COMPUTER

***A computer has two primary categories:***

1. **HARDWARE**
2. **SOFTWARE**
3. HARDWARE

What Does Hardware (H/W) Mean?

* Hardware (H/W), in the context of technology, refers to the physical elements that make up a computer or electronic system and everything else involved that is physically tangible. This includes the monitor, hard drive, memory and the CPU. Hardware works hand-in-hand with firmware and software to make a computer function.
* Although the same core components are shared between desktop computers and laptops, their characteristics and design differ for a multitude of reasons (size, heat dissipation capabilities, power requirements, etc.). However, hardware is always necessary to run the critical software that makes computers work.

1. SOFTWARE

## What Does Software Mean?

* Software, in its most general sense, is a set of instructions or programs instructing a computer to do specific tasks.
* Software is a generic term used to describe computer programs that run on PCs, mobile phones, tablets, or other smart devices.
* Software is often used to describe all the functional aspects of a computer that do not refer to its physical components (hardware). Scripts, applications, programs and a set of instructions are all terms often used to describe software.
* Everything that “runs” on a computer, from an operating system, to a diagnostic tool, video game, or app can be defined as software.

# ***Operating System (OS)***

## What Does Operating System (OS) Mean?

An operating system (OS), in its most general sense, is software that allows a user to run other applications on a computing device.

The operating system manages a computer's software hardware resources, including:

* Input devices such as a keyboard and mouse.
* Output devices such as display monitors, printers and scanners.
* Network devices such as modems, routers and network connections.
* Storage devices such as internal and external drives.

The OS also provides services to facilitate the efficient execution and management of, and memory allocations for, any additional installed software application programs.