

Computer Programs as shadows of The Holy Trinity

Draft 3

Reflections on Science Serving the Faith
Essay No. 2

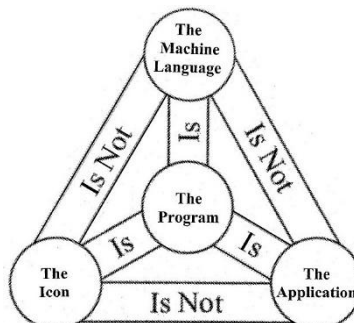
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**“In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God,
amen”**

God as Holy Trinity is central to our Christian Faith. One God in three persons who are of one essence, yet different persons. True transcendence, which Christians alone can confess, belongs to the “Unitrinity”, and this contradictory term must express the “synopsis” of the One and the Three, the object of Mystical Theology.

That is a concept that many non-Christians consider a contradiction. As someone, of another faith, said to me: “If God was really like that, then there should be at least some examples in this world that reflect that. Give me one example from real life that shows three entities being three and one at the same time. That are of three personalities, yet are one. Failure to give such an example means that your God is actually three gods”.

Even some fellow Christians told me that they have a problem relating to it beyond just a ritual rhetoric.

They might be surprised to know that there is no shortage of examples from every-day life that reflect images of the Holy Trinity. The examples are so numerous that, I wonder if there is anything at all that is not a reflection of the Holy Trinity. The examples come from everywhere including some of the most unlikely sources. How about Computer Programs?! Yes. that’s right, Computer Programs! As we will see, they all have a Trinitarian structure that looks like a shadow of the Holy Trinity. Even the distinguishing functions within the program’s trinity carry words that are EXACTLY the same as those of the Holy Trinity!

To see the similarity in full, first let us have a closer look at our understanding of the **Holy Trinity**:

“I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and `earth, and of all things visible and invisible”

The first person in the Holy Trinity, is the **Father** (pronounced “Abwoon” in the Aramaic words of Jesus). The Father is the “Source” of everything. Everything emanates **from** the Father.

“ ... And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only –begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made”

The second person of the Holy Trinity is the Son, the Word and the “Logos” of God. Everything is made **through** the Son.

“And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life....”

The third person of the Holy Trinity is the Holy Spirit, the Grace of God, the destination of the work of God. Everything happens **in** the Holy Spirit.

Everything emanates **from** the Father, **through** the Son, **in** the Holy Spirit (1)

The Father is beyond our comprehension. Infinitely obscure to our minds. Some theologians think of the Father as being **obscure** like an “abyss” (ἄβυσσος) (2)

The Father reveals himself through the Son, the “Logos” (λόγος) . Thus the Son was made **visible** to us as Jesus Christ, yet of the same essence with the Father so that He can be our perfect link with the Father. The Son is universal, appears to all in the same way.

The way of Jesus Christ leads us to the Holy Spirit. The **destination** of Grace. The Holy Spirit connects with each person in a unique way using that person’s mother tongue.

To sum it up:

Every thing emanates **from** the Father who is very **obscure** to us, **through** the Son who is **visible** to us, so that we can reach the **destination in** the Holy Spirit.

Each of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has a personality different from the other two. Yet, they all are God, and each one of them is God. The top diagram on the cover page summarizes that.

Surprisingly, as the next page shows, a parallel structure to the above, can be observed in any computer program!

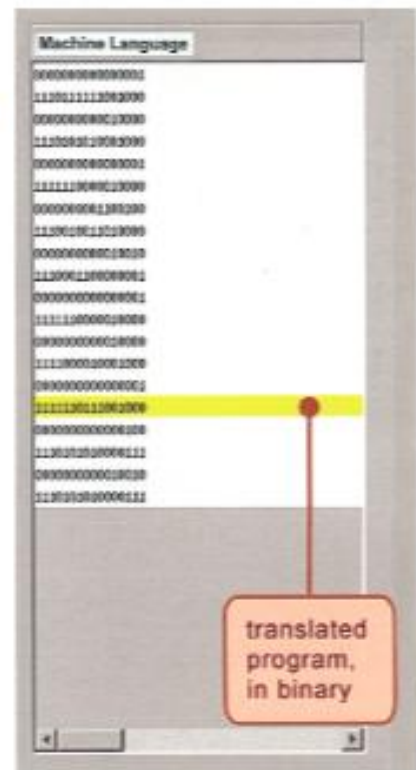
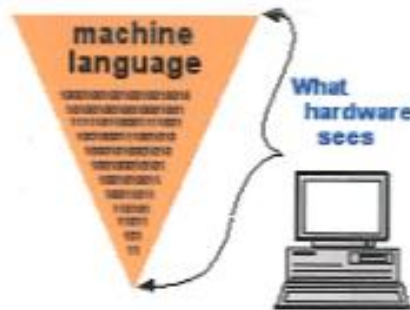
(1) “Treatise on the Holy Spirit”, by St. Basil, P.G. 32, col. 153B

(2) In the Image and Likeness of God”, by Vladimir Lossky, St, Vladimir Seminary Press, 1974, Pg. 34.

THE THREE COMPONENTS OF A COMPUTER PROGRAM

1- Machine Language

- It is the "Source" that tells the computer what to do.
- It is very obscure to the common user.
- Yet, its components are very simple; only ones and zeros.
- All the program's work flows **from** the Machine Language



2- Icon

- It is the link between the Machine Language and the user.
- It is the "Expression" or "Logos" of the "Source" in a visual form.
- It is universal: It looks the same to all users.
- All the program's work flows **through** the icon: you click on it to reach the program.



3- Application

- It is why we bought the program.
- It is the "Destination" of the program.
- Once you click on the Icon, the Application opens up for you to do your work.
- Its contents are personally connected to you. It uses your language and you give it your uniquely chosen title.
- The program's work shows **in** the Application.



From Boris to Doris letter # 196.doc

The three components of the program (any program) relate to each other in a way that shadows that of the Holy Trinity:

The first “personality” in the program, the Machine Language, is the “Source” from which all the program’s work emanates. Its essence is very simple, yet very obscure (only ones and zeros, but are organized in a way not readily readable by us).

That “Source” connects with us by the second personality of the program, the Icon which is the “Logos” of the program. It has the dual nature of visual (to link with us) and binary origin (ones and zeros) to link with the Source. The program’s usefulness can be only through the Icon. The Icon is universal, it appears in the same way to all.

When we click on the Icon, it opens the “Application” which is the Destination. It links with us in a personal way. It carries a title that is unique to us.

To sum it up:

Everything the program does, emanates **from** the Machine Language that is very **obscure** to us, **through** the Icon that is **visible** to us, so that we can reach the **destination in** the Application.

That parallels exactly the corresponding summary related to the Holy Trinity.

Further,

Each of the Machine Language, Icon and Application has a personality different from the other two. The first is in Binary language, the second is a visual picture with roots in the binary, and the third is an application that is personal to us, yet with roots in the binary too.

These three personalities do not infringe on one another:

- When you type a letter, you don’t see ones and zeros floating on your page. Thus the Machine Language does not infringe on the Application.
- And you don’t see those ones and zeros on the Icon, thus the Machine Language does not infringe on the Icon either.
- Your letter (in the Application) does not show on the Icon, thus the Application does not infringe on the Icon.
- And your letter does not affect the program in the Machine Language (which can only be ones and zeros), thus the Application does not infringe on the Machine Language either.
- You don’t see the Icon floating on your page, thus the Icon does not infringe on the Application.
- And, finally, the Icon can’t show on the Machine Language (which is only ones and zeros), thus the Icon does not infringe on the Machine Language either.

That means no one of the three personalities of the program infringes on any of other two. Yet, they are all one program: You buy them all as one program and install them all as one program on your computer. You cannot install one without the other:

- You can not have an Icon or Application without the Machine Language. So, the Machine Language is a must.
- You can not reach the Machine Language or get any Application without clicking on the Icon. So the Icon is a must.
- You can't get anything out of the program if you can't open an Application. So the Application is a must.

Each of the three components, Machine Language, Icon and Application, is a must. None of them infringes on the others. Yet, all of them are one program, of one essence.

A total parallel to the Holy Trinity.

We practice the above, every time we use the computer for anything: typing, calculating, watching the news, listening to music, etc. Whatever we do, we are invoking the "Unitrinity" nature of computer programs!

A clear shadow of the Holy Trinity.

But the shadow is not to be confused with what it is the shadow of: God is not a computer program. The program, like every thing else in existence, is a shadow of God. Some shadows might be clearer than others, but they all are, just shadows.

Another area where the Holy Trinity projected a shadow is in the area of High Energy Physics. That will be the topic of the next essay.

God bless you.

Neil Kazen

God	Computer Program
Three different persons of one essence	Three different components of one essence.
The first person, the Father , is the "Source" of every thing that God created.	The first component, the Machine Language , is the "Source" of everything that the program did.
The Father is beyond our comprehension.	The Machine Language is beyond the comprehension of the average user.
The second person is the Son , the "Word" or "Logos" of the Father .	The second component is the Icon , the "Logos" of the Machine Language
The Son is visible to us, as Jesus Christ.	The Icon is visible to us as graphics.
Yet, the Son is fully of the same essence as the Father .	Yet, the Icon is of the same essence as the Machine Language (rooted in the binary system)
The dual nature of the Son links us with the Father .	The dual nature of the Icon , links us with the Machine Language .
When we follow the way of Jesus, we reach the Holy Spirit , which is the third person in the Holy Trinity .	When we click on the Icon , we reach the Application , which is the third component in the Program's Trinity .
The Holy Spirit is the Destination of our journey towards God .	The Application is the Destination of our use of the program .
The Holy Spirit relates to each one of us in a unique way and speaks our mother tongue.	The Application relates to each of us in a unique way and uses our language of choice.
The three persons of the Holy Trinity do not infringe on each other.	The three components of the Program's Trinity do not infringe on each other.
Yet, they work in harmony as one God	Yet, they work in harmony as one program
The way they work in harmony is that everything:	The way they work in harmony is that everything the program does:
emanated from the Father , through the Son , in the Holy Spirit .	emanated from the Machine Language , through the Icon , in the Application .
God is a "Unitrinity"	The program is a "Unitrinity"
	Thus, the Program is a shadow of God !