Session 3

Introduction to Computer Hardware: Computer Software

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Computer Software

- Software is a set of programs that enables the hardware to perform a specific task.

- Examples of computer software:
  - System software
  - Application software
  - Utility software

Computer Software

System Software

- The system software is the main software that runs the computer.

- When you turn on the computer, it activates the hardware and controls and coordinates their functioning.

- The application programs are also controlled by system software.

- Example Operating System

Computer Software

- Operating System (OS)
- Examples:
  - Windows
  - Mac OS
  - Linux
  - Unix
  - Android

Computer Software

Application Software

- **Application software**, also known as an **application**, is computer software designed to help the user to perform specific tasks.

Computer Software

Application Software Examples

–Word processor

–Spread sheet

–Database Management System

–Presentation software

–Graphic editor

–Video games

Computer Software

Utility Software

- Utility software is designed to help analyze, configure, optimize or maintain a computer.

Computer Software

Utility Software

- Examples:
- –Antivirus
- –Disk defragment
- –Screensaver
- –Disk cleaner
- –File manager

Firmware

- Firmware is a software program or set of instructions programmed on a hardware device.

- Layer between hardware and software.

- Also called "Embeded software".

- Non volatile , installed on ROM chips (ROM , PROM , EPROM) or flash chips.

Firmware

- **Examples**
- The BIOS found in various computers

- The iPod's control menu.

Firmware is in every electronic device you can think of !