

Software

Computer Software

Software is a **set of instructions**. It cannot be **touched**. **Hardware** does not work without software. It gives **instructions to hardware** to perform some **functionality**.

Software **versions**

Software is developed and is periodically updated. When a software is updated and a new copy of this updated is available in the market it is called a new version of a software. For example

Operating System	Year
Windows 95	1995
Windows XP	2001
Windows Vista	2006
Windows 7	2009
Windows 8	2012

Types of Computer Software

There are **three basic types of computer software**.



System Software

It maintains and control computer hardware. There are two kinds of system software.

1. **Operating system**
2. **Device drivers**
3. **Utilities**

Operating System

Operating systems **manage and coordinate** the **activities of the computer hardware** and **other software**.

- **Firmware:** Firmware is the **permanent software that is embedded into a read-only memory**. It is a set of instructions permanently stored on **a hardware device**. BIOS
 - **Computer Peripherals**
 - **Consumer Applications**
 - **Embedded Systems**
 - **UEFI**

Device Drivers

It manages hardware. Like a **driver of a car**. Operating system tells what to **do to driver and then driver is responsible for action**. For example operating system knows which driver to access when a print is required and then **printer driver is** responsible to take the print.

Utility Software

It manages **hardware**, operating system or application software and **perform specific task**. It performs tasks like **maintenance**, troubleshooting, **virus scanning** etc. **Disk scanner** and **antivirus** are example of utility software.

Application software

Software belongs to this category helps in **daily life tasks** like **calculation**, **presentation**, **text editing** etc. This is most commonly used type of software.

Word processor

It is complex form of text editors that use to provide use the basic functionality of saving, editing, updating, formatting text. These got spell and grammar checkers. MS word is most common and widely used word processor.

- Abiword
- Apple iWork- Pages
- Corel WordPerfect
- Google Docs
- MS Word

Spread sheet

It helps in accounting and finance work. It contains cells (Rows and Columns) that contain a value. Different formulas can be applied on these values using by default functions. MS Excel is most commonly used software for developing spread sheets.

Presentation software

MS PowerPoint is presentation software that is used by business people, educators, students and trainers to present some idea or information in form of text, image or sound. It consists of pages or slides that may be arranged in a consistent style to give a feel of presentation.

- **Database Software:** This software is used to create and manage a database. It is also known as the Database Management System or DBMS. They help with the organization of data. Some examples of DBMS are:
 - - Clipper
 - dBase
 - FileMaker
 - FoxPro
 - MS Access
 - MySQL
- **Multimedia Software:** It is the software that is able to play, create or record images, audio or video files. They are used for video editing, animation, graphics, and image editing. Some examples of Multimedia Software are:

- - Adobe Photoshop
 - Inkscape
 - Media Monkey
 - Picasa
 - VLC Media Player
 - Windows Media Player
 - Windows Movie Maker
- **Graphics Software:** As the name suggests, Graphics Software has been devised to work with graphics as it helps the user to edit or make changes in visual data or images. It comprises of picture editors and illustration software. Some examples are:
 - - Adobe Photoshop
 - Autodesk Maya
 - Blender
 - Carrara
 - CorelDRAW
 - GIMP
 - Modo
 - PaintShop Pro
- **Web Browsers:** These applications are used to browse the internet. They help the user in locating and retrieving data across the web. Some examples of web browsers are:
 - - Google Chrome
 - Internet Explorer
 - Microsoft Edge
 - Mozilla Firefox
 - Opera
 - Safari
 - UC Browser

Some Advanced Types

- **Malicious software or malware,** which is software that is developed to harm and disrupt computers. As such, malware is undesirable. Malware is closely associated

with computer-related crimes, though some malicious programs may have been designed as practical jokes.

- **Embedded Software** : which are integrated part of any electronic device like mobiles, PDAs, and Digital Blood Pressure measuring machine.
- **Desktop Application**: Which runs in a windows or any other Operating systems desktop without any network or internet environment. Examples are Calculator etc.
- **Web Application** : which usually run on the web server and output dynamically generated web pages to web browsers.
- **Shareware** : A software that is made by company and not free for use. However Company launches its demo or trial version with limited functionality or for a limited period of time.
- **Freeware /Open source**: A software that is made for free use and can be distributed without any cost for example VLC Media Players.

Open Source : These kinds of software are available to users with the source code which means that a user can freely distribute and modify the software and add additional features to the software. Open-Source software can either be free or chargeable. Some examples of open-source software are:

- Apache Web Server
- GNU Compiler Collection
- Moodle
- Mozilla Firefox
- Thunderbird
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Microsoft

It is the one of the biggest software companies in the world. It has developed famous windows and application software like MS word, MS excel, MS power point etc.