APPLICATION SOFTWARE PACKAGES

Application software packages are executible (.exe) programs that can be used to aid the computer resolve specific tasks. In other words, it is an installable software package that runs on the OS and is operated to resolve specific tasks.

Unlike system software, application packages run on the OS i.e. the computer platform. It is also written to do a special task on a kind of data. It is not written to manage any hardware or any other application software but to work directly on a kind of data to read it or process it into information.

Multiple applications bundled together as a package are sometimes referred to as an *application suite*. Microsoft Office, which bundles a word processor, a spreadsheet, and several other discrete applications, is a typical example.

Some application packages are outlined and explain briefly below:

- **Word Processors** are the most common application software. Word processor application software are used to type and format documents. Examples are MS Word, WordPad, OpenOffice Writer, etc.

- **Spreadsheets** are application software used for mathematical calculations such as accounts, budgets, statistics, and so on.
- **Database Management Applications** are computer application packages that let people create and manipulate data in a database. A database is a collection of related information that can be manipulated and used to sort information, conduct statistical analyses or generate reports.
- **Presentation Packages** are computer programs that enable users to create highly stylized images for slide presentations and reports. They can also be used to produce various types of charts and graphs. Examples are MS Powerpoint, OpenOffice Impress, etc.
- **Graphic Packages** are computer application packages that are used to draw, paint and create images. Examples are CorelDraw, Picasa, Photoshop, Photoscape, etc.
- **Communication Applications** typically include software that enable people to send faxes and emails and dial into other computers and browse through the internet. Examples are MS Outlook, browsers, etc.
- **Multimedia Applications** are applications that play music and videos (and sometimes display pictures). Also, they can be used to make audio and videos.

- **Game Applications** are applications that are used to pass time. Examples are Pro Evolution Soccer, Grand Theft Vice City, etc.
- Others are applications that are applied to a particular area, for example education, architecture, biotechnology, feed mixing, etc.

Software can be either '*proprietary*' (also called 'closed') or '*open*'. Proprietary software is privately owned and controlled. A proprietary software design or technique is one that is owned by a company which will usually not divulge specifications that would allow other companies to duplicate the product. Increasingly, proprietary software is seen as a disadvantage in many organisations. Users prefer to use '*open*' software, which is software designed using specifications that are publicly accessible. The great advantage of open software is that anyone can create add-on products for it because they can understand how it was designed.