Answer to Assignment #4

English for Computer Engineering

Computer Engineering Department, Sharif University of Technology

1392 Spring Semester

1. Read the three sections on the left-hand page of unit 11 of your textbook, including the image captions (page 32). Then complete the following sentences with words or phrases.

a. When you click on a menu item, a/an drop-down menu / pull-down menu / list of options appears.

b. A/an graphics package lets you draw using the computer.

c. Section B of the text indirectly classifies files into programs and documents. (last sentence of the section, as well as the phrase in the first paragraph enclosed in parentheses)

d. Section A of the text indirectly counts “controlling the hardware” among the functions of the OS.

e. The fact that the icons are self-explanatory, helps improve the user-friendliness of the OS user interface.

f. System utilities are not parts of the operating system itself, although they are often included with an OS.

g. Many large companies employ Unix as their operating system of choice.

h. While section A of the text implies that only the Unix OS is capable of supporting multi-users, the reality is that all major modern OSes do support simultaneous users.

i. Accessibility programs make PCs user-friendly for disabled users.

2. Read about the meaning of the following terms – which are taken from the text of unit 11 – on the corresponding Wikipedia pages, and then answer the accompanying question(s) in your own words, using proper English. Short sentences are acceptable as answers, too.


What are the main differences between computer appliances and PCs?

Answer: Computer appliances are generally closed and sealed, i.e. they are not serviceable by the user. Their hardware and software are integrated and configured before the appliance is delivered to the customer, and they are designed in a way that does not typically allow customers to change the software or flexibly reconfigure the hardware.


Name two examples of desk accessories available on Microsoft Windows or on your favorite Linux distribution.

Answer: Magnifier and On-Screen Keyboard are two examples of desk accessories available on Microsoft Windows (through the Start Menu → All Programs → Accessories → Accessibility menu, on Windows XP).


(c1) Is it true that system extensions had no user interface?

Answer: Yes. (Under the “Configuration, and control panels” title, the Wikipedia page says “System extensions had no user interface”.)

(c2) What are examples of similar mechanisms in other operating systems?

Answer: DOS's terminate and stay resident programs, and Unix's daemons. (second paragraph of the Wikipedia page)
What freedoms does the GPL license grant end users of free software?

**Answer:** The freedom to use, study, share (copy), modify and extend the software or its source code, provided that derived works only be distributed under the same license terms. (the first two paragraphs of the Wikipedia page)