Software

The term software is used for all non-hardware components of a computer. Using today’s terminology, however, the documents and photos you create are usually referred to as data files rather than as software.

The two main categories are system software and application software. Operating systems are classified as system software. Device drivers, utilities, and programming languages are also system software. Application software categories include: music applications, location-based software, vertical and horizontal market software.

Web application is software that is accessed with a Web browser. Instead of running locally, much of the program code for the software runs on a remote computer connected to the Internet or other computer network. Most Web apps require no installation, however, you must have a Web browser and an Internet connection.

A mobile app is designed for a handheld device, such as a smartphone. The difference between the two is that Web apps run on a remote computer, whereas mobile apps run from the handheld device, so they have to be downloaded and installed.

Software installation is the process of placing a program into a computer so that it can be run or executed. You can use some software without installing (web, portable) it. Periodically, software publishers replace older versions of a software product with a new version that’s sometimes referred to as a software upgrade. Improvements to existing versions of software is called update.

Before purchasing software, make sure the license allows you to use the software the way you want to.

From a legal perspective, there are two categories of software: public domain and proprietary. Public domain software is not protected by copyright because the copyright has expired, or the author has placed the program in the public domain, making it available without any restriction. Based on licensing rights, proprietary software is distributed as:

• commercial software

• demoware

• shareware

• freeware

• open source software

Security software is designed to protect computers from malicious software. The term malicious software refers to different types of destructive software: viruses, worms, trojans, spyware.

Computer virus is a set of instructions that attaches itself to files and can execute malicious code. Whereas viruses are alive inside of one computer, worms are able to spread through the network, infecting other computers.

Antivirus software is a type of software that monitors the running processes, files and takes measures if a malicious software is detected.

Viruses can be identified by special sections of code that are called virus signatures. Signatures form a virus definitions database. That is why periodically updating your security software is vital for maintaining security. After the antivirus detects malicious program, it’s being put into the quarantine before user decides what to do next.