Application Software

Definition of Application Software

1. Application software is a program or group of programs designed for end users.

2. A program is called an application program if it performs some human-oriented task.

Types of Application Software

It is divided into two which are

(i) User application software: These are user-written software tailored to meet the user's specific needs. This includes spread sheet templates, word processor macros, scientific simulations, graphics, and animation scripts. Users create this software themselves and often overlook how important it is.

(ii) Application packages: This consists of multiple programs bundled together to address a specific need. It is also known as application suite or integrated package. Examples are Microsoft office, Open office.org, and iwork which bundle together a word processor, a spread sheet, and several other discrete applications. The separate applications in a suite usually have some capability to interact with each other in ways beneficial to the user.

Application Package Categories

1. General purpose application software packages: General-purpose application software is software used to perform a broad variety of tasks and is useful to nearly all computer users. It is not limited to one particular function. Examples are

(i) Word Processing: This is the process of using a computer to create, edit and print text – based documents. Examples are Ms – word, Word star, Word perfect, Window Word pad etc.

(ii) Spreadsheet: Spreadsheet applications are computer program that let you perform mathematical, statistical and accounting calculations electronically. Google Sheets - (Online and free) iWork Numbers, Lotus 1-2-3, Microsoft Excel, VisiCalc, WPS spreadsheet, etc.

(iii) Presentation: A presentation program is a computer software package used to display information, normally in the form of a slide show. Examples are MS power point Corel Presentations, OpenOffice.org Impress, SlideSlider, Slide Rocket , SlideWiki, Audience (software), Ease, Emaze, WPS presentation, etc.

(iv) Database management: This is a program lets one or more computer users create and access data in a database. Examples of DBMS are MS Access, Oracle, Paradox, SQL Server, SyBase, FOXPRO, Dbase, etc.

(v) Graphics package: A graphics package is an application that can be used to create and manipulate images on a computer. Examples are Corel draw, Microsoft paint, Photoshop etc.

(vi) Games: This is an electronic game that involves interaction with users interface to generate visual feedback on a video device

2. Special (specific) purpose application software packages: These are software that is limited in what they can do, but usually does that one thing much better than general purpose program. They include:

(i) Accounting Management: This is the practical application of management techniques to control report on the financial health of an organisation.

(ii) Payroll System: This is a program designed for calculating the regular salary, wages or other compensation paid to every employee in a company.

(iii) Banking software: It enables the management, monitoring and control of transactions for financial institutions and banks.

(iv) Hospital Management Software: It is also known as Hospital information System. It is a comprehensive, integrated information system designed to manage the administrative, financial and clinical aspect of a hospital. It benefits are easy access to patient data, helps in decision support system for health care polities, efficient and accurate administration of finance, improved monitoring of drug usage, etc.

(v) Reservation System: A computer reservations system is a computerized system used to store, retrieve information and conduct transactions related to air travel. It is designed and operated by airlines.

(vi) Human Resources (HR) Management: It functions includes a variety of activities, and key among them is deciding what staffing needs you have and whether to use independent contractors or hire employees to fill these needs, recruiting and training the best employees, dealing with performance issues, etc.

(vii) Attendance System: There are three components that make up a Time and Attendance system. First, Barcode readers are used to allow employee to make quick and adequate time transaction. Second, data taken from devices needs to be managed and stored by PC's. Third, management of the time transactions, payroll generation and detailed reports is done by the Time and Attendance software.

(viii)   Billing system: This is a system that tracks customer usage of services, and calculates the impact on a customer's account, based on the price of the service. Billing systems have come to include noncore functionality such as customer management, integration with payment gateways, and statistical analysis.