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Philip E. Margolis
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computer & internet dictionary
3rd. Edition

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Philip E. Margolis

**Random House
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AppleTalk An inexpensive local-area network (LAN) architecture built into all Apple Macintosh computers and laser printers. AppleTalk supports Apple's *LocalTalk* cabling scheme, as well as Ethernet and IBM Token Ring. It can connect Macintosh computers and printers, and even PCs if they are equipped with special AppleTalk hardware and software.

⇒ See also LOCAL-AREA NETWORK; LOCALTALK; MACINTOSH COMPUTER; TOPOLOGY.

application A program or group of programs designed for end users. Software can be divided into two general classes: *systems software* and *applications software*. Systems software consists of low-level programs that interact with the computer at a very basic level. This includes operating systems, compilers, and utilities for managing computer resources.

In contrast, applications software (also called *end-user programs*) includes database programs, word processors, and spreadsheets. Figuratively speaking, applications software sits on top of systems software because it is unable to run without the operating system and system utilities.

⇒ See also APPLLET; APPLICATION SHARING; DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM; END USER; IDE; LEGACY APPLICATION; OPERATING SYSTEM; SOFTWARE; SOFTWARE LICENSING; SPREADSHEET; SYSTEMS SOFTWARE; UTILITY; WORD PROCESSOR.

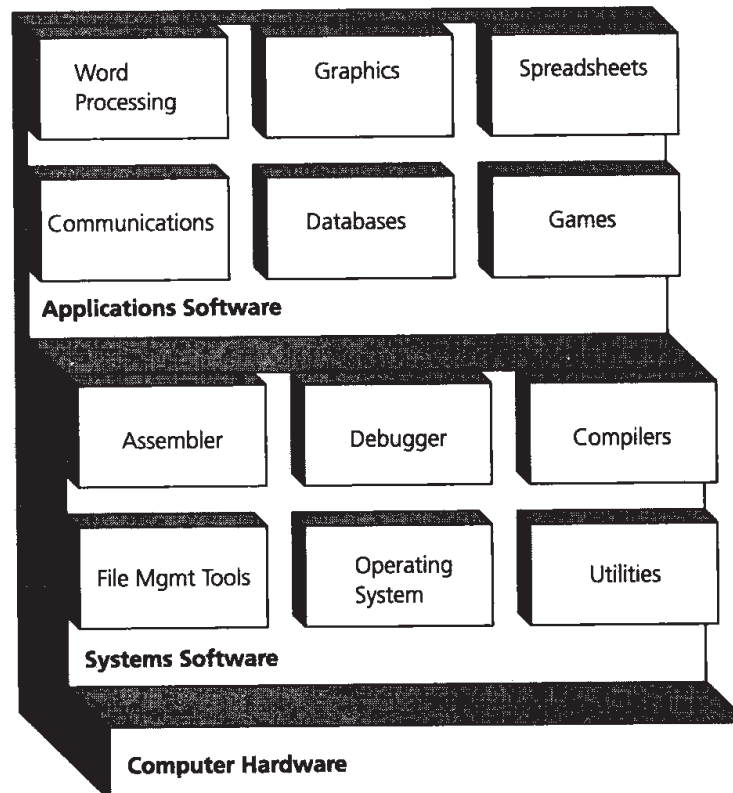


Figure 5: applications software and systems software

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