Case Study 3

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1. Operating systems are what the computer uses to manage memory, processes, software and hardware without needing to access the code. The two main operating systems are Windows and Mac OS. Mac OS used by Apple computers is more secure and is unlikely to catch a virus, the user interface is cleaner and easier to navigate. Windows used by most PCs on the other hand is more user friendly and has a lot more supported software. Operating systems have many different versions and updates that expand on the pervious OS with both major and minor changes and fixes, the most recent being OS X 10.11 El Capitan for Mac and Windows 10 for windows. There are also lesser known operating systems like Unix and Linux, these are both very similar. Unix is like windows but is more used in programing since it handles high stress loads better than windows, and some things programed for windows do not always work on Unix but all things designed for Unix work on windows, Unix is not nearly as simple as windows thought. Linux is also more used for programing for the same reasons as Unix, Linux is also a free operating system.
2. There are many user interface elements that a computers use all the time. Common ones like icons are pictures on the desktop that act as links to software and files. Widgets are sort of like icons but the information is displayed on the icon its self. Another element is a cursor which is the icon that the mouse controls. Some other user face elements like toolbars (which hold links and bookmarks) and tabs (which is another browser window attached to the original) are in web browsers rather than on the desktop. Menus are used as neatly hidden folders that provide quick access to software, files, and log off options like shut down or restart.
3. The computer that I suggest to Mrs. Sawyers is the Acer Aspire X PC. Even though a Mac will not catch a virus as easily as a PC and Macs in a lot of cases are faster that PCs, a new PC is still rather fast and is a much better product for what you are paying compared to the $2000 you would spend on a Mac. The Acer Aspire X PC is a great choice because it is a trusted brand, it has 8gb of ram, a 1TB hard drive, a quad core processor, and comes stock with Windows 8.1 but can be easily upgraded to Windows 10. This computer is also a great price for what you are getting at only $500.