

MODULE 1: SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE

Software

Definition: A set of instructions given to the computer.

Characteristics:

Intangible (cannot be touched or felt).

Developed by writing instructions in a programming language.

Controls the operations of the computer.

Can be reinstalled from a backup copy if damaged or corrupted.

Examples: Antivirus, Microsoft Office Tools.

Hardware

Definition: Physical parts of a computer.

Characteristics:

Tangible (can be touched and felt).

Constructed using physical components.

Operates under the control of software.

Can be replaced if damaged.

Examples: Keyboard, Monitor, Mouse.

Software :Collection of instructions that tells the computer what to do

Hardware:Physical elements of a computer

Types of Software

1. System Software

Definition: A collection of programs that support the operation of a computer.

Functions:

Helps run computer hardware and the computer system.

Manages the operation of computer hardware.

Types:

- a. Operating System
- b. Language Translators
 - i. Compiler
 - ii. Assembler
 - iii. Interpreter
 - iv. Macro Processor
- c. Loader
- d. Linker
- e. Debugger
- f. Text Editor

2. Application Software

Definition: Software that allows end users to accomplish one or more specific tasks.

Focus: Solving specific applications or problems.

Operating System

- Definition: Acts as an interface between the user and the system.
- Features:
 - Provides a user-friendly interface.
- Functions:
 - a. Process Management
 - b. Memory Management
 - c. Resource Management
 - d. I/O Operations
 - e. Data Management
 - f. Provides security for jobs.