software

is a sequence of instructions that can be executed on a computer, or a collection of statements that

can be converted into such a sequence.

program

as a generic term for

any piece of software that can run on its own. Programs are made up of sub-programs often combined with (parts of) libraries

A sub-program is a collection of instructions or

statements that implement an algorithm for accomplishing a specific task or tasks

A

library

is a

group of related sub-programs for accomplishing a specific collection of (usually related) tasks.

A

software product

is one or more programs, sub-programs, or libraries,

along with data and supporting materials and services, that a client can use to solve problems or

achieve goals. For example, MS Word is a software product, as is the software that runs in a car to

control its carburetor.

Software products are generally classified as either bespoke or generic.

Bespoke software

products

are developed (usually under contract) for a specific customer. For example, a car manufacturer

might contract with a software development company for the software that controls the carburetors

in its cars.

Generic software products

are developed (usually speculatively) and then sold in a

market (either a mass market or a niche market). The consumer products that Microsoft makes and

sells are examples of generic software products.