to use. Linux was designed considering UNIX compatibility. Its functionality list is quite similar to that of UNIX.

Components of Linux System

Linux Operating System has primarily three components

- **Kernel** – Kernel is the core part of Linux. It is responsible for all major activities of this operating system. It consists of various modules and it interacts directly with the underlying hardware. Kernel provides the required abstraction to hide low level hardware details to system or application programs.
- **System Library** – System libraries are special functions or programs using which application programs or system utilities accesses Kernel's features. These libraries implement most of the functionalities of the operating system and do not requires kernel module's code access rights.
- **System Utility** – System Utility programs are responsible to do specialized, individual level tasks.



❖ **Some of the functions of Windows Operating System are:**

- Access applications (programs) on the computer (word processing, games, spread sheets, calculators and so on).
- Load any new program on the computer .
- Hardware such as printers, scanners, mouse, digital cameras etc.,
- File management activities (For example creating, modifying, saving, deleting files and folders).
- Change computer settings such as colour scheme, screen savers of your monitor, etc.

❖ **Different versions of Windows**

Versions	Logo	Year	Specific features
Windows 1.x		1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of GUI in 16-bit processor • Mouse was introduced as an input device.
Windows 2.x		1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports to minimize or maximize windows. • Control panel feature was introduced with various system settings and customising options.
Windows 3.x		1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced the concept of multitasking. • Supported 256 colours which brought a more modern, colourful look to the interface.

Windows 95		1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced Start button, the taskbar, Windows Explorer and Start menu. • Introduced 32 - bit processor and focused more on multitasking.
Windows 98		1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of the Web browser (Internet Explorer) with the Operating System. • DOS gaming began to disappear as Windows based games improved. • Plug and play feature was introduced.
Windows NT			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed to act as servers in network.
Windows Me		2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It introduced automated system diagnostics and recovery tools.
Windows 2000		2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served as an Operating System for business desktop and laptop systems. • Four versions of Windows 2000 were released: Professional (for business desktop and laptop systems), Server (both a Web server and an office server), Advanced Server (for line-of-business applications) and Data Centre Server (for high-traffic computer networks).
Windows XP		2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced 64-bit Processor. • Improved Windows appearance with themes and offered a stable version.
Windows Vista		2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the look and feel of Windows.

Windows 7		2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booting time was improved, introduced new user interfaces like Aero Peek, pinning programs to taskbar, handwriting recognition etc. and Internet Explorer 8.
Windows 8		2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows 8 was faster than previous versions of Windows. • Start button was removed. • Windows 8 takes better advantage of multi-core processing, solid state drives (SSD), touch screens and other alternate input methods. • Served as common platform for mobile and computer.
Windows 10		2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Button was added again. • Multiple desktop. • Central Notification Center for App notification and quick actions. • Cortana voice activated personal assistant.