Compiler

Compiler, computer software that compiles source code written in a high-level language like java, into a set of machine-language instructions that can be understood by the CPU of a digital computer. Compilers are very large programs, with error-checking and other capabilities.

Interpreter

An interpreter executes instructions written in a programming or scripting language without converting them into object code or machine code beforehand. Examples of interpreted languages are Perl, Python. For interpreted programs, the source code is needed every time the program is run.