

CHAPTER-6

APPLICATION SOFTWARE

Application software is a set of programs to carry out a specific task like word processor, spreadsheet presentation tools, library management software, railway reservation, antivirus etc. Generally an application software can perform only one specific job and cannot be used for something else. For instance, a library management reservation system or word processing software is generally not used as a spreadsheet.

Difference between application software and system software :

System software :

- 1) System software normally developed by manufacturer.
- 2) Without system software computer cannot work or interact with the user.
- 3) System software cannot be modified by the user or programmer.
- 4) System software is automatically loaded in the memory at the start of the computer. It is called

automatically by the booting process of the computer.

Application software :

- 1) Application software are those programs which are written by the user.
- 2) Without an application software a computer may work.
- 3) Application programs are modifiable by the user or the programmer.
- 4) An application program is not loaded in the memory at the start of computer it has to be called by the user

Following are the example of application software

- Utility Software
- General Purpose application software
- Specific Purpose application software
- Developer tools

Utility Software

After all the basic and necessary software like operating system and device drivers have been

installed we also require some additional software to keep our computer system efficient and trouble free. Utility software helps to manage maintain and control computer resources.

Examples of utility software are as follows

- 1) Compression
- 2) Back-up software
- 3) Disk-defragmentation
- 4) Anti-virus
- 5) Text-editor

Compression software :

Using this software one can reduce(compress) the storage size of any computer program or file while nor in use. This utility comes in handy when we want to transfer a big program or computer file from one computer to another either through Internet or using storage devices like pen drive ,CD or DVD.

Compression tool :

A Software program that can compressed and decompressed a specific file type is called as compression utility. Examples of such utilities

include 7-zip, PKZip, Win Ace, Win Zip and Win Rar.

Backup software :

These utility software facilities you to take regularly back up of important files and folders stored in a drive into another storage device like a pen drive, CD or DVD or another computer. This back up data can be restored in case of any unforeseen situation.

Disk-defragmentation software :

When computer system finds a file too large to store in a single location, it splits the file and stores it in pieces which are logically linked. This simply means that different parts of the file scattered across the hard drive in non-contiguous location.

Disk defragmentation utility software speeds up the system by rearranging such fragmented files stored on a disk in contiguous locations in order to optimize the system performance. Disk-fragmenting a disk minimizes head files from and writes files to the disk. It also reduces system start up times.

Following figure shows three fragmented files named ak, (stored in 6 fragments), sp(stored in 5

fragment) and dp(stored in 4 fragment) then running the defragmentation utility reorganize the file contents in consecutive location.

AK	Free	AK	SP	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK
SP	SP	Free	DP	Free	AK	DP	DP	DP	DP
Free	AK	DP	Free	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
DP	Free	SP	AK	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
DP	Free	Free	Free	AK	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

(Fragmented Disk) (De fragment Disk)

Antivirus software

A computer VIRUS (Vital Information Resource Under Seize) is a computer program intended to hamper the performance of a computer system. These virus are copied into the system through some other infected programs (copied into the system) or down loaded from the Internet. The utility software provides the user with a virus free work environment by restricting the entry of any unwanted program into the system.

Text editor :

This utility software helps one to create store or edit a basic text files. A text file generally stores English type text and can also store numeric and special characters with little formatting. Popular examples of text editor are Note pad, Note pad2, Notepad ++ , Geedit, Kwrite.