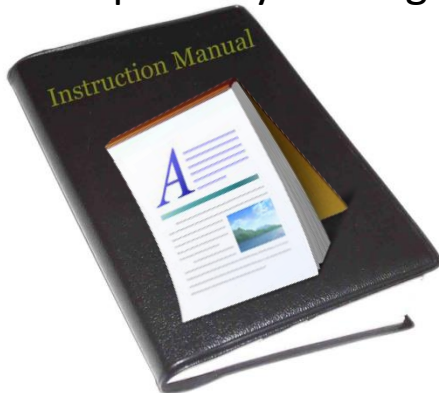


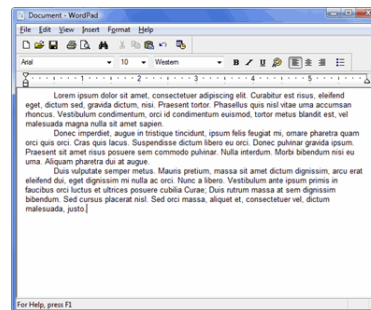
What is “software”... or how does a computer work?



The computer hardware is the physical metal and plastic that make up all the parts of the computer itself. By itself it can do very little, it is like a lump of clay waiting to be molded into something useful.



The computer program or **software** is an instruction manual *for the computer, in binary code*, telling the computer how to do something, for example, how to be a “WordPad” typewriter.



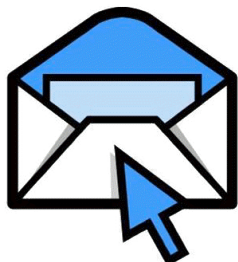
When you double-click on the program icon you tell the computer to “read the instruction manual” and learn how to become a virtual typewriter known as WordPad. You can now use the computer as if it was this special typewriter.

BUT HERE IS THE AMAZING THING... just like the lump of clay, when you open the next software program the computer can become remolded into a CD player... or a virtual deck of cards... or a newspaper... or a thousand different things.

What Can You Do with a Computer?



Listen to Music



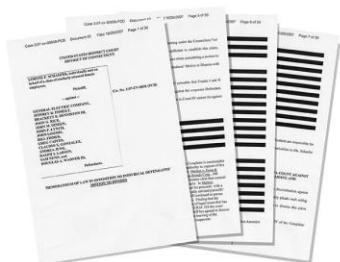
Send & Receive Electronic Mail



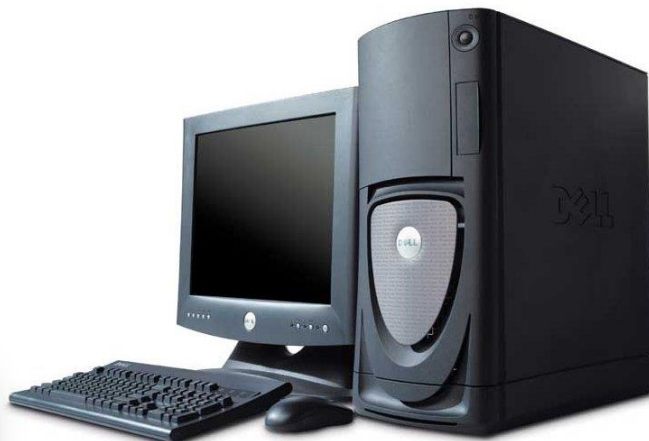
Work with Digital Pictures



Play Games



Write Letters



Browse the World Wide Web



View Grocery Ads



Find Recipes



Research Genealogy



Read the News

And much, much more...