System Software

System Software is a generic term referring to any computer software which manages and controls the hardware so that application software can perform a task. It is an essential part of the computer system. It's allows users to interact with the system to enhance productivity. E.g. Word Editor, Spreadsheet programs etc.

It's also allows programmers to develop their own applications without knowing too much detail of the underlying hardware. E.g. High-level programming languages and tools



System Software includes:

Operating System

An operating system (OS) is a set of programs that manage computer hardware resources and provide common services for application software. The operating system is the most important type of system software in a computer system. Without an operating system, a user cannot run an application program on their computer (unless the application program is self booting).

Utility programs

Utility software is a type of system software designed to help analyse, configure, optimize and maintain the computer. A single piece of utility software is usually called a utility or tool. Utility software should be contrasted with application software, which allows users to do things like creating text documents, playing games, listening to music or surfing the web. Rather than providing these kinds of user-oriented or output-oriented functionality, utility software usually focuses on how the computer infrastructure (including the computer hardware, operating system, and application software and data storage) operates.

Examples of utility software include:

- Virus scanner to protect your system from trojans and viruses
- **Disk defragmenter** to speed up your hard disk
- System monitor to look at your current system resources
- File managers -to add, delete, rename and move files and folders

Library programs

Library programs contain code and data that provide services to other programs such as interface (look and feel), printing, network code and even the graphic engines of computer games. If you have ever wondered why all Microsoft Office programs have the same look and feel, that is because they are using the same graphical user interface libraries. For computer games a developer might not have the time and budget to write a new graphics engine so they often buy graphical libraries to speed up development, this will allow them to quickly develop a good looking game that runs on the desired hardware.

Programming tools - help programmers in application development with aid of system utilities such as assemblers, compilers, linkers etc.