INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SOFTWARE

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1   Introduction

The functioning of the computer is not dependent on hardware alone. So, what else is required?

It requires a set of instructions that tells the computer what is to be done with the input data. In computer terminology, this set of instructions is called a program and one or more programs are termed as a software.

1.2   Definitions for computer software

*I. "**Computer software**, or simply **software**, is that part of a computer system that consists of encoded information or computer instructions, in contrast to the physical hardware from which the system is built. The term is roughly synonymous with computer program, but is more generic in scope."*   *Resource: Wikipedia-*

*II. "**Software** is a generic term for organizing collections of computer data and instructions, often broken into two major categories: system software that provides the basic non-task-specific functions of the computer, and application software which is used by users to accomplish specific tasks*."   Resource- www.openprojects.org

1.3   History of computer software

An outline (algorithm) for what would have been the first piece of software was written by **Ada Lovelace** in 1843, for the planned Analytical Engine, Designed by Charles Babbage in 1827, but the it never came into operation.

1.4   LIST OF SOFTWARE

Computer software can be put into categories based on common function, type, or field of use. There are three broad classifications:

1.4.1 Application software

Application software is the general designation of computer programs for performing tasks. The application software may be general purpose (word processing, web browsers.) or have a specific purpose (accounting, truck scheduling.) Application software contrast to system software.

1.4.2 System software

System software is a generic term referring to the computer programs used to start and run computer systems including diverse application software and networks.

1.4.3 Computer programming tools

Computer programming tools, such as compilers and linker, are used to translate and combine computer program source code and libraries into executable RAMs.
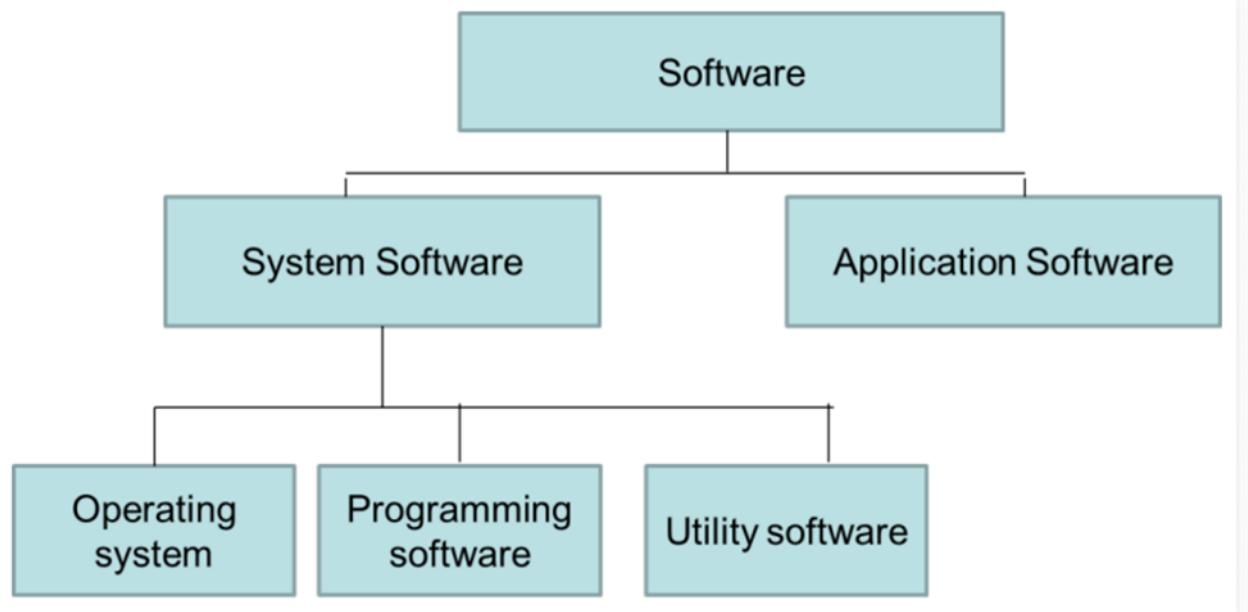
Figure 0-1 Types of software

2 CHAPTER TWO

2.1 APPLICATION SOFTWARE

An application program (app or application for short) is a computer program designed to perform a group of coordinated functions, tasks, or activities for the benefit of the user. Examples of an application include a word processor, a spreadsheet, an accounting application, a web browser, a media player, an aeronautical flight simulator, a console game or a photo editor. The collective noun application software refers to all applications collectively. This contrasts with system software, which is mainly involved with running the computer.

Figure 2-1 application software

2.1.1 Information worker software

2.1.1.1 Accounting software

Account Mate, CYMA, Intacct, Red Wing Software and S AP are famous accounting software use in the accounting sector.

Figure 2-2 Accounting software's

2.1.1.2   Data management software

Management software is a general phrase used to describe a category of computer software designed to help streamline the complexity of large projects and tasks as well as facilitate team collaboration and project reporting.

 E.g.: MySQL, IDMS, Oracle RDBMS, Microsoft Access

2.1.1.3   Documentation

- Document automation
- Word processor
- Desktop publishing software
- Diagramming software
- Presentation software
- Email
- Blog software

   Other information worker software is Enterprise resource planning, Financial software, Field service management Project management software

2.1.2   Entertainment software
- Screen savers

2.1.2.1   Video games

- Arcade games
- Console games
- Mobile games
- Personal computer games

2.2   SYSTEM SOFTWARE

systems software is computer software designed to provide services to other software. Examples of system software include operating systems, computational science software, game engines, industrial automation, and software as some service applications.

In contrast to system software, software that allows users to do things like create text documents, play games, listen to music, or web browsers to surf the web are called application software.

The line where the distinction should be drawn isn't always clear. All operating systems bundle application software. Such software is not considered system software when it can be uninstalled usually without affecting the functioning of other software. Exceptions could be e.g. web browsers such as Internet Explorer where Microsoft argued in court that it was system software that could not be uninstalled. Later examples are Chrome OS and Firefox OS where the browser functions as the only user interface and the only way to run programs (and other web browser cannot be installed in their place), then they can well be argued to be (part of) the operating system and then system software.

Another borderline example is cloud based software. This software provides services to a software client (usually a web browser or a JavaScript application running in the web browser), not to the user directly, and is therefore systems software. It is also developed using system programming methodologies and systems programming languages. Yet from the perspective of functionality there is little difference between a word processing application and word processing web application.

2.2.1   Operating systems

The operating system (prominent examples being Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X and Linux), allows the parts of a computer to work together by performing tasks like transferring data between memory and disks or rendering output onto a display device.

It provides a platform (hardware abstraction layer) to run high-level system software and application software.

An operating system (OS) is system software that manages computer hardware and software resources and provides common services for computer programs. The operating system is a component of the system software in a computer system. Application programs usually require an operating system to function.

Figure 2-3 operating systems

3   References

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