**Computer Software Assignment**

* 1. Why is it important for you to be familiar with your computer’s operating system?
  2. What operating system does my computer at school use? What about at home?  
     (If you are using a version of Windows, you can find out by right-mouse-clicking the My Computer icon, then selecting Properties. Select the “General” tab. The name and version of your operating system will be displayed under the “System” heading.)
  3. Is my operating system available in stores? If so, how much does it cost for the full version?  
       
     A good place to look first would be sites like:  
     [http://www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca/)  
     [http://www.futureshop.ca](http://www.futureshop.ca/)  
     [http://www.bestbuy.ca](http://www.bestbuy.ca/)
  4. Microsoft Windows has about 90% of the market share for Operating systems. This means that 90% of all computers use Windows. The other 10% of computer users use something else. Provide at least one answer for the following:  
       
     a) What would be an advantage of owning the same operating system as the majority of computer users?  
     B) What would be an advantage of owning an operating system like Mac OS X or Linux (an operating system used by less than 10% of all computer users)?
  5. Software piracy is a serious problem in the software industry. Research and explain how companies try to make piracy of their software difficult. (3 methods)
  6. In order to make computers and software more accessible, companies have been releasing freeware to compete with large software programs (Open Office to replace MS Office etc.) This free software allows the user to convert office files and edit them without actually purchasing the Microsoft Office program. In your opinion, is this right? Give at least 3 reasons why you feel the way you do.