

2.9 SOFTWARE IN A COMPUTER

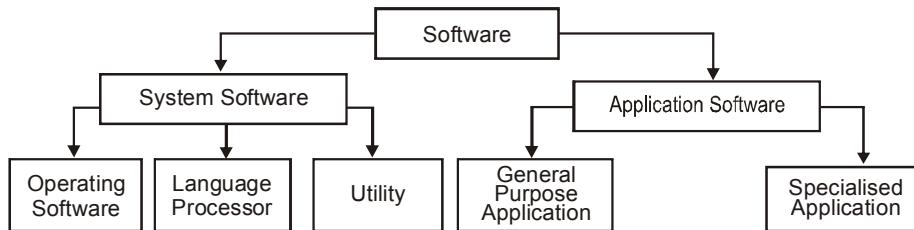


Fig. 2.29: Classification of Software

- Software is the collection of programs that make the hardware do its job. Software is usually divided into two major categories:
 - System Software
 - Application Software
- Shareware is generally less expensive because often a single programmer develops it.

2. Freeware

- Freeware programs are programs that are given away free of charge and often made available on the Internet.
- The programmer offers programs as freeware either for personal satisfaction or to assess its reception among interested users.
- Program developers often retain all rights to their freeware and users are not free to copy or distribute or sell it further.

3. Open Source Software

- Open source describes the principles and methodologies to promote open access to the production and design process for various goods, products, resources and technical conclusions or advice.
- The term is most commonly applied to the source code of software that is made available to the general public with either relaxed or non-existent intellectual property restrictions.
- This allows users to create user-generated software content through either incremental individual effort, or collaboration.

System Software

System software is a type of computer program that is designed to run a computer's hardware and application programs, generally used as the interface between hardware and user application. e.g., *Operating System*.

Application Software

It is a program designed for end users. e.g., *Database program, word processor, web browsers*.

Other Types of Software

1. Shareware

- Shareware software is copyrighted software that is distributed on a try before we buy basis by paying a nominal shareware fee.
- Users who want to continue using the program after the trial period are encouraged to send a payment for the program to the program developer.