A3.4

Factors impacting the choice and use of operating system and application software.

A3.4.1 Cost

- Cost affects which OS or software to choose.

- Expensive software may offer more features.

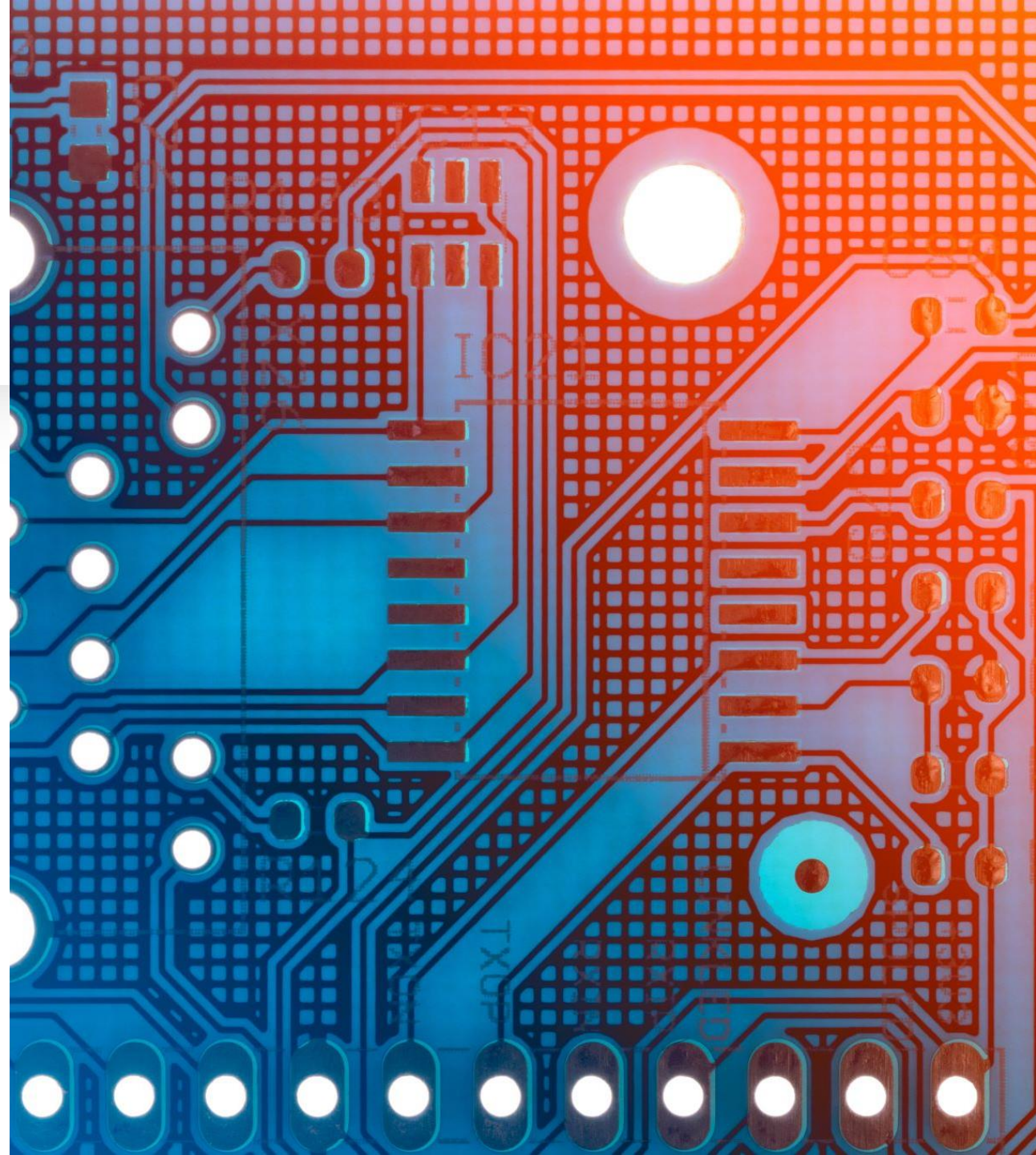- Example: Adobe Photoshop vs free GIMP.

A3.4.2 Security

- Software must protect data and prevent attacks.

- OS with strong security reduces risks.

- Example: Windows Defender in Windows 11.

A3.4.3 Hardware and Software Compatibility

- Software must work with existing devices and programs.

- OS compatibility ensures smooth operation.

- Example: macOS only works on Apple hardware.

A3.4.4 Features

- Features determine how useful software or OS is.

- Extra tools can improve productivity.

- Example: Microsoft Excel has formulas and charts.

A3.4.5 Business or User Needs

- Software should meet specific user or business requirements.

- Some apps are for personal use, others for companies.

- Example: QuickBooks for business accounting.

A3.4.6 Performance

Software performance affects speed and reliability.

Fast, responsive software improves user experience.

Example: SSDs improve Windows boot times.