

KEYWORDS – Chapter 3

Software

Adware	A program that repeatedly and disruptively displays advertisements on a user's computer.
Anti-malware	A utility that searches for and removes any malware on a computer.
Antivirus	A utility that searches for and removes any viruses on a computer.
Custom-written software	Software that is produced on commission, specifically for a user.
Device driver	System software that is used by the operating system to control peripheral devices.
Disk formatting	Initialising a disk for storage by identifying the data blocks on the disk and creating the file allocation table.
File allocation table	An index of all the files that are stored on a disk and their allocation. It also keeps a record of free space on the disk.
File management software	Utilities that allow the user to perform common operations on files such as copying, deleting and moving.
File transfer protocol (ftp)	An agreed system and set of rules that allow different programs to transfer files across different computers over the internet.
Firewall	A utility or device that monitors the traffic between a computer and the internet and only allows connections that are authorised.
Malware	Any program, such as viruses, worms, trojans and adware, that are designed to be harmful to the computer on which they are run.
Memory management	A function of the operating system that involves allocating memory to programs and data which are being used.
Multi-tasking	A function of the operating system, where the processor is made to appear to perform several tasks at the same time by switching rapidly between the tasks.

Off-the-shelf software	General purpose software that is produced first and then made available for customers to buy.
Open-source software	Software where the developer makes the source code available and gives the user permission to copy and change the program.
Operating system	System software that controls the overall running of the computer. It provides a platform on which all other programs run.
Peripheral	A hardware device that is connected to the computer.
Peripheral management	A function of the operating system that involves ensuring that all the peripherals which are connected to the computer are working as they should.
Proprietary software	Software where the developer is protecting their copyright and restricts the licence. The source code is not provided and users are typically not allowed to change or copy the program.
Repository	A one-stop server which contains updates for many programs and drivers so that an update utility only needs to check the repository for all available updates.
Software licence	The permissions that the software developer allows the user of the software.
Spyware	A program that runs silently on a user's computer and collects personal data from it which it makes available to other users.
System diagnosis utility	A utility that scans the computer for common faults and problems and presents the results (and suggestions for the solution) to the user.
System information utility	A utility that displays information about the performance of the hardware on a computer.
System software	Software that enables the program to operate.
System update tool	A utility that checks for new, improved versions of software from the Internet and downloads and installs them.

Trojan	A malware program that runs silently on a user's computer and enables another user to connect to the computer and take control of it.
User interface	The tools provided by the operating system to allow the computer and the user to give instructions to the computer and receive and understand the results.
Utility	Systems software that performs a common maintenance task.
Virus	A malware program that attaches itself to files and is designed to spread within a computer and to other computers, usually causing the computer to become unreliable.
Worm	A malware program that uses the resources of the computer in which it is installed to spread to other computers and cause the computers to become unreliable. (Unlike a virus, a worm does not attach itself to files.)