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- Important principle, performed at many levels in a computer (in hardware, operating system, software)
- Information in use is copied from slower to faster storage temporarily
- Faster storage (cache) checked first to determine if information is there
  - If it is, information used directly from the cache (fast)
  - If not, data is copied to cache and used there
- Cache smaller than storage being cached
  - Cache management important design problem
  - Cache size and replacement policy

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## Computer-System Architecture

- Most systems use a single general-purpose processor
  - Most systems have special-purpose processors as well
- Shared-memory multiprocessor (MP) systems, also known as tightly-coupled systems, grow in use and importance
  - Types of MPs (often in combination)
    - Multi-socket systems
    - Multi-Chip Module (MCM) (=Multi-Core)
    - Chip Multiprocessor (CMP)(=Multi-Core)
    - Simultaneous MultiThreading Processor (SMT)
  - Advantages include
    - Increased throughput
    - Economy of scale
    - Increased reliability - graceful degradation or fault tolerance
  - Two types
    - Symmetric Multiprocessing (homogenous cores and functionality)
    - Asymmetric Multiprocessing (dedicated HW-/SW-functionality)

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## User Operating System Interface - GUI

- User-friendly desktop metaphor interface
  - Usually mouse, keyboard, and monitor
  - **Icons** represent files, programs, actions, etc
  - Various mouse buttons over objects in the interface cause various actions (provide information, options, execute function, open directory (known as a **folder**))
  - Invented at Xerox PARC
- Many systems now include both CLI and GUI interfaces
  - Microsoft Windows is GUI with CLI “command” shell
  - Apple Mac OS X as “Aqua” GUI interface with UNIX kernel underneath and shells available
  - Solaris is CLI with optional X11 GUI interfaces (Java Desktop, KDE)

## The Mac OS X GUI































