

# Computing Y11 – Utility Software

Key vocab	
Utility Software	Small programs that perform a limited range of functions to maintain and manage a system. They can be provided with an operating system or be added by a user.
Auto-Update	Programs designed to improve the performance of the system, fix bugs and eliminate security loopholes. The auto update facility ensures that the latest versions of software are installed to a computer system.
Disk Utilities	A system utility for performing disk and disk volume-related tasks. Examples include defragmenter, disk checking and repairing, system cleanup, antivirus / antimalware and encryption software.
Defragmentation	Reorganising files on the surface of a disk to create large areas of free space and eliminate unused fragments.
Disk checking and repair	Utilities designed to check for and fix bad links between file fragments and bad sectors on the disk.
System cleanup	System cleanup deletes temporary files, cached copies of files and unused files that can be removed safely to free up disk space.
Encryption software	Encryption of data to prevent anyone from gaining unauthorised access to the system and reading the data.
Compression	Software to compress data to use less space in memory, or prepare for

Other common utilities	
Calendar	File search facilities
Clock settings	Help tools
Email clients	Basic text editors
Backup types	
Backup	A backup, or the process of backing up, refers to the copying and archiving of computer data to be used to restore the original after a data loss event.
Full backup	All files on a drive are backed up each time that a backup is run.
Incremental backup	An initial backup is made of a system and changes regularly. Only new or changed files will be backed up in an incremental backup.
Differential backup	Only files that are new or have changed since the last full backup are changed.

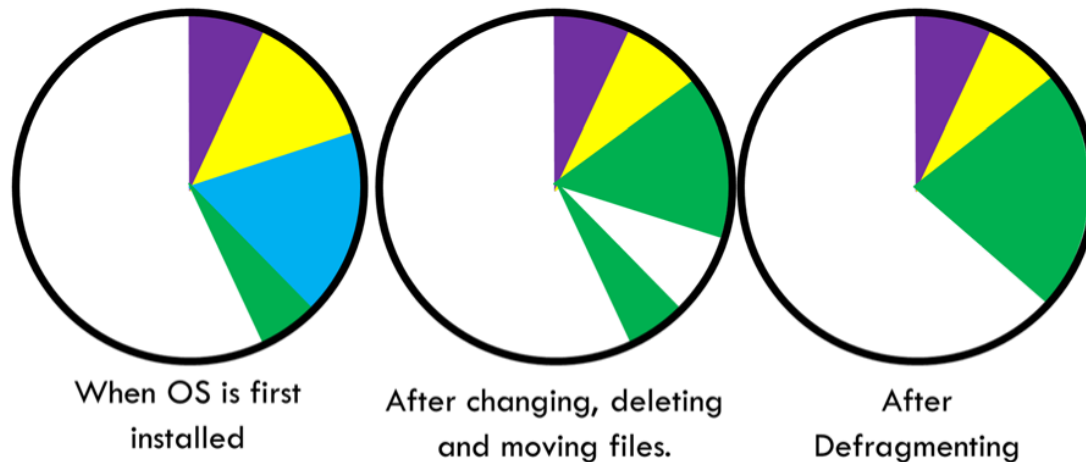


Figure 1 - Diagram showing how a disk defragmenter



Figure 2 - Examples of utility software.