

## Database Design

### 1-4: Major Transformations in Computing

### Practice Activities

#### Objectives

- List the major transformations in computing that have occurred since the 1970's
- Define and give examples of these terms: hardware, operating system, software
- Identify examples of e-businesses that use database software and explain how it is essential to their success
- Explain the overall mission of the Oracle Corporation

#### Vocabulary

Identify the vocabulary word for each definition below.

	The basic framework or features of a system
	A global effort to develop an environment in which individual users can access computers, databases, and experimental facilities simply and transparently, without having to consider where those facilities are located
	The programs, routines, and symbolic languages that control the functioning of the hardware and direct its operation.
	A computer and the associated physical equipment directly involved in the performance of data-processing or communications functions.
	Software designed to control the hardware of a specific data-processing system in order to allow users and application programs to make use of it.
	A software program which carries out specific tasks on behalf of other computer users
	A workstation or desktop computer including a screen, keyboard, and mouse; communicates directly with the user
	A more powerful computer which accepts work requests from clients, does the work, and sends results back to the client

## Try It / Solve It

1. Provide a definition and an example of each of these:
  - a. Hardware
  - b. Operating system
  - c. Software
2. How has the major transformation of cell phones impacted day-to-day activities of a service repair company – what can the service repair person do today that they could not do before this transformation?
3. List three e-businesses that use database software and describe how the database software is being used.
4. Write down the steps of a simple credit-card transaction. How many places does the information go, and what happens if the transaction is not complete at any one of the steps? What role does a database play in this process?