Phase 1: Introduction to the selected Operating System

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Introduction

In 1995, Microsoft released Windows 95, which is still considered to be the operating system that generalized computer technology to the mass market. Six years later, in 2001, Windows XP simplified the use of computers and was sold at more than 400 million units. Contrary to previous Microsoft's operating systems, Windows XP was based on the Windows NT kernel (for *New Technology*) and not MS-DOS. Technically, it introduced some major innovations: integrating new drivers into Windows XP was no longer a problem, connecting to Internet via existing technologies (Wi-Fi, FireWire…) was made easier… However, the new user-friendly interface introduced by XP was one of the reasons of its success: everyone could create its own theme and personalize its desktop, and a lot of visual effects were integrated: transparency, shadows… Thanks to Windows XP, computer was not matter of experts: everyone could use it! Therefore, that's why I decided to work on this operating system, as I have used it a lot (and still uses it!) and I'm quite interested on the algorithms it uses.