

Chapter 3: Computer Software

Quiz Yourself Answers

1. System software consists of the operating system and utility programs that control a computer system and allow you to use a computer. These programs enable the computer to boot, to launch application programs, and to facilitate important jobs, such as transferring files from one storage medium to another, configuring the computer to work with the hardware connected to it, managing files on the hard drive, and protecting the computer system from unauthorized use.
2. Multitasking refers to the ability of an operating system to have more than one program (also called a task) open at one time.
3. The primary difference between multiprocessing and parallel processing is that with multiprocessing each CPU typically works on a different job; with parallel processing, the processors usually work together to complete one job more quickly.
4. The five most widely used personal operating systems are DOS, Windows, Mac OS, UNIX, and Linux.
5. A utility program is a software program that performs a specific task, usually related to managing or maintaining the computer system.
6. Application software includes all the programs that allow you to perform specific tasks on a computer, such as writing a letter, preparing an invoice, viewing a Web page, listening to a music file, checking the inventory of a particular product, playing a game, preparing financial statements, and designing a home.
7. Commercial software includes any software program that is developed and sold for a profit. Shareware programs are software programs that are distributed on the honor system. Most shareware programs are available to try free of charge, but typically require a small fee if you choose to use the program regularly.
8. When a software program is purchased, the buyer is acquiring a software license that permits him or her to use the software. This license specifies the conditions under which a buyer can use the software, such as the number of computers on which it may be installed.
9. A software suite is when related software programs (such as a group of graphics programs, utility programs, or office-related software) are sold bundled together.
10. Office suites typically contain word processing software, spreadsheet software, database software, and presentation graphics software.
11. Multimedia technically refers to any application that contains more than one type of media, but is often used to refer to audio and video content.
12. A bitmap image is a graphic created by coloring the individual pixels in an image. A vector graphic uses mathematical formulas to represent image content instead of pixels.
13. Media players are programs designed to play audio and video files available via your computer—such as music CDs, downloaded music, or video streamed from the Internet.
14. Desktop publishing refers to using a personal computer to combine and manipulate text and images to create attractive documents that look as if they were created by a professional printer.
15. Personal finance software is commonly used at home by individuals to write checks and balance checking accounts, track personal expenses, manage stock portfolios, and prepare income taxes.
16. Collaboration software enables a group of individuals to work together on a project.