



COMPSCI 111/111G

Software

Exercise Sheet

Exercise 1: List at least two different file extensions that are used in the Windows OS and state the name of the application associated with each file extension.

There are a range of answers for this question. For example:

- 1) .docx = Microsoft Word
- 2) .wma = Windows Media Player

Exercise 2: Why do we need computing standards?

Computing standards are essential because they provide an agreed way of performing certain tasks which everyone (eg. software developers, users) can follow. An example of a computing standard is the PDF standard.

Exercise 3: What is the difference between a copyright and a patent?

Copyright protects an expression of an idea from being copied without the author's permission. A patent protects a person's idea from being copied without their permission.

Exercise 4: Can you legally copy freeware? Why?

No, a user generally cannot copy freeware because this is prohibited by the licence.

Exercise 5: Can you legally modify freeware? Why?

No, a user generally cannot modify freeware because this is prohibited by the licence.

Exercise 6: Can you legally copy open-source software? Why?

Yes, open-source licences generally allow the user to copy open-source software.

Exercise 7: Can you legally modify open-source software? Why?

Yes, open-source licences allow the user to view and modify the software's source code

Exercise 8: Give an example of system software.

Some possible answers include: Windows, Mac OS, Windows Firewall, Disk Defragmenter, device drivers

Exercise 9: Give an example of application software.

Some possible answers include: Microsoft Office, Skype, Adobe Reader, iTunes, web browser, email client etc.

Exercise 10: State one of the major benefits of graphical user interfaces.

A graphical user interface is generally easier to learn for new users.

Exercise 11: State one of the major benefits of command-line interfaces.

Command line interfaces allow several commands to be combined together meaning tasks can be completed faster.