

MICROSOFT WINDOWS OPERATING SYSTEM

FOR GROUP 3002

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Operating system - a set of programs that ensure the interaction of all hardware and software parts of the computer with each other and the interaction of the user and the computer.

The main features of the Windows operating system are:
Multitasking - the ability to simultaneously work with multiple documents and programs; Support for multimedia technologies - exchange of text, graphic, sound, video information; User-friendly graphical interface, drag-and-drop technology.

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Windows When referring to an operating system, Windows or win is an operating environment created by Microsoft that provides an interface, known as a Graphical User Interface (GUI), for computers. Windows eliminates the need to memorize commands for the command line (MS-DOS) by using a mouse to navigate through menus, dialog boxes, buttons, tabs, and icons.

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Microsoft Windows was first introduced with version 1.0 on November 10, 1983. Since its release, there have been over a dozen versions of Windows. The most current version of Windows for end users is Windows 10.

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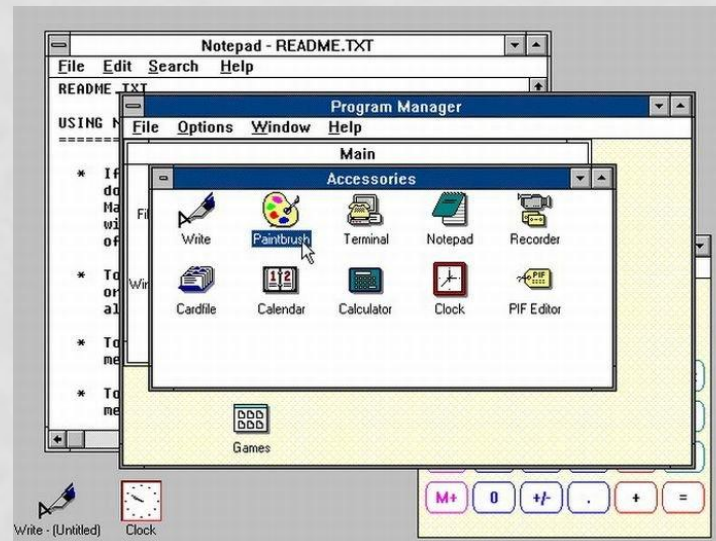
Windows 1.0 Like many early versions, Windows 1.0, was essentially a program that ran on top of DOS. The system wasn't released until two years after its first announcement, leading to suggestions that Windows was vaporware and would never actually appear.

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Windows 2.0-2.11 The system introduced the control panel and ran the first versions of Excel and Word. Extended memory was supported and updated for the release of Intel's 80386 processor.

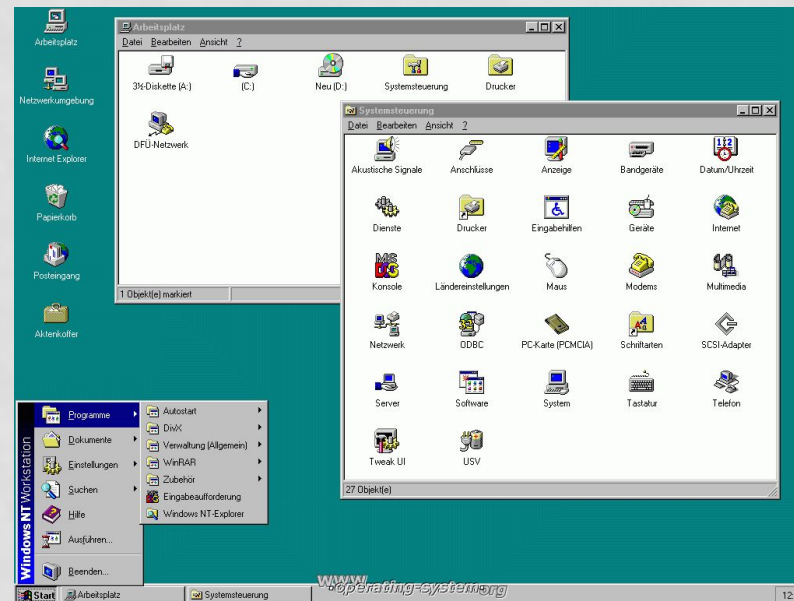
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Windows 3.0 was highly successful upon initial release. The system supported 16 colors, and with this adaptation the interface began to resemble more closely the versions of the future.



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Windows NT's release marked the completion of a side project to build a new, advanced OS. Standing for “new technology,” NT was 32-bit and had a hardware abstraction layer.



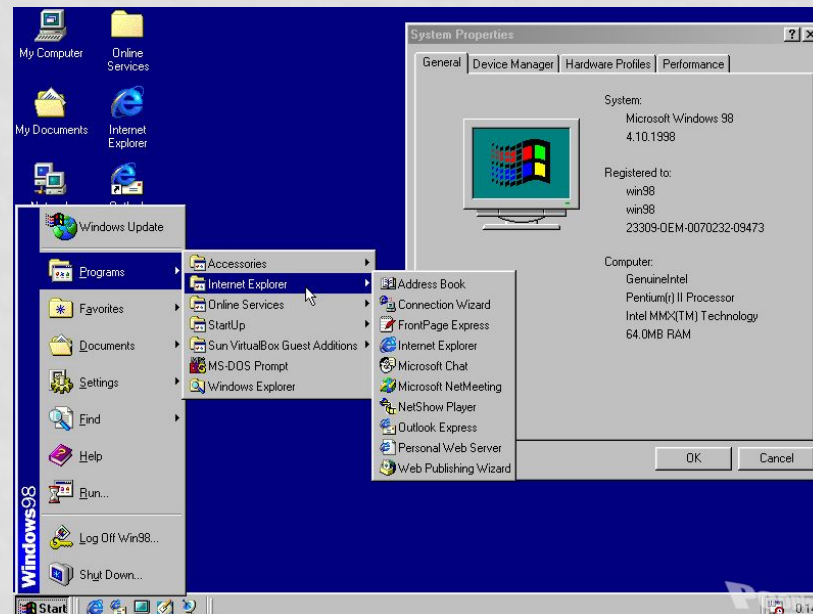
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Windows 95 facilitated hardware installation with plug and play. It also brought more colors, enhanced multimedia capabilities and TCP/IP network support. Direct X began to make Windows gaming possible for more demanding games.



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Windows 98 expressed Microsoft's belief that users want and should have a global view of their potential resources and that Web technology should be an important part of the user interface.



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Windows XP was released as the first NT-based system with a version aimed squarely at the home user. XP was rated highly by both users and critics. The system improved Windows' appearance with themes, and offered a stable platform.



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Windows Vista was a highly hyped release that spent a lot of developmental and computer resources on appearance. The dedication of resources might have resulted from the fact that XP was starting to look archaic in comparison to Mac OS. Vista had interesting visual effects but was slow to start and run.

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Windows 7 is built on the Vista kernel. Windows 7 had the visuals of Vista with better start up and program speed. It was easier on memory and more reliable. To many end users, the biggest changes between Vista and Windows 7 are faster boot times, new user interfaces and the addition of Internet Explorer 8.

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Windows 8 was released with a number of enhancements and the new Metro UI. Windows 8 takes better advantage of multi-core processing, solid state drives (SSD), touch screens and other alternate input methods. However users found it awkward, like switching between an interface made for a touch screen and one made for a mouse -- with neither one entirely suited to the purpose. Generally Windows 7 retained market leadership.

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Windows 10 Microsoft announced Windows 10 in September 2014, skipping Windows 9. Version 10 includes the start menu, which was absent from Windows 8. A responsive design feature called Continuum adapts the interface depending on whether the touch screen or keyboard and mouse are being used for input. New features like an on-screen back button simplify touch input. The OS is designed to have a consistent interface across user devices including PCs, laptops, phones and tablets.