

## Lessons from the Digital World

Assume for a moment that an analogy can be drawn between the inner workings and operations of modern day Computer Systems and the management of a company or ministry or even the executive branch of a typical government structure. In fact, there could be many common factors between them.

Let us start with the operating system (OS), which basically controls and regulates how the computer system should handle various tasks. A typical OS should be efficient, modern, continuously updated and adaptable to the ever changing and demanding needs of computing. In the real world, this could easily correspond to the system of government as well as the legal and regulatory framework in place.

Next on list would be the all important, dependable and trustworthy anti-virus system combined with a Firewall and a state of the art Intrusion Detection System (IDS). They protect the computer system and the information stored on it from many types of infiltrations, threats and attacks. They also make sure that users and programs alike are behaving exactly as they should. Intruders are either blocked upon entry, or in the case when they manage to sneak inside and are caught, they are quickly neutralized and transferred to a safe area on the system usually called a quarantine or virus vault. Constant updating and modern tools are the key words. No second guessing here, in the real world, this is exactly comparable to the heavy burden placed on the security services in any system of government.

Virtual Memory Management is another factor. Virtual memory is something that is not really yours (usually in the form of disk storage) but the CPU is allowed to use it temporarily as long as it is returned afterwards. Size has to be carefully managed, if it is too small it slows the computer down, too much of it places a heavy memory management burden on the CPU which effectively reduces performance and creates an imbalance in the allocation of resources. This sounds just like the foreign aid component (in the form of grants and loans) in a state budget.

The bottom line is that in order for any organization to achieve its objectives regardless of what they may be, it has to be logical in its planning and strategy, efficient in the management of resources, and operationally structured just like a computer system. The list is long and the analogy could go on.

Unfortunately, the very precise logic of the digital world starts facing difficulties when one attempts to find analogous equivalents to issues such as Stamp Duties, Pre-paid Income Tax, the Daman Program, Software Censorship and Procurement Procedures among many others.