**Software** is the set of instructions or programs used to operate computer and execute specific task

Types of software

1. **System software** is a type of computer program designed to run computer`s hardware and application programs

**Types of system software**

1. **Operating system:** harnesses communication between hardware, system programs and other applications
2. **Device driver:** Enables device communication with the OS and other programs.
3. **Firmware:** Enables device control and identification.
4. **Translator:** Translates high-level languages to low-level machine codes.
5. **Utility:** Ensures optimum functionality of devices and applications.

**Features of system software**

1. Provide user interface
2. Fast/high speed
3. Hard to manipulate to manipulate because it is difficult to design and understand
4. System software is written in low-level language so that CPU and other hardware can understand it.
5. It is directly connected to hardware and enable to run
6. **Application software**. This is also called application program designed to handle specific task for a user. Examples of application software;

Word processor application

Spreadsheets

Database management

**Features of application software**

1. Easy to design
2. Perform a single and specific task
3. Written in high level programing language
4. Needs more storage space
5. Bigger in size

Differences between system and application software.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **System software** | **Application software** |
| System software are designed for managing system resource | Application software are designed to accomplish |
| Programming of system software is complex | Programing of application software is comparatively easy |
| A computer can`t run without system software | A computer can easily without application software |
| System software do not depend on application software | Application software depend on system software and can`t run without system software |

**Layering of the systems and applications software**