Top Five Current Operating System Issues

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On Time/Format	1	
Correct	5	
Clear	2	
Concise	2	
TOTAL	10	

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses five of the most prevalent issues in the most popular operating systems today.

Keywords

Operating System, Issues

1. INTRODUCTION

In a world of high speed computers, sophisticated hardware, elite users, and flashy operating systems, operating system manufacturers still struggle to cure woes and maintain stability with continually updating hardware and software. This being the case, there have always been and always will be nagging and ugly annoyances that will shove themselves past the developers and through to the end users.

2. THE BALANCE BETWEEN USABILITY AND SECURITY

As of last year, the contrasts between Windows Vista and OS X Leopard in the area of security were immense. On one side, Microsoft's latest release of their Windows operating system had everything so locked down the user barely had room to right-click without being warned. Sure, you may never have a security threat, but the fact that you could hardly use your own computer was a little embarrassing. On the other side, Apple's newest edition of OS X, a system known and praised for its ease of use along with the majority of independent Unix-based operating systems came with absolutely no security protection; granted, the user base of these systems is smaller, and they are rarely targeted for attacks, but that shouldn't be an excuse. It's embarrassing that Apple was arrogant enough to disable the firewall in Leopard by default.

3. OBNOXIOUS CRASHING

Microsoft's, Apple's, and the Open Source Community's efforts to make a crash-free operating system have thus failed, despite their

misleading advertisements that would claim otherwise. Crashes are largely caused these days by a fatal flaw in either hardware integration or some third-party piece of software. Though these crashes are not (usually) the fault of the operating system producer, the operating system is what usually takes the heat.

4. UNNECESSARILY LARGE AMOUNTS OF MEMORY USAGE

Operating Systems these days hog enormous amounts of memory[2]. We're supposed to blindly accept this consequence of technological success, and we're not supposed to care with memory as cheap as it is these days. Even still, the excessive amounts of memory that operating systems alone seem to devour is inexcusable[3]. Obviously, if they used less, the powerful applications developers write for them could use all the more, which is where our memory should be being used.

5. OBLIGATORY BLOATWARE

Consider this the necessary hand-holding virus that came with Vista, consider it the free trial of Adobe CS4 that was pre-installed on your computer. It's all of that, and it's Internet Explorer, it's Safari, it's Windows Media Player, it's QuickTime, it's Windows Movie Maker. All potentially good, all completely unnecessary and inappropriate when bundled with an operating system. Even still, the operating system companies will bundle them and allow them to constantly run in the background on unsuspecting user's computers.

6. INEVITABLE VULNERABILITY

There will always be more threats than the operating system manufacturers or the threat protection developers can counteract. There will always be security holes, leaks, and attacks[1]; hacking will never cease. The threats will always be too big to tackle, and the prevalence of threats will only increase on all platforms as people find more ways to manipulate spotty software. Anyway, if we ceased to be vulnerable, thousands of jobs worldwide would be lost.

7. CONCLUSIONS

These issues will most likely never go away, no matter what kind of new operating systems and promises from their manufacturers emerge. They're the ugly thorns that will forever be in the sides of the users, and we'll just have to learn to live with them.

8. REFERENCES

[1] Windows operating system problems. `http://www.washington.edu/lst/help/computing_fundamentals/troubleshootingxp/common_os`, August 2009.

[2] Understanding operating system resources. `http://www.sc.ehu.es/siwebso/KZCC/Oracle_10g_Documentacion/server.101/b10752/ch23_os.htm`, August 30.

[3] P. B. G. Abraham Silberschatz and G. Gane. *Operating Systems Concepts*. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 2008.