**Computer software** is a term used to describe a collection of computer programs, procedures and documentation **that perform some tasks** on a computer system.

In computers, software **is loaded into RAM** **and executed in the CPU**. when the software is loaded, the computer is able to execute the software. Software is usually **written in high-level programming languages** that are easier and more efficient for humans to use than machine language. There are different classes of computer software which are useful for several purposes.

**System Software** coordinates work of all **system hardware** . It is the most basic type of software in any computer system. For desktop computers, laptops and tablets System software examples are Microsoft Windows 10, Mac OS, Linux, Ubuntu, devices drivers, etc. For smartphones: Apple’s iOS, Google’s Android, Windows Phone OS.

**Application Software** include programs that help the **user perform tasks of his/ her choice**. Application software examples are MS Office, OpenOffice, Media Players, educational software, media development software, antivirus software, etc.

There are some **examples of application software** that allow you to do specific work: **MS Excel**: It is spreadsheet software that you can use **for presenting and analyzing data. Skype:** It is an online communication app that you can use for video chat, voice calling and instant messaging.

***Programming software*** is used to write, test, debug, and develop other software programs and applications.

Programming software is used by software programmers **to translate programming languages** (i.e., Java, C++, Python, PHP, BASIC) into machine language code. Translators can be compilers and assemblers. You can understand compilers as programs that translate the whole source code into machine code and execute it.

There are five **additional subcategories of software**. These are: Freeware; Shareware; Open Source Software; Closed Source Software; Utility Software.

**Freeware software** is any software that **is available to use for free**. They can be downloaded and installed over the internet without any cost. Some well-known examples of freeware are: Google Chrome; Skype; Instagram; Snapchat; Adobe reader.

**Shareware**, on the other hand, are software applications that are paid programs, but are **made available for free for a limited period of time known as ‘trial period’**. You can use the software without any charges for the trial period but you will be asked to purchase it for use after the trial ends. Shareware allows you to test drive the software before you actually invest in purchasing it. Some examples of Shareware that you must be familiar with are: Adobe PhotoShop; Adobe Illustrator; Netflix App; Matlab; McAfee Antivirus.

**Open Source Software** is a type of software that has an open-source code that is available to use for all users. It can be modified and shared with anyone for any purpose.

**Closed Source Software**. These are the types of software that are non-free for the programmers. only the original authors can copy, modify and share the software. Following are some of the most common examples of closed-source software: .NET; Java; Android; Microsoft Office; Adobe PhotoShop.

**Utility software** is considered a subgroup of system software. They **manage the performance of your hardware** and application software installed on your computer. Some features of utility software include: Antivirus and security software;Disk cleaner;