

ITechword Reference Service

Information Technology word and connotation

What does *Application Software* mean?

Application software is a program or group of programs designed for end users. These programs are divided into two classes: system software and application software. While system software consists of low-level programs that interact with computers at a basic level, application software resides above system software and includes database programs, word processors, spreadsheets, etc. Application software may be grouped along with system software or published alone.

Application software may simply be referred to as an application.

What does *System Software* mean?

System software is a platform comprised of Operating System (OS) programs and services, including settings and preferences, file libraries and functions used for system applications. System software also includes device drivers that run basic computer hardware and peripherals.

What does *Platform* mean?

A platform is a group of technologies that are used as a base upon which other applications, processes or technologies are developed.

In personal computing, a platform is the basic hardware (computer) and software (operating system) on which software applications can be run. Computers use specific Central Processing Units (CPUs) that are designed to run specific machine language code. In order for the computer to run software applications, the applications must be in that CPU's binary-coded machine language. Thus, historically, application programs written for one platform would not work on a different platform.

An example of a computing platform is a modern laptop running Windows as an operating system. Other examples would be an Apple computer running the Mac OS X operating system.

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