

# Computing Platform

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A **Computing Platform** is the environment in which a piece of software is executed. It may be the hardware or the [Operating System \(OS\)](#), even a web browser and associated application programming interfaces, or other underlying software, as long as the program code is executed with it. Computing [platforms](#) have different abstraction levels, including a [computer architecture](#), an OS, or runtime libraries. A computing platform is the stage on which computer programs can run.

A platform can be seen both as a constraint on the software development process, in that different platforms provide different functionality and restrictions; and as an assistant to the development process, in that they provide low-level functionality ready-made. For example, an OS may be a platform that abstracts the underlying differences in hardware and provides a generic command for saving files or accessing the network.

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