What Is A Computer Program?

A computer program is a collection of instructions that performs a specific task when executed by a computer. Most computer devices require programs to function properly. A computer program is usually written by a computer programmer in a programming language. Once it is written, the programmer uses a compiler to turn it into a language that the computer can understand.

A computer program is stored as a file on the computer’s hard drive. When the user runs the program, the file is read by the computer, and the processor reads the data in the file as a list of instructions. Then the computer does what the program tells it to do.

What You Need To Know About Program

1. Program is a set of instructions written in a programming language used to execute for a specific task or particular function.
2. A program does not have further categorization.
3. A program cannot be software.
4. A program consists of a set of instructions which are coded in a programming language like c, C++, PHP, Java etc.
5. Programs do not have a user interface.
6. A program is developed and used by either a single programmer or a group of programmers.
7. A program is compiled every time when we need to generate some output from it.
8. Program has limited functionality and less features.
9. Program functionality is dependent on compiler.
10. A program takes less time to build/make.
11. Program development approach is un-procedural, un-organized and unplanned.
12. The size of a program ranges from kilobytes (Kb) to megabytes (Mb).
13. Examples of computer programs include: Operating system, office suite, video games, malware, a web browser like Mozilla Firefox and Apple Safari.

What Is A Computer Software?

Computer software popularly referred to as software, is a set of instructions, data or programs used to operate computers and execute specific tasks. It includes all programs on a computer such as applications and the operating system. Software is often divided into three categories:

* **Application software**. This is intended to perform certain tasks. Examples of application software include office suites, gaming applications, database systems and educational software.
* **Programming Software**. Programming software is a set of tools to aid developers in writing programs. The various tools available are compilers, linkers, debuggers, interpreters and text editors.
* **System Software.**System software act as a base for application software. Examples include device drivers, operating systems, compilers, disk formatters, text editors and utilities helping the computer to operate more efficiently. System software is usually written in C programming language.

What You Need To Know About Software

1. Software is a collection of several programs and other procedures and documentation.
2. Software can be categorized into three categories: application software, system software and utilities.
3. Software can be a program.
4. Software consists of bundles of programs and data files. Programs in specific software use these data files to perform a dedicated type of tasks.
5. Every software has a dedicated user interface. The user interface of software may be in the form of a command prompt or in a graphical format.
6. Software is developed by either a single programmer or a group of programmers.
7. Whole software is compiled, tested and debugged during the development process.
8. Software has lots of functionality and features such as GUI, input/output data, process etc.
9. Software functionality is dependent on the operating system.
10. Software takes relatively more time to build/make when compared to program.
11. Software development approach is systematic, organized and very well planned.
12. The size of a software ranges from megabytes (Mb) to Gigabytes (Gb).
13. Examples of software include:  Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, VLC media player, Firefox, Adobe Reader, Windows, Linux, Unix, Mac etc.