**UTILITY SOFTWARE**

**Utility software** is [system software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_software) designed to help analyze, configure, optimize or maintain a computer.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utility_software#cite_note-1)

Utility software usually focuses on *how* the computer infrastructure (including the [computer hardware](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_hardware), [operating system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system), [software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software) and [data](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_(computing)) storage) operates. Utility software, along with [operating system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system) software, is a type of [system software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_software), distinguishing it from [application software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_software).

Utility software categories

* [**Anti-virus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-virus) utilities scan for computer viruses.
* [**Archivers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_archiver) output a stream or a single file when provided with a directory or a set of files. Archive utilities, unlike archive suites, usually do not include compression or encryption capabilities. Some archive utilities may even have a separate un-archive utility for the reverse operation.
* [**Backup software**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backup_software) can make copies of all information stored on a disk and restore either the entire disk (e.g. in an event of [disk failure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_disk_failure)) or selected files (e.g. in an event of accidental deletion).
* [**Clipboard managers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clipboard_manager) expand the [clipboard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clipboard_(computing)) functionality of an operating system .
* [**Cryptographic**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filesystem-level_encryption) utilities encrypt and decrypt streams and files.
* [**Data compression**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_compression) utilities output a shorter stream or a smaller file when provided with a stream or file.
* [**Data synchronization**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_synchronization) utilities establish consistency among data from a source to a target data storage and vice versa. There are several branches of this type of utility:
  + [**File synchronization**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_synchronization) utilities maintain consistency between two sources. They may be used to create redundancy or backup copies but are also used to help users carry their digital music, photos and video in their [mobile devices](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_device).
  + [**Revision control**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revision_control) utilities are intended to deal with situations where more than one user attempts to simultaneously modify the same file.
* [**Debuggers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Debugger) are used to test and "debug" other programs, mainly to solve programming errors. Also utilized for [reverse engineering](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reverse_engineering) of software or systems.
* [**Disk checkers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_checker) can scan operating hard drive.
* [**Disk cleaners**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_cleaner) can find files that are unnecessary to computer operation, or take up considerable amounts of space. Disk cleaner helps the [user](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User_(computing)) to decide what to [delete](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_deletion) when their hard disk is full.
* [**Disk compression**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_compression) utilities can transparently [compress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_compression)/uncompress the contents of a disk, increasing the capacity of the disk.
* [**Disk defragmenters**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_defragmenter) can detect [computer files](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_file) whose contents are scattered across several locations on the [hard disk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_disk), and move the fragments to one location to increase efficiency.
* [**Disk partitions**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_partitioning) can divide an individual drive into multiple logical drives, each with its own file system which can be mounted by the operating system and treated as an individual drive.
* [**Disk space analyzers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_space_analyzer) for the visualization of disk space usage by getting the size for each folder (including sub folders) & files in folder or drive. showing the distribution of the used space.
* [**Disk storage**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_storage) utilities
* [**File managers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_manager) provide a convenient method of performing routine data management tasks, such as deleting, renaming, cataloging, uncataloging, moving, copying, merging, generating and modifying data sets.
* [**Hex editors**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hex_editor) directly modify the text or data of a file. These files could be data or an actual program.
* [**Memory testers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memory_tester) check for memory failures.
* [**Network utilities**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_utilities) analyze the computer's network connectivity, configure network settings, check data transfer or log events.
* [**Package managers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Package_manager) are used to configure, install or keep up to date other software on a computer.
* [**Registry cleaners**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Registry_cleaner) clean and optimize the [Windows Registry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Registry) by removing old registry keys that are no longer in use.
* [**Screensavers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screensaver) were desired to prevent [phosphor burn-in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phosphor_burn-in) on [CRT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathode_ray_tube) and plasma [computer monitors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_monitor) by blanking the screen or filling it with moving images or patterns when the computer is not in use. Contemporary screensavers are used primarily for entertainment or security.
* [**System monitors**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_monitor) for monitoring resources and performance in a computer system.
* [**System profilers**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_profiler) provide detailed information about the software installed and hardware attached to the computer.