# **Software Basics**

The two main categories are system software and application software. Operation systems are classified as system software. Device drivers, utilities, and programing languages are also system software. Application software categories include music, graphic, mapping, finance, and entertainment. Application software is designed to help people accomplish real-world tasks, whereas system software is designed for computer-centric tasks.

Music software offers many to work with music, sound effects, and narration from your desktop. Popular music software capabilities include downloading, playing and recording music files, creating playlists, transferring music to handheld devices, editing, cropping and mixing digital recording, streaming , and identifying songs.

A mapping application displays satellite, aerial, or street maps used to locate places and get directions between two addresses. Google Maps is one of the most extensive mapping applications.

Vertical market software is designed to automate specialized tasks in a specific market or business. Vertical market software designed to automate, streamline, or computerize key business activities.

Horizontal market software is generic software that just about any kind of business can use. For example, many small businesses use QuickBooks to keep track of income and expenses, pay bills, and track inventory. Payroll software and project management software are examples of horizontal market software.

Utility software is designed to help you monitors and configure setting for your digital gear, its operational system or application software. Utilities focus in computer-centric tasks such as blocking viruses or diagnosing hard disk errors.

A device driver is software that helps a peripheral device establish communication with a computer. This type of software is used by printers, monitors, sound cards, network cards, storage devices, modems, mice, and scanners.

Productivity software help get work done. An office suite is collection of programs that typically include word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and database modules.

Software is particularly useful for what-if analysis.

Database software helps you enter, find, organize, update and report information stored in database. Database software stores data as a series of recordsA query language, such as SQL (Structured Query Language).

Software installation is the process of placing a program into a computer so that it can be run or executed. You can use some software without installing it, but other software has to be installed before you can use it. A Web application (or Web app) is software that is accessed with a Web browser. Instead of running locally, much of the program code for the software runs on a remote computer connected to the Internet or other computer network. Most Web apps require no installation at all on your local computer or handheld device. Your device must, however, have a Web browser and an Internet connection. Web apps are truly handy but consider their advantages and disadvantages:

+ You can access Web apps from any device that has a browser and an Internet connection. Your data is usually stored on the app’s Web site, you can access data even when you are away from your main computer. Web apps are always up to date. Web apps do not require local storage space.

-Web apps tend to have fewer features than applications that require installation. If the site hosting the app shuts down, you will not be able to access the application or your data. Your data might be more vulnerable to exposure or loss because it is out of your control. Make local backups, if possible.

A mobile app is designed for a handheld device, such as a smartphone, or tablet computer. Most handheld devices can use both Web apps and mobile apps. The difference between the two is that Web apps run on a remote computer, whereas mobile apps run from the handheld devise, so they have to be downloaded and installed. Games and entertainment seem to dominate mobile apps, whereas shopping and social apps dominate the Web apps category.

Portable software is designed to run from removable storage, such as a CD or USB flash drive. Program files are not installed on the hard disk, no configuration data is stored on the hard disk, and no entries need to be made in the Windows Registry. When he device containing the portable software is removed from the computer, not trace of it is left there.