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## COTS - commercial off-the-shelf

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By Vangie Beal

Short for *commercial off-the-shelf*, an adjective that describes [software](#) or [hardware](#) products that are ready-made and available for sale to the general public. For example, Microsoft Office is a COTS product that is a packaged software solution for businesses. COTS products are designed to be implemented easily into existing systems without the need for customization.

## Related Terms

- PLM - Product Lifecycle Management
- High Availability
- commercial software
- production
- micro server
- Product Activation
- product review
- production grade
- pre-production
- Full Packaged Product

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