

Peter Norton's[®] Introduction to Computers

Chapter 1

The Amazing Computer



Learning Objectives:

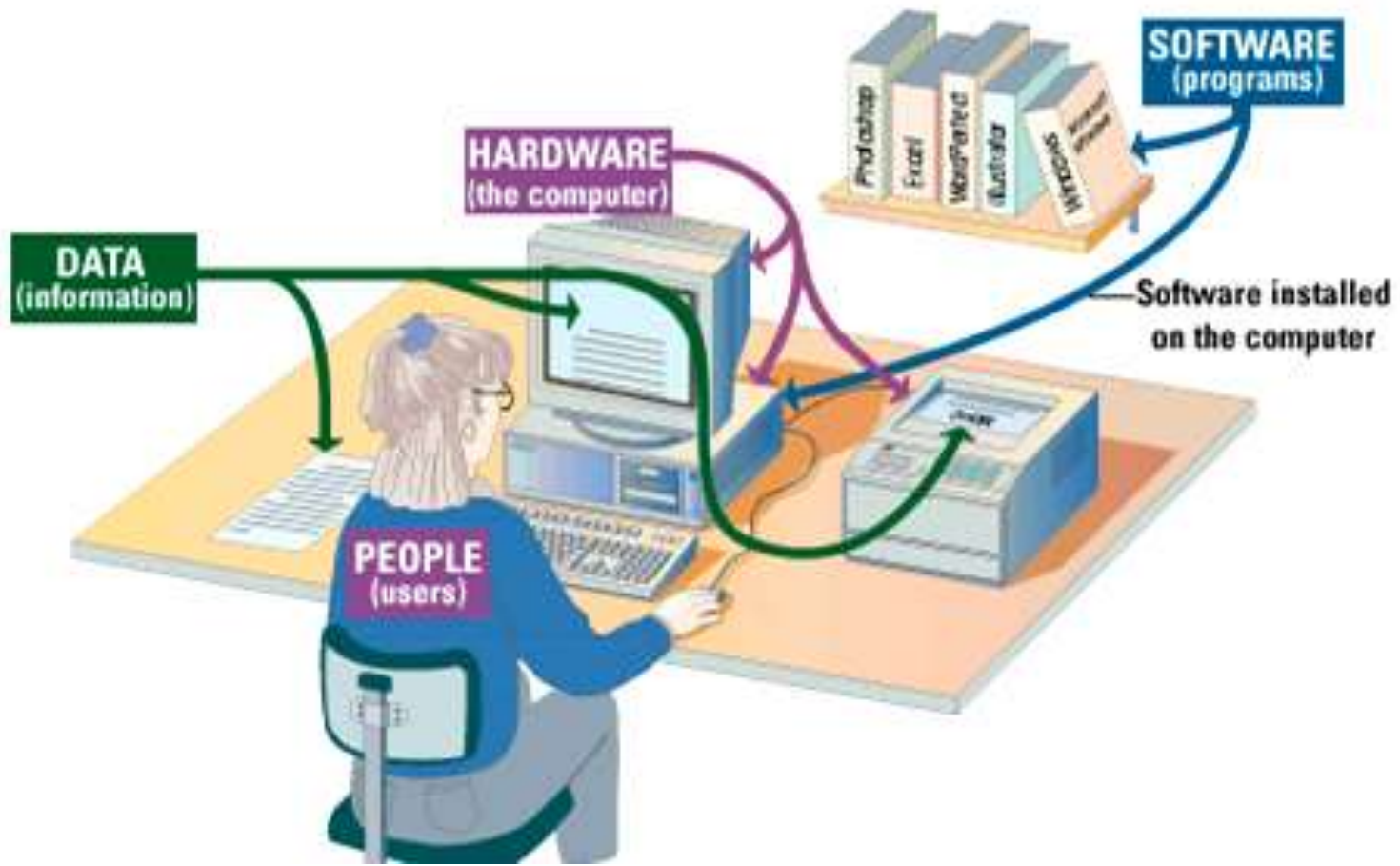
- List at least five professions in which computers are routinely used, and describe at least one of the ways computers have affected the work of people in those professions.
- List the four parts of a computer system.
- Identify four kinds of computer hardware.
- List the two major categories of software and explain the purpose of each.
- List the four most common types of computers available today and describe what kind of job each does best.

Computer - an electronic device
used to process data.



Computer System:

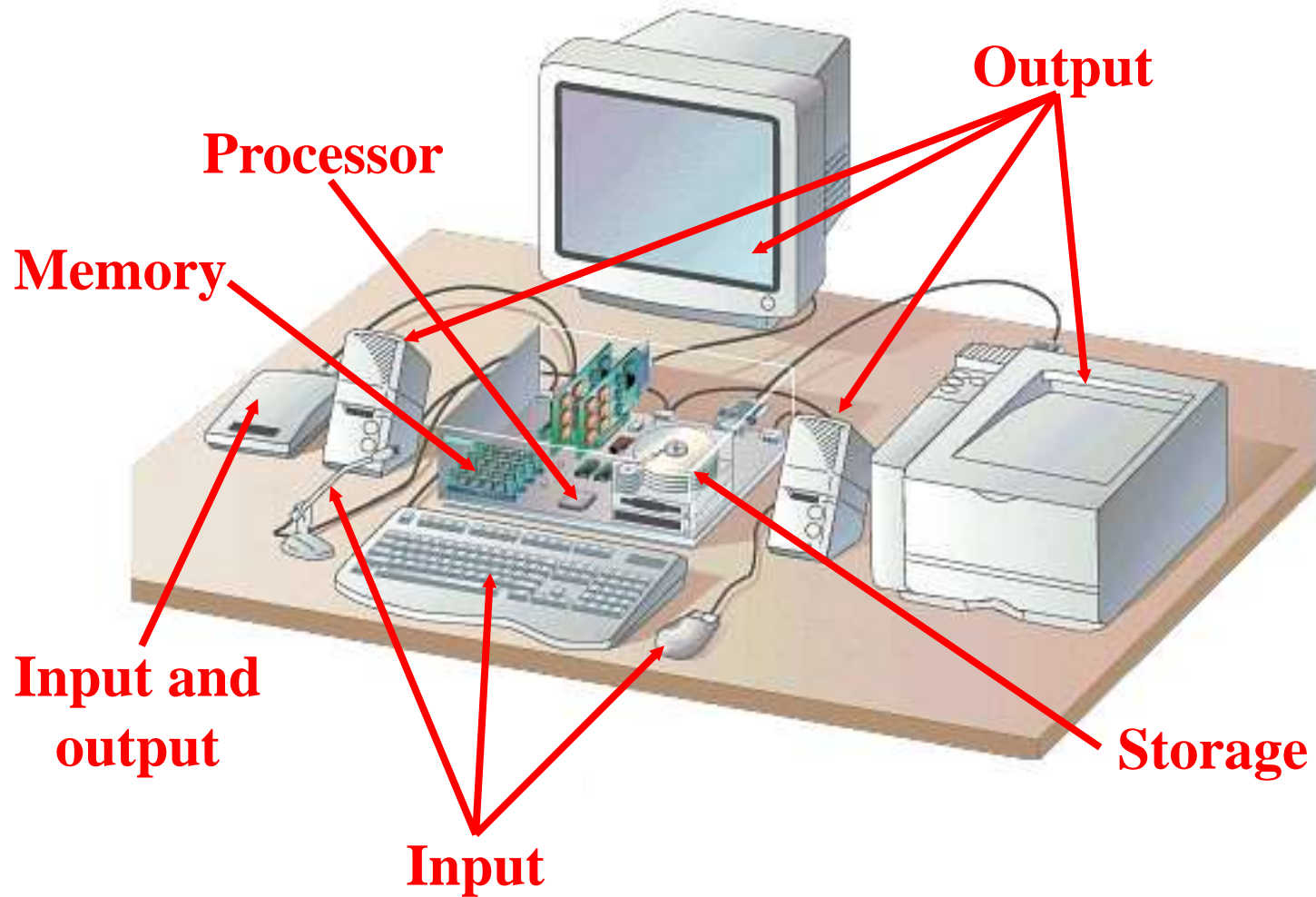
- **Hardware** - physical parts of the computer
- **Software** - instructions to the computer
- **Data** - raw facts the computer can manipulate
- **People** - also known as users



Computer Hardware - any part of the computer you can touch.

- Processor
- Memory
- Input and Output Devices
- Storage Devices

Some types of hardware devices.



Software - electronic instructions to the computer. Also referred to as a “program.”

Two types:

- System Software
- Application Software

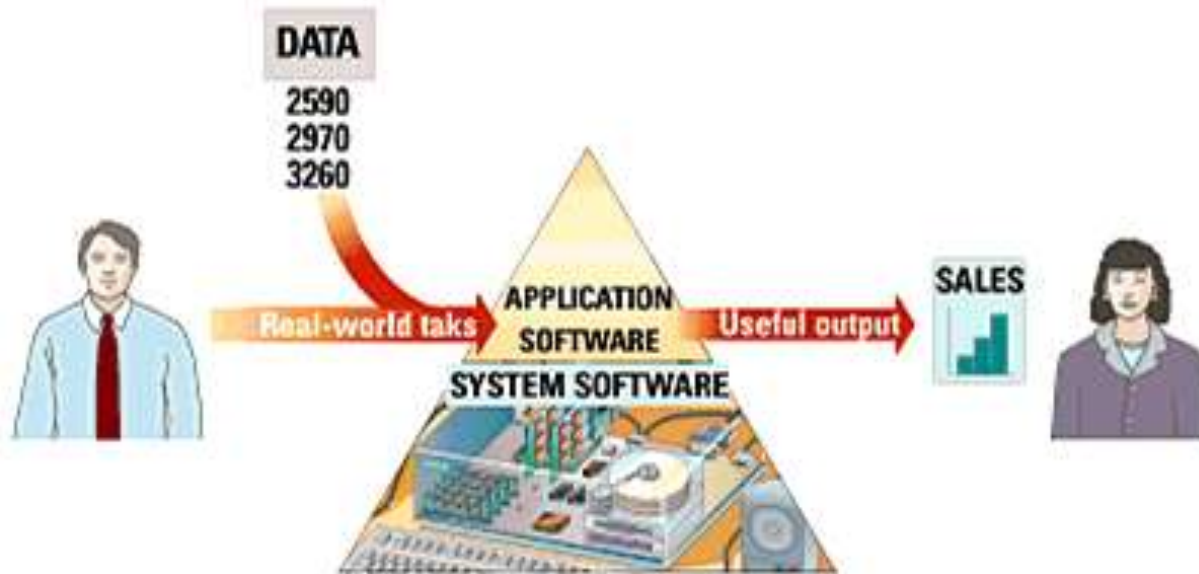
System Software:

- Operating Systems
 - Windows 95
 - Windows 98
 - OS/2
- Disk Utilities

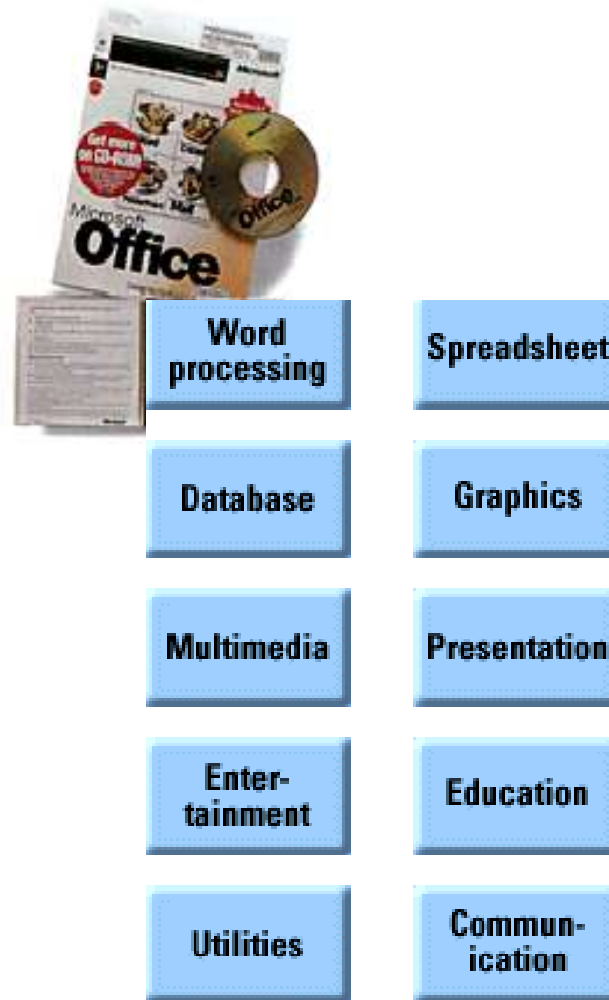
Application Software:

- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- Graphics
- Databases
- Entertainment
- Educational
- Communications
- Presentation

Application software and system software work together to provide useful output.



Software brings a computer to life.



Types of Computers:

- Supercomputer
- Mainframe
- Minicomputer
- Microcomputer



Mainframe computer



Supercomputer



Microcomputer



Minicomputer

Who Uses Computers?

- Military
- Doctors
- Educators
- Engineers
- Architects
- Musicians
- Filmmakers
- Attorneys
- Bankers

A medical team using “robodoc” to assist in surgery.



**Musicians can use MIDI technology
to compose and edit their work.**



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Chapter 1 Review

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