Computer Overview

The Basic Computer Components:

Hardware   Operating System   Software
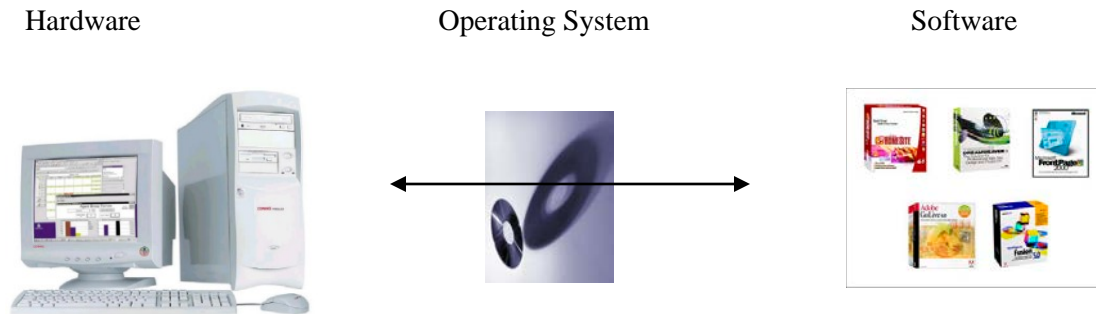
Basic computer **hardware** consists of a system unit, monitor, keyboard and mouse.

Software, the programs computers run, is what makes computers useful.

The hardware does not 'know' how to use the software. What is needed is an **operating system**. Operating systems control the flow of information. Popular operating systems are Windows 10 and Mac OS X. Windows is developed by Microsoft and represent 86% of the market share. Other OS's like Apple's Macintosh have some of the market as well.

When people have **trouble with computers**, about 90% of the time the problem is software not hardware. Of the 90% of software problems, 90% of these problems are related to the operating system.
The more you know about the operating system the more you feel like you are in control as opposed to the computer having a 'mind of its own'.

Since software is what makes a computer useful learning basic program use will make the computer a valuable tool.

Example Programs:

Program Type	Use	Common Program
Word processor	Electronic typewriter	Microsoft Word
Spreadsheet	Performing calculations	Microsoft Excel
Database	Inventory system	Microsoft Access
Browser	Search World Wide Web	Internet Explorer
Email	Electronic messages	Microsoft Outlook
Presentations	Build slide shows	Microsoft PowerPoint
Graphics	Painting pictures	Microsoft Paint
Accounting	Business bookkeeping	QuickBooks
Utility	Many – anti-virus	Grisoft AVG