CIT 3117

Computer Software

Applications software

- Applications software comprises programs that enable users to carry out specific work-related tasks, such as writing a letter or calculating employees' salaries.

- These applications are general-purpose tools that can be used in business, in industry, or at home

- Most commercial software requires the user to have a user license. This allows the user to use the software while protecting the rights of the owner.

APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE/PROGRAMS

- The most popular general purpose programs are called personal productivity tools-helps people to work more effectively and efficiently.

- Applications software are designed for processing end-user tasks and may be divided into :

  - Packaged Commercial - designed to suit users' general needs. (Less expensive)-Off-the-shelf

  - Customized - designed to suit users' specific needs. (More expensive) e.g. Daystar U. Regsys

Examples of Customized Software

- Many of the following systems used to be custom built, however, commercial companies are building applications for these areas:
  - Banking
  - Advertising
  - Taxation systems
  - Security systems
  - Student registrations systems
  - Supermarkets Software
  - Library systems
  - Payroll

Packaged Commercial software

- Most businesses use a variety of software packages to carry out daily tasks such as correspondence, calculations, and recording orders.

- Some of the common applications that people use are

  - Word-processing applications
  - Desktop-publishing applications
  - Spreadsheet applications
  - Database applications
  - Presentation graphics applications
  - Multimedia applications

Applications software

- **Word-processing** applications allow you to insert graphics in your text. You can use them to produce marketing information, advertising material, and even in-house newsletters.

- **Desktop-publishing** applications are advanced word-processing applications designed to produce high-quality documents. They provide you with additional tools and menus to help you lay out your document. And they enable you to create and insert illustrations in your text.

Applications software

- Spreadsheet applications are like electronic worksheets. They display on screen as a matrix of rows and columns. The intersections of the rows and columns are called cells.

- You can fill the cells in a spreadsheet with headings, numbers, or mathematical formulas.

- You can use spreadsheets for any task that requires a calculator, as well as more complex tasks like calculating a payroll or forecasting revenue.

- Spreadsheets provide you with high-quality report formats. And you can link spreadsheets together so that changes in one will effect an update to another.

Applications software

- You use database applications to record, store, and retrieve information.

- For example, a company can use a database to store vital information about its customers, products, orders, and prices.

- Database applications provide you with quick and easy access to information. You can also use them to analyze and organize the data you have recorded.

Applications software

- You can use presentation graphics applications to create output for overheads, slide shows, or on-screen presentations. You can combine text with graphics, charts, and animations to present to an audience at a conference.

- Or you can create a presentation to train your employees or to inform them of some new development in the company. Multimedia applications use media such as text, graphics, audio, video, and animation.

Applications software

- Most computers in businesses are connected to each other to form a network. They can use an electronic mail (e-mail) application to send messages and files to each other. This means they can quickly modify and update information. If a business is connected to the Internet, it can send files and messages to its customers and suppliers. And it can transact business, such as placing orders with its suppliers or making payments over the Internet. E.g. MS Outlook Express, Corel Central, Lotus Organizer

Examples of Packaged Software

- Word Processing Software
  - MS Word,
  - WordPad
  - WordPerfect
  - WordStar
  - Open Office: Free version of software for Linux
- Desktop publishing/graphics
  - Adobe PageMaker
  - Photoshop
  - Illustrator
  - CorelDraw

Examples of Packaged Software

- Spreadsheets
  - MS-Excel
  - Lotus123
  - SuperCalc
  - Quatro Pro
- Database
  - MS-Access
  - Lotus Approach
  - Paradox
  - Fox-Pro
  - MS SQL Server
  - My-SQL: Free for Linux

Presentations graphics
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Corel Presentations
- Freelance Graphics

Examples of Packaged Software

- ## Accounting
  - Sage
  - Quickbooks
  - Pastel
- ## Multimedia and graphics
  - Desktop publishing- QuarkXPress, PageMaker, CorelDraw
  - Image editing-Photoshop
- ## Data analysis and statistics
  - SPSS
  - Systat
  - Epi-Info

Integrated Programs/Suites

- A standalone program is a program that is complete unto itself-fully self-contained, e.g. Microsoft Word or Excel, Corel WordPerfect or Quatro Pro or Paradox

- You can purchase and install them separately, and they function perfectly well all by themselves

Integrated Programs/Suites

- Integrated programs offer all the functions of the leading productivity programs in a single, easy-to-use program.

- They offer easy-to-learn and easy and easy-to-user versions of basic productivity software.

- All the functions, called modules, share the same interface, and you can switch between them quickly.

Integrated Programs/Suites

- A software suit/office suite is an interconnected bundle of programs that share resources with each other and are designed to help workers accomplish the tasks they perform in a typical office environment

- Today most productivity software is sold as suites e.g. Corel WordPerfect Office 2002, Microsoft office, Lotus SmartSuite

- The advantage of office suite is that individual applications share common program code, interface tools, drivers and graphics library

Integrated Programs/Suites

- Office suites typically include all fully featured version of leading, word processing, spreadsheet, presentation graphics, database management and Personal Information Manager

- Such programs (Microsoft Works, AppleWorks, Microsoft Office, etc.) provide a common user interface for their applications, plus the ability to cut and paste data from one to the other.

Other Software descriptions

- Shareware is generally offered on a trial basis, with limited functionality or an expiration date. If the user decides to buy the complete program, they pay the full price.

- Freeware is a software given away for free, but the copyright remains with the owner - you are not allowed to incorporate freeware into other programs or sell it for profit. E.g. Linux OS