

CMSI 182
INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE
Fall 2009

Assignment 1029

This assignment combines activities based on the content in Chapters 2 and 3 in the Brookshear book. For operating systems, the idea is to give you some explicit exposure to operating systems that you might not have used (much).

Not for Submission

By October 22

1. Read Sections 2.1 to 2.3 in the Brookshear book. If you are interested or curious, feel free to read more of Chapter 2.

By October 27

2. Read Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.5 in the Brookshear book. As with Chapter 2, feel free to read the remaining sections if you're curious or interested about the material in there.

For Submission

Submit the following on hardcopy by the beginning of class on October 29.

An Operating System "Scrapbook"

Compile an "operating system scrapbook:" take screenshots of at least two of the following items from some version of all three of these operating systems: Linux, Mac OS X, and Windows.

1. List of currently running processes/programs
2. A plain text file editor
3. A display of the files in the computer's *root* directory or folder
4. A display of the computer's network settings
5. A print dialog box or window

Thus, your scrapbook will contain at least 6 screenshots: three (3) for each element that you choose from the list above.

All three operating systems are running on some machine in the Keck computer science lab (Doolan 112). Feel free to ask a TA to log you in as a guest. Figuring out how to capture screenshots within each operating system, and of course figuring out how to get to each of the above items, is up to you. Remember, the Internet and the TAs are your friends. And then there's me of course :)

Reflection

Answer the following reflection questions:

1. Now that you've seen how a computer's "life" is solely a cycle of "fetch-decode-execute"s, how similarly or different do you think people are in terms of this cycle? That is, do we "fetch-decode-execute" as well, or do we operate in a completely different way?
2. Before you did this assignment, how did you feel about being put in front of an operating system that you have not used much (e.g., Windows if you use a Mac, Mac OS X if you use Windows, etc.)?
3. After the assignment (and the course material), do you feel that different operating systems for different computers are more similar to each other than you thought, or more different? Provide a brief explanation, with examples if that helps you get your thoughts across.