

INPUT AND OUTPUT OPERATION

✓ Input and output operations are among the most complex operations in a program. One of the main functions of an operating system is to control all the computer's input/output devices. It must issue commands to the devices, catch interrupts, and handle errors.

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- ✓ The operating system provides an interface to the I/O hardware devices by providing a set of commands, and functions that the hardware devices accept.
- ✓ The I/O interface provided hides the details of the physical I/O operations. SO the programmer may think in terms of logical operations.

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- ✓ Higher-level operating system and programming facilities employ separate, more abstract I/O concepts and primitives.
- ✓ For example, most operating systems provide application programs with the concept of files.
- ✓ The C and C++ programming languages, and operating systems in the Unix family, traditionally abstract files and devices as streams, which can be read or written, or sometimes both. The C standard library provides functions for manipulating streams for input and output.