**What is ActiveX?**

* ActiveX is a technology from Microsoft corporation and works only on Windows-based computers.
* It enables software applications to share information and functionality.
* It is designed to work with Microsoft applications like Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Internet Explorer.
* The idea behind the creation of ActiveX: *Applications don’t need to be created from scratch.*
* Many of the functions can be shared among applications. E.g. the same spell-checking feature can be used in Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc instead of creating separate feature for each of these applications, which will be an inefficient approach.
* One ActiveX SpellChecker active object can be created and used among application. These objects are part of the Windows Operating System. Any application that requires the spell-checking feature can call the SpellChecker active object.
* ActiveX technology originated as Object Linking and Embedding (OLE).
* OLE evolved into the concept of Component Object Model (COM).
* The SpellChecker active object is an example of COM. It is an independent module and can be accessed by any application.
* OLE and COM are the exact same concepts.
* COM program allows one program to be embedded into another. E.g. an Excel spreadsheet can be edited from a Word file without opening Excel.