

3 Operating systems

In this chapter you will learn about

- what an operating system is, generally spoken

3.1 What is an operating system?

An operating system is the basic software on a computer, that makes it possible to run programs, store data and control the vital resources of a computer.

Operating systems control and coordinate the hardware³ and the software⁴ that is executed on the computer.

To use a symphonic orchestra as metaphor for a computer, one could say that the musicians and their instruments symbolizes the computer hardware, the noteleaflets with music on symbolizes the computer software, and the orchestral conductor symbolizes the computers operating system.

This book is describing the operating system Windows 8.1 by the software company Microsoft.

There are lots of other operating systems; e.g. Mac OS, Ubuntu, Android, just to mention a few.

There are different opinions of how to define an operating system, and how to define separate programs. However, it is not the authors intention to describe various theoretical terms about operating systems.

So, if you want to know more about operating systems, you can do so by searching the Internet, or you can click [here](#).