

UNIX

A family of operating systems known for their relative hardware independence and portable applications interface; a time-sharing operating system available on all AT&T computers as well as those from many other vendors. Widely used in technical and scientific computing applications. UNIX System V is the version of UNIX supported by AT&T Unix Systems Laboratory (USL) and Unix International, Inc. (UII).

VAR

Value-added Reseller. An organization that buys equipment from a vendor at a discount from list price, adds value to it in some form (e.g., additional software features), then resells it.

Videotex

The generic term applied to two-way interactive electronic data transmission or home information retrieval systems, in which a home or office is linked in a communication grid providing direct access to distant computer centres with large information data banks.

VM

Virtual Machine. The IBM VM/Systems Product (VM/SP) manages a real system so that all its resources — processors, storage and input/output devices — are available to many users at the same time. Each user has at his disposal the functions of a real dedicated system. Because this functional equipment is simulated by VM/SP and does not really exist, it is called a “virtual machine”.

VM is now a group of program products consisting of:

- VM/XA SP — strategic product for large environments with MVS/XA guests;
- VM/XA SP — tactical product for large environments; replaced by VM/XASP;
- VM/SP HPO — performance oriented large environments;
- VM/SP — intermediate environments;

- VM/SP System Offering — intermediate and low-end environments;
- VM/IS Base — intermediate and low-end environments
- VM/ESA — announced in September 1990, a new high-end product that exploits the capabilities of the ES/9000 product family.

VMS

Virtual Memory System. VAX/VMS is the primary operating system for the Digital Equipment Corp. VAX family of products.

VSE/ESA

A robust version of the venerable DOS/VSE operating system and announced by IBM in September 1990. VSE/ESA offers many of the functions of MSV/ESA (such as 31-bit addressing), but is still limited to a uni-processor environment. VSE/ESA, as announced, was not linked to the ES/9000 products; it operates on any XA or ESA uniprocessor.

Windows

The software system written by Microsoft Corp. to manage windows for Intel 80X86-based PCs. It uses multiple screen segments to display different items of information.

X-Windows

The software system written by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for managing windows under UNIX. It is a graphics architecture, application programming interface and prototype implementation. X-Windows defines a client/server relationship between the application program and the workstation. It is not a complete graphics user interface (GUI), but rather the basis upon which one can be built.

X/25

A standard for packet-switching procedures developed by the CCITT that defined the interface between a public data network (PDN) and a packet-mode user device. It also defines the services that these user devices can expect from the X-25 PDN, including the ability to establish virtual circuits