

**Please give an example of middleware in a computer system, and briefly explain why it is a middleware.**

Answer:

Database management system: We don't want to work on raw data in detail with a machine, such as storage, retrieval. Hence, we have database management system as the middleware to handle that. It will hide the detail of how to deal with raw data from users and provide service for users to manage data.

**Please give an example analogous to the idea of middleware in non IT or computing field, and briefly explain why it is analogous to the function of middleware.**

Answer:

For example, we own a restaurant and we need to purchase vegetables from farms. Without "middleware", we need to choose different kinds of vegetables, compare the prices and even inspect the quality among different farms by ourselves.

Now, we don't want to spend time doing these work. Instead, we can start a contract with a third-party company. This third-party company will do these trivial work (select, compare, inspect vegetables) for us. All we need to do is to make a list of what we want and pay this company. In this case, this third-party company works like a "middleware". We don't need to know the detail of how it select, compare and inspect vegetables. As long as it can provide good service for us, that's fine.