# Module 1.2

SOFTWARE

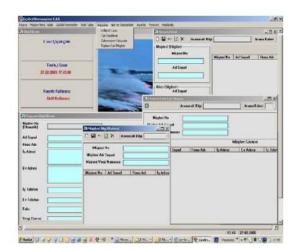
### Software

Software is a collection of instructions that enable the user to interact with a computer, its hardware, or perform tasks.

Without software, computers would be useless. For example, without your Internet browser, you could not surf the Internet or read this page

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## **Operating System**

An **operating system**, or "OS," is software that communicates with the hardware and allows other programs to run. It is comprised of system software, or the fundamental files your computer needs to boot up and function. Every desktop computer, tablet, and smartphone includes an operating system that provides basic functionality for the device.

Common desktop operating systems include Windows, OS X, and Linux. While each OS is different, most provide a graphical user interface, or GUI, that includes a desktop and the ability to manage files and folders. They also allow you to install and run programs written for the operating system. Windows and Linux can be installed on standard PC hardware, while OS X is designed to run on Apple systems. Therefore, the hardware you choose affects what operating system(s) you can run.





### Network Operating System

A network operating system is an operating system designed for the sole purpose of supporting workstations, database sharing, application sharing and file and printer access sharing among multiple computers in a network.

Certain standalone operating systems, such as Microsoft Windows NT and Digital's OpenVMS, come with multipurpose capabilities and can also act as network operating systems.

Some of the most well-known network operating systems include Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Microsoft Windows Server 2008, Linux and Mac OS X.







# Embedded Operating Systems

An embedded operating system performs a very specific purpose to the exclusion of all other functions. These operating systems are typically found in standalone computerized equipment such as ATM machines or navigation systems. Such a system typically runs a specific piece of programming, such as the guidance system on a rocket, and nothing else.

>An embedded computer system runs nearly every electronic device available today. These tiny programs regulate everything from the apps on a cellphone to the heat in a toaster.

# **Application Software**

>Application software is a program or group of programs designed for end users.

➤ These programs are divided into two classes: system software and application software. While system software consists of low-level programs that interact with computers at a basic level, application software resides above system software and includes database programs, word processors, spreadsheets, etc.

Application software may be grouped along with system software or published alone

Software	Examples
Antivirus	AVG, Housecall, McAfee
Audio / Music program	iTunes, WinAmp
Database	Access, MySQL, SQL
Device drivers	Computer drivers
E-mail	Outlook, Thunderbird
Game	Madden NFL Football, Quake, World of Warcraft
Internet browser	Firefox, Google Chrome, Internet Explorer
Movie player	VLC, Windows Media Player
Operating system	Mac OS X 10, Windows XP, Windows 7
Photo / Graphics program	Adobe PhotoShop, CorelDRAW
Presentation	PowerPoint
Programming language	C++, HTML, Java, Perl, Visual Basic (VB)
Simulation	Flight simulator, SimCity
Spreadsheet	Excel
Utility	Compression, Disk Cleanup, Encryption, Registry cleaner, Screensaver
Word processor	Word

# Utility Programs

Utility programs, commonly referred to as just "utilities," are software programs that add functionality to your computer or help your computer perform better.

These include antivirus, backup, disk repair, file management, security, and networking programs. Utilities can also be applications such as screensavers, font and icon tools, and desktop enhancements.

Some utility programs help keep your computer free from unwanted software such as viruses or spyware, while others add functionality that allows you to customize your desktop and user interface.

In general, programs that help make your computer better are considered utilities. And unlike water and electric bills, computer utilities don't send you a bill every month!