**1. Fill in the blanks with suitable words (one or two words in each gap)**

**Third party applications**

Third party applications are programs …………... to work within operating systems, but are written …..….. individuals or companies other ….….. the provider of the [operating system](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-an-operating-system.htm). For example, Microsoft® systems come packed with several software applications. Of these, any program authored by Microsoft …..a first party application. Any program authored by a different company or ………. individual is a third party application; the same being true for Apple™ and Linux™ systems. In this equation the second party is the user.

Third party applications ….. ….. standalone programs or they can be small plugins that add functionality to an existing parent program. The former category is endless. On a typical system, standalone third party applications …….. tens of dozens of programs. [Web browsers](http://i.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-web-browser.htm) like Opera, Safari® and Firefox®; and [email](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-email.htm) clients like Thunderbird®, The Bat!, and Pegasus are some examples of popular standalone third party applications. ….. anti-virus programs, firewalls, multimedia programs — virtually any program not written by Microsoft®, Apple®, or Linux, yet made to work on those systems — fall ….….. this category.

In some cases, computer users of Windows® operating systems consider ….….. more secure to use standalone third party applications for tasks ..….. ….... email, newsgroups, Web browsing and Internet Relay Chat (IRC). Microsoft® applications …….. traditionally …….. the target of the vast majority of hackers, viruses, Trojans and other security threats. By using a third party application, one theoretically lessens the degree of potential vulnerability.