

Software: Basics

A		Key vocab
Basic Input Output System (BIOS)		Software stored in ROM responsible for booting up a computer system
Platform		The hardware and operating system for which software is designed
System software		Software which is necessary for the running of other software, comprising <i>utilities</i> and the <i>OS</i>
1	Operating System (OS)	A collection of programs which tell hardware what to do
2	Utility	A single-purpose program for system maintenance
3	Firmware	Software that is stored permanently in a device
Software repository		A server which contains open source software which is available for download
Package management software		Software which downloads and updates files from a repository
Batch file		Series of command line instructions stored in a single file
Run time		The period during which a program is executing
Instruction		A command that a processor can recognise and follow
Source code		A program as it was written in high-level language
C	Legal and Ethical Vocab	
Copyright		A legal right that prevents others from copying or modifying intellectual work without permission
Intellectual property		A piece of non-physical work which has been created and is owned by someone
Patent		A licence which protects intellectual property
B		Legislation
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988		Legislation which protects intellectual property by banning its unauthorised copying or redistribution
Computer Misuse Act, 1990		Legislation against hacking and disruptive behaviour on computers
Data Protection Act, 1998		Legislation which prevents storing of data about an individual which is excessive, unlawfully sourced, unsafely stored or inaccurate.
Freedom of Information Act, 2000		Legislation which gives rights for individuals to find out about data held about them
C		Legal and Ethical vocab
Open-source		Software where access to the original code is available to anyone
Proprietary		Software whose source code is kept hidden to avoid loss of profit
Public Domain		Intellectual works which are not copyrighted and are free to use
Creative Commons		Organisation which issues licences which allow the public partial or total access
Licence		A legal agreement about how a piece of software can be used or distributed