

# Computer Operating System

An **operating system** is the most important software that runs on a computer. The operating system typically comes with the computer when you buy it. You never need to add a second operating system, although operating systems get updated and improved from time to time.

It controls the memory needed for computer processes and manages disk space, controls peripheral devices (printers, fax machines, scanners, etc.), and allows you to communicate with the computer without knowing exactly how a computer works. Without an operating system, a computer will not work.

## Most Popular Operating System

On PCs, the most common operating system is **Windows** (see this figure). Windows was created by a company called **Microsoft**. Other operating systems are available, but Windows dominates the marketplace.

## Other Operating Systems

The three most common operating systems for personal computers are Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac OS X, and Linux.

**Windows 7 Operating System** was introduced by Microsoft in 2009.

## WINDOWS 7 Screen



In 2012 Microsoft released a newer version of the Windows Operating System – **Windows 8 Operating System** with touch screen technology.

## WINDOWS 8 Screen



## Windows 8 Features

- ✚ A beautiful new Start screen with live tiles, plus the familiar desktop.
- ✚ Designed for touch, mouse, and keyboard.
- ✚ Great built-in apps like Mail, Calendar, Messaging, Photos, and SkyDrive, with many more available from the **Windows Store**.
- ✚ Your pictures, files, and settings easily synced through the cloud.
- ✚ Includes **Internet Explorer 10** for faster, more secure web browsing.
- ✚ Keeps you up to date and more secure with Windows Defender, Windows Firewall, and Windows Update.

## Windows 8 Pricing, Upgrade Options, Compatibility and More

Go to [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

## Windows 8 upgrade

\$119.99 USD

## Other Devices that Use Computer Operating Systems

### Smart Phones, Kindle Fire Devices, Apple iPads, Android (Samsung SIII)

An operating system designed with a user interface for the small touchscreens found in smartphones. The four major smartphone operating systems are iPhone (iOS), Android, BlackBerry and Windows Phone.

#### Apple iPhone and iPad (iOS)



#### Samsung Galaxy III (Android)

[Samsung](#) Galaxy S3 was named as the best device/smartphone of 2012. The tech giant's best-selling phone of 2012 boasts a big 4.8 inch super AMOLED screen display, a quad-core processor, expandable storage, [4G/LTE](#) connectivity and NFC support, and a 2100 mAh battery.



## Kindle Fire HD

**Kindle Fire HD 8.9** (along with the regular Kindle Fire HD) has been the most purchased technology product on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) over the past month. In a recent article, we said it was the **best** tablet available with a couple of tweaks. That's because some of the best Android applications aren't available in the Amazon app store.

### Operating System, software and performance

The Kindle Fire HD 8.9 offers Amazon's modified version of Android 4.0 operating system.

