

APPLICATIONS ASSIGNMENT

13557106

Applications/Applications software:

An application can be described as “A program or group of programs designed for end users.”¹

Webopedia divides application software into two general classes: “*Systems software* and *applications software*.” “Systems software consists of low-level programs that interact with the computer at a very basic level. This includes operating systems, compilers, and utilities for managing computer resources .. In contrast, applications software (also called *end-user programs*) includes database programs, word processors, and spreadsheets”²

Wikipedia explains further what an app is: “Application software .. is computer software designed to help the user to perform specific tasks.” For example enterprise software, accounting software, office suites, graphics software and media players. “Apps may be bundled with the computer and its system software, or may be published separately.” Perhaps on a website “Application software is contrasted with system software and middleware, which manage and integrate a computer's capabilities, but typically do not directly apply them in the performance of tasks that benefit the user. The system software serves the application, which in turn serves the user.”³

Thus wikipedia does not consider all software to be applications, unless the software directly benefits the user. Server apps might be classified under system software by wikipedia, and not under applications (even though system software is still a form of an application, according to webopedia [see above]).

According to wikipedia: “*Web browsers* are applications for displaying web pages. Scripts can be run by web browsers to change the appearance or behaviour of a web page, for example, to change the content to be specific to the current user.”⁴

Should we classify web browsers as desktop apps, because like, for example MS Word, we use it from within our desktops, or web apps, because we use it to search the internet? Like the system software question, maybe there is not a black and white answer.

¹ <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/A/application.html>

² <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/A/application.html>

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_software

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scripting_language

Server Applications

Servers are applications which are used for other applications to run on. This is what Techsoup writes: "Servers are designed for nearly every purpose imaginable, from email to applications. Every application has specific server requirements, typically designed to run on Windows Server or Small Business Server, Novell Netware, or Linux. Many servers can run multiple applications to serve a variety of needs. As your network grows, you will find uses for a variety of specialized server applications."⁵

Techsoup mentions the most common types of server applications: "File and Print Servers. Groupware and Mail Servers. List Servers (e.g. for mass email distribution). Fax Servers. Web Servers. Database Servers or Database Management Systems (DBMS). Terminal Servers or Communication Server. Proxy Servers"⁶ (e.g. for security and faster network access)

Mobile APPS:

According to mmaglobal.com, "This is software that runs on mobile devices that performs certain tasks for the user of the mobile phone."⁷ It is also called 'downloadables', though it can be pre-installed. To advertisers, there are opportunities for advertising with mobile devices. Mobile applications are similar to tablet applications.

Types of mobile applications: "Communications (email clients, IM clients, social network clients, news clients). Games. Travel (city guides, currency converters, translators). Multimedia (Audio/video players, image viewers). Productivity (calenders, calculators). Utilities (profile manager, task manager, call manager, file manager, address book, screen savers)."⁸

Web Apps:

Webtrends describes web apps: "A web application is any application that uses a web browser as a client. The application can be as simple as a message board or a guest sign-in book on a website, or as complex as a word processor or a spreadsheet."⁹

And mentions a benefit of web apps: "A web application relieves the developer of the responsibility of building a client for a specific type of computer or a specific

⁵ www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/networks/page4819.cfm

⁶ www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/networks/page4819.cfm

⁷ <http://mmaglobal.com/mobileapplications.pdf>

⁸ <http://mmaglobal.com/mobileapplications.pdf>

⁹ http://webtrends.about.com/od/webapplications/a/web_application.htm

operating system. Since the client runs in a web browser, the user could be using an IBM-compatible or a Mac. They can be running Windows XP or Windows Vista.”¹⁰

Web sites are no longer just static pages with limited interaction with the user: “This limitation was removed when web servers were modified to allow communication with server-side custom scripts. No longer were applications just static brochureware, edited only by those who knew the arcane mysteries of HTML; with this single change, normal users could interact with the application for the first time.”¹¹

“Web browsers are software applications that allow users to retrieve data and interact with content located on web pages within a website.”¹²

Vinnylingham.com provides 20 reasons why Web Apps are superior to Desktop Apps: “ Never installed. Updates are seamless. No legacy. No admin rights required. Available anywhere, anytime. Platform independent. Less environmental conflicts. Enables social possibilities. Lower cost of sale. Usable from inexpensive PCs. Piracy-proof. No bad debts. Low-cost support and maintenance. User’s data is kept safe in hosting environment. No installation, means no viruses. Low cost global distribution. Lower software price entry point for customers. Access to the entire assets of the Web. Mobile is here. Widest potential audience”¹³

Articlebase.com explains different types of applications:

“Business application or enterprise software deals with the needs of data flow. Various organization processes are also carried out by enterprise software.” E.g. the financial processes. “Documentation tools and Resource management tools: These application programs come under the category of information worker software. These programs manage individual projects within a department.”¹⁴

Softwarearc.com explains The Use of Computer Application Software in Various Fields: “Training: doctors and pilots are taught through simulation.” Also Virtual learning e.g. WebCT. Utilities: eg MS Office. “These applications are used for blogging, to keep tabs of different expenses, for working on huge chunks of data.” “Entertainment: animated films, graphics, software for sound and video composition.” “Financial Domain:”¹⁵ Nowadays, all financial institutions uses apps, as a rule.

¹⁰ http://webtrends.about.com/od/webapplications/a/web_application.htm

¹¹ https://www.owasp.org/index.php/What_are_web_applications%3F

¹² <http://www.acunetix.com/websitesecurity/web-applications.htm>

¹³ <http://www.vinnylingham.com/top-20-reasons-why-web-apps-are-superior-to-desktop-apps.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.articlesbase.com/programming-articles/types-of-application-software-and-their-benefits-to-a-business-enterprise-872671.html>

¹⁵ <http://softwarearc.com/applications/the-use-of-computer-application-software-in-various-fields/>

Conclusion:

Desktop apps are just Web Apps on your desktop computer, likewise, mobile apps on your mobile device. Server apps, borders on the line of being too back-end to be considered apps by some, though it is still a program, like your computer's operating system. And thus technically still an application.

