**Utility software**

Utility software are programs that help with maintaining, optimizing, configuring or analysing a computer. This is different from application software, which helps the average user complete a task.

There are many different kinds of utility software for many different purposes, such as anti-virus, disk maintenance, file management, performance optimization and debuggers.

**Anti-virus**  
Anti-virus software is utility software that detects and removes malicious software, such as viruses, worms, trojans and ransomware. It scans documents and programs for known malicious software and any fragments of code that match known malicious software.  
The ant-virus will then notify the user, who can choose to remove or quarantine the software.

Examples of anti-virus software include AVG, Norton security and McAfee.

**Disk maintenance**  
Disk maintenance software is software related to the performance and optimization of hard drives and comes in many varieties, including software to analyse disk performance, software to remove unwanted files, defragmentation software and backup tools.  
Disk performance analysers/optimizers will check the read/write speed of the disk, and may be able to improve performance by defragmenting the drive or deleting unnecessary files.

Disk cleaning tools will find unused, duplicate, large/zerobyte or junk files and delete them. This frees up space on the hard drive, and improves read/write speed.

Backup tools create copies of large amounts of data on another storage medium (such as another hard drive or USB stick) for redundancy, and can restore it if the original data is lost. Some utilities can even back up the entire hard drive, including the operating system.

An example of a disk cleaner would be Ccleaner, and OS X has a backup utility called Time Machine, which automatically creates restore points (copies of the hard drive that can booted from) at regular intervals.

**File Management**  
File management software is software that helps users to manage data, by providing an easy way to access, name, catalogue, delete, move or copy files.  
The most common file manager is Windows Explorer, which can also format drives.

**Performance optimisation**Optimisation software is a utility to maximize the performance of a computer system. It will analyse the disk, processor, RAM, graphics card and other performance-affecting components and adjust settings to change the performance of the computer. The most basic optimization software would be Power configuration in windows, which allows users to switch between pre-set performance levels to conserve power or increase performance.