

software designed to operate the computer hardware and to provide a platform for running application software

programs tend to perform specific tasks related to the management of hardware.

make machine code from source code

software performs a single specific task. This task might be complex like payroll calculation, stock control etc. but will be based on a single task.

software designed to help the user to perform specific tasks

are a compiled collection of subroutines

it can be used for lots of different tasks

is written for a single client. Large organisations have a need for well-developed applications suited to their specific needs.

an interface between the application software and computer

General purpose

Utility

Bespoke

Operating system

Translator

Special purpose

Library

System

Application