

# SOFTWARE CLASSIFICATION

**OVERVIEW**

Software can be classified into two distinct categories— system software and application software.

System software consists of the operating system and utilities whereas application software consists of a mix of general and specific application tools.

**DEFINITION**

**APPLICATION SOFTWARE**

is written to improve our productivity i.e. it does something useful

## APPLICATION SOFTWARE

**GENERAL V SPECIFIC**

General applications can be used for a wide variety of tasks e.g. spreadsheets can be used for accounts, sales analysis, forecasting and many others.

Specific software lacks the flexibility of generic software and is only capable doing a single task. Accounting software is capable of doing only accounts and so is more restrictive than a spreadsheet.

**SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS**

Specific applications can be broken down in to off the shelf (package) and bespoke software.

**DEFINITION**

**OFF THE SHELF SOFTWARE** is designed for a specific purpose, usually for a number of end-users.

**BESPOKE SOFTWARE** is designed for a specific purpose, usually for a single end-user. It is software that is not available 'off the shelf' and is usually written or developed for large organisations.

**OFF THE SHELF**

**PROS**

- Cheaper
- Tried and Tested
- Easy to implement
- Choice of brands

**CONS**

- Large memory footprint
- Not completely for purpose.

**BESPOKE**

**PROS**

- Meets purpose exactly
- Small memory footprint

**CONS**

- More expensive
- Not tested—cost money to correct
- Not available instantly

**CREDITS**

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