

# **Windows XP: An Overview**

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# Overview

- Programs, Processes, Jobs and Threads
- Registry and Memory
- File System Architecture and Management
- Inter-Process Communication
- Questions?
- References

# Processes & Threads

- Windows XP process architecture is the same as Windows 2000 process architecture
- There are 4 units of work - *Processes, Threads, Jobs and Programs*. Simple definitions:
  - **Program** - A static set of instructions
  - **Process** - A container for a set of threads that execute an instance of a program
  - **Job** - A group of processes that can be manipulated as a single unit
  - **Thread** - A container for the set of instructions to be executed and the contents of machine registers that define processor state