

BOOK INFO

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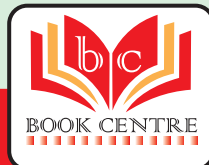
Starting With COMPUTERS

BOOK 8

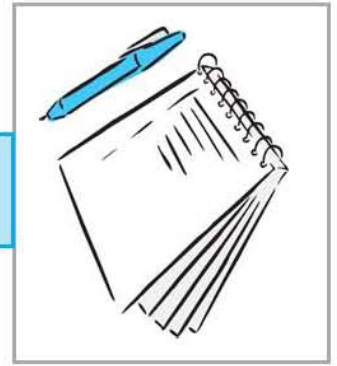
A Good Foundation for Matric and O'Level Curriculums

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Types of Software

A computer needs a set of programs known as Software to perform tasks. A computer system cannot be run or operated without software.

Software is a set of programs. It is developed by a programmer. Some software may be developed by a team of programmers.

Software (or programs) is frequently revised by programmers. A revised program is known as a new version of the existing software. When people buy software they always ensure that they get its latest version. This would contain the latest features that have been recently developed and added.

Software can be classified into the two categories based on their use:

- System Software
- Application Software

SYSTEM SOFTWARE

The set of programs that is designed to control the operations of a computer is called **System software**. These programs control the interactions of the user with the computer. They also control all internal operations of the computer.

The most important system software in any computer is the Operating System. System software can be further classified into two: Operating System and Language Processor.

Operating System (OS)

This is a program that runs the computer. It is a large program made up of many smaller programs. When a computer is switched on, the operating system is the first program to be loaded onto the computer.

There are many types of operating systems available. Popular operating systems are MS DOS, Windows, UNIX and Linux.



Fig. 3.1

Language Processor

A computer only understands the language of 0s and 1s. This is called machine language. Programs are written in high-level languages. You need software to translate a program written in high-level language to machine language. Such programs are known as **language processors**.



Fig. 3.2
Linux



Fig. 3.3 Java

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
class stack {
public:
    stack ();
    Stack (const stack &);
    stack operator = (const stack&);
    ~stack ();
    unsigned count();
    void push (void *);
    void * pop ();
    ostream & print ( ostream & os = cout);
private:
    unsigned arraySize;
    int topOfStack;
    void* array;
};
```

A program written in C++

Fig. 3.4

APPLICATION SOFTWARE

Application software is a program that is developed to carry out certain operations. One type of application software caters to one specific application. For example, we can develop a program for reserving railway tickets. A different program can be developed for arranging sales data in a large business house. These softwares can be used only for the purpose that they have been designed for. The railway software cannot be used for calculating sales figures and vice-versa.



Fig. 3.5
FoxPro

Some commonly used application softwares are Word processing, Database, Database Management (Fig. 3.5), Desktop publishing (Fig. 3.6), Spreadsheet, Educational and Entertainment software (Fig. 3.7), Graphics software, Antivirus, Backup, etc.

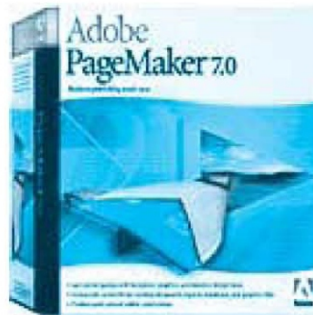


Fig. 3.6 Desktop publishing software

Application Software can be further classified into two types: package and utility.

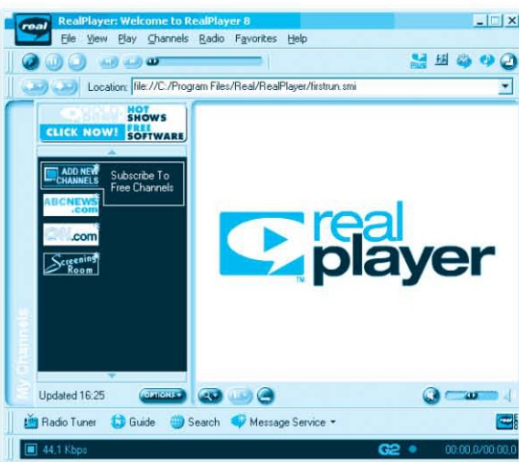


Fig. 3.7 Some entertainment software

Package

A package has one or more programs in it. Each program can be used to perform a particular type of work. Examples of packages are Word Processors, Accounting Packages, Electronic Spreadsheets, Graphics and Presentation packages, Database management systems etc.

Microsoft Office is an application software package (Fig. 3.8). Some of the programs in it are:

1. Word, which is a word processor program;
2. Excel, which is a spreadsheet program;
3. PowerPoint, which is a presentation program; and
4. Access, which is a database management systems program.

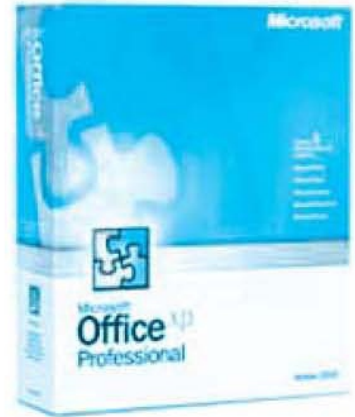


Fig. 3.8

Utility

A utility is a program designed to perform maintenance work on the computer system, or on system components.

Some examples of Utilities are:

- Backup,
- Antivirus,
- Disk Defragmenter, etc.

Norton and McAfee are antivirus software that are popular and freely available (Fig. 3.9).

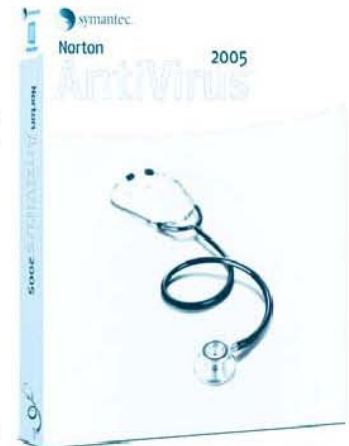


Fig. 3.9

Summary

1. A computer uses a set of programs known as Software to perform tasks. Software is developed by one, or a team of programmers.
2. Based on their use, software is classified into: System software and Application software.
3. The set of programs designed to control the operations of a computer is called System Software.
4. Operating System is the most important system software. This is a program that runs the computer. It is the first program to be loaded when the computer is switched on.
5. Application Software are programs that carry out certain operations. Word processing software, Desktop publishing software, Spreadsheet software, Database software, Database Management software, Educational and Entertainment software, Graphics software, etc., are some examples.
6. Packages and Utility software are the two types of application software.
7. Microsoft Office is an application software package.
8. A utility is a program designed to perform maintenance work on the computer system, or on system components.