Utility Software

Each computer or Operating System will have a set of utility programs. They are designed to help manage and tune the computer hardware, operating system or application software (like Word, Excel, etc.) by performing a single task or a small range of tasks.

Example Utility Software

Disk defragmenters can detect computer files whose contents are broken across several locations on the hard disk, and move the fragments to one location to increase efficiency.

Disk checkers can scan the contents of a hard disk to find files or areas that are corrupted in some way, or were not correctly saved, and eliminate them for a more efficiently operating hard drive.

Disk cleaners can find files that are unnecessary to computer operation, or take up considerable amounts of space. Disk cleaner helps the user to decide what to delete when their hard disk is full.

Disk space analyzers for the visualization of disk space usage by getting the size for each folder (including subfolders) & files in folder or drive. showing the distribution of the used space.

Backup utilities can make a copy of all information stored on a disk, and restore either the entire disk (e.g. in an event of disk failure) or selected files (e.g. in an event of accidental deletion).

Disk compression utilities can transparently compress/uncompress the contents of a disk, increasing the capacity of the disk.

File managers provide a convenient method of performing routine data management tasks, such as deleting, renaming, moving, copying, merging, generating and modifying data sets.

Archive utilities 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.

System profilers provide detailed information about the software installed and hardware attached to the computer.

Data compression utilities output a shorter stream or a smaller file when provided with a stream or file.

Network managers check the computer's network, log events and check data transfer.

Exercise

Complete the table below

1) Find example software for the following tasks:

a) Disk defragmentaton b) Disk Partitioning c) Anti virus d) Data Compression

2) Anti virus is a vital form of protection for all computer systems. Explain the following terms in relation to virus attack.

a)Worm b) Trojan c) Virus Polymorphing

3) Describe the role of a Firewall in a computer network.