**Definition of COM**

* COM is an acronym for Component Object Model.
* It’s a platform-independent object-oriented system to create binary software components which can interact.
* It’s a software architecture which is used to build applications on top of binary software components.

**Features of COM**

* One can write applications in various programming languages adhering to COM standard and they can communicate among one another.
* A component can be modified without changing the whole software. This is because the dependency is on the binary interface shared among components and not on the implementation.
* It is a platform-independent technology.
* COM objects can be within the same process or distributed across different processes and different machines.
* COM provides support for inter-process communication across distributed COM objects.

**Binary Software Components**

* These are precompiled, standalone pieces of software that can be used as building blocks to create larger applications.
* These components are distributed in binary form, meaning they are already compiled into machine-readable code, as opposed to source code which needs to be compiled.
* **Examples:** Dynamic Link Libraries (DLLs), COM objects, etc.
* **Benefits** of using binary software components –
* Better performance
* Encapsulation of implementation complexity
* Ease of use (no need to understand the underlying code)
* Can work across different applications and platforms