**Software:**

The term 'software' refers to the set of electronic program instructions or data a computer processor reads in order to perform a task or operation.

We can say set of instructions given to computer to perform its tasks is known as software. It tells computer what to do and how to do. It is also called program.

Different software’s are used to solve different programs.

**Software Types:**

There are two main types of software:

* **Systems software**
* **Application software**

## Applications Software

**Application software**, or simply **applications**, are often called productivity programs or end-user programs because they enable the user to complete tasks such as creating documents, spreadsheets, databases, and publications, doing online research, sending email, designing graphics, running businesses, and even playing games! Application software is specific to the task it is designed for and can be as simple as a calculator application or as complex as a word processing application. When you begin creating a document, the word processing software has already set the margins, font style and size, and the line spacing for you. But you can change these settings, and you have many more formatting options available. For example, the word processor application makes it easy to add color, headings, and pictures or delete, copy, move, and change the document's appearance to suit your needs.

**Application Software Forms**

• Packaged Software  
• Custom Software  
• Shareware  
• Freeware  
• Public Domain Software

**Packaged Software**

Also called retailed software.It is a copyrighted and avaliable for different type of users.It is not developed for a particular user or for organization.  
Example:

* Word processor such as MS-Word
* Spreadsheet such as MS-Excel
* Database software such as MS-Access
* Graphics software such as Adobe Photoshop and CorelDraw
* Communication software such as Internet Explorer

**Custom Software**

It is designed for particular user or organization. It is developed the meet the exact requirements of a particular customer or organization. The cost of customized software is more than packaged software.

Example: A software that is developed for particular university is an example of customized software.

**Shareware**

also termed trial wareis proprietary software that isprovided to users without payment on a trialbasis and is often limited by any combination offunctionality, availability (it may be functional fora limited time period only), or convenience (the software may present a dialog at startup ordering usage, reminding the user to purchase it; “nagging dialogs"). Shareware is often offeredas a download from an Internet website or as a compact disc included with a periodical such asa newspaper or magazine

Examples: Calculator,Paint etc

**Freeware**

Freeware (portmanteau of "free" and "software") issoftware that is available for use at no cost or for anoptional feebut usually with one or more restricted usagerights. Freeware is in contrast tocommercial software, which is typically sold for profit, butmight be distributed for a business or commercialpurpose in the aim to expand the marketshare of a “premium" product.

Example: Skype and adobe reader

**Public domain Software**

Public domain software is software thathas been placed in the public domain, inother words there is absolutely noownership such as copyright, trademark, or patent.

Example: Game SWF

**Custom software:** Is designed for particular customer or organization. It is developed to meet the exact need of customer or organization.The cost of customized software is more than packaged software. Example CMS system.

Custom Software

Shareware Software

Freeware Software

Packaged Software

Operating System

Special Purpose software

General Purpose software

Utility Software

Device Drivers

System Software

Application Software

**Software**

**System Software:**

Is a set of programs to control and manage the actual operations of a computer hardware. It controls the usage and allocation of different hardware components. It enables application programs to execute properly. It controls the basic operations as follow:

Saving data on disk  
Making computer to work for us  
Printing a documents etc

1. **Operating System:** An operating system is a set of programs that manages all computer components and operations. A computer cannot do anything without an operating system. Operating system must be installed on every computer. User interact with computer through OS. For Example Microsoft windows , Linux etc

When computer is turned on the OS runs and check that all parts of computer are functioning properly. OS manages all operations on computer after loading.

1. **Utility Software:** helps to manage, maintain and control computer resources. Operating systems typically contain the necessary tools for this, but separate utility programs can provide improved functionality. Utility software is often somewhat technical and targeted at users with a solid knowledge of computers. If you use a computer mostly for e-mail, some Internet browsing and typing up a report, you may not have much need for these utilities. However, if you are an avid computer user, these utilities can help make sure your computer stays in tip-top shape.Examples of utility programs are antivirus software, backup software and disk tools.
2. **Device Drivers:** A device driver is a [program](https://searchsoftwarequality.techtarget.com/definition/program) that controls a particular type of [device](https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/device) that is attached to your computer. There are device [driver](https://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/driver)s for printers, displays, CD-ROM readers, diskette drives, and so on. When you buy an [operating system](https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/operating-system-OS), many device drivers are built into the product. However, if you later buy a new type of device that the operating system didn't anticipate, you'll have to install the new device driver. A device driver essentially converts the more general input/output instructions of the operating system to messages that the device type can understand.

Some Windows programs are [virtual device driver](https://searchwindowsserver.techtarget.com/definition/virtual-device-driver)s. These programs interface with the Windows Virtual Machine Manager. There is a virtual device driver for each main hardware device in the system, including the hard disk drive controller, keyboard, and serial and parallel ports. They're used to maintain the status of a hardware device that has changeable settings. Virtual device drivers handle software [interrupt](https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/interrupt)s from the system rather than hardware interrupts.

In Windows operating systems, a device driver file usually has a file name suffix of DLL or EXE. A virtual device driver usually has the suffix of VXD.