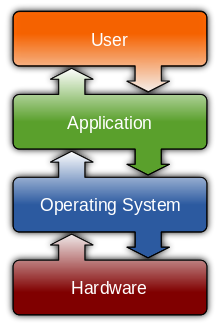
**Computer software**, or just **software**, is any set of machine-readable instructions that directs a computer's [processor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_processor) to perform specific operations. The term is used to contrast with [computer hardware](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_hardware), the physical objects ([processor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_processor) and related devices) that carry out the instructions.

Software is a general term. It can refer to all computer instructions in general, or to any specific set of computer instructions. It is inclusive of both [machine instructions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machine_code) (the [binary code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binary_code) that the processor "understands") and [source code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Source_code) (more human-understandable instructions that must be rendered into machine code by [compilers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compiler) or [interpreters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interpreter) before being executed).

Software is usually written in [high-level programming languages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-level_programming_language) that are easier and more efficient for humans to use (closer to [natural language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_language)) than machine language. High-level languages are compiled or interpreted into machine language object code. Software may also be written in an [assembly language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assembly_language), essentially, a [mnemonic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mnemonic) representation of a machine language using a natural language alphabet.



On virtually all computer platforms, software can be grouped into a few broad categories:

- [System software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_software) is [computer software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_software) designed to operate the [computer hardware](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_hardware), to provide basic functionality, and to provide a platform for running [application software.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_software)

- [Application software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_software) and [scripts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Script_(computer_programming)) were historically defined as all the software that uses the computer system to perform useful work

Software is written in one or more programming languages; there are many programming languages in existence, and each has at least one implementation, each of which consists of its own set of programming tools.

The software's license gives the user the right to use the software in the licensed environment.

GAME!