Unit 2 — Introduction to Software

Abort

to end a program or a process before its completion

"When the word processor application crashed, the user had to abort the program and lose all his unsaved changes."

Bug

an error or glitch in a computer program caused by a programmer's mistake

"An average developer will create one bug for every 10 lines of code written."

Closed source

software in which the license stipulates that the user cannot see, edit, or manipulate the source code of a software program

"I wanted to develop a new feature for the program, but I couldn't because it was closed source."

Compatible

capable of being used without modification

"The IBM 360 was the first commercially successful computer family with a wide range of compatible parts."

Crash

a computer failure which aborts an application or freezes an operating system

"The user was advised to reboot the computer after a serious crash in which the computer no longer responded."

End user

a person who uses a product or service on a computer

"Developers must maintain a close relationship with end users if they want to have a successful career."

Error

an incorrect action attributable to poor judgment, ignorance, or inattention

"The computer reported a "division by zero" error and automatically aborted the program."

Execute

to start a program on a computer

"The program was set to execute every night at midnight."

Feature

something a computer program is "supposed" to do; often a reason to buy or upgrade software

"The man upgraded his copy of Word because of a new feature that allowed him to spell-check documents in Spanish."

IDE (Integrated development environment)

an application normally consisting of a source code editor, a compiler and/or interpreter, build-automation tools, and a debugger

"The new employee asked his boss to buy him a license for his favorite IDE because there was none installed on his new company laptop."

Open source

a program in which the code is distributed allowing programmers to alter and change the original software as much as they like

"The article stated that many programmers prefer open source solutions because they can modify features and fix bugs without waiting for an upgrade or patch from the manufacturer."

Programmer

a person who writes or modifies software

"The software company needed to hire three new programmers to help debug their flagship application."

Proprietary

privately developed and owned technology

"Because of proprietary code, you may not modify or redistribute the source code of Windows or Macintosh operating systems."

Restriction

a rule or law which limits or controls access to something

"The video website had content restrictions in place for users under the age of 18."

Usability

a measure of how easy or hard a program is to use

"Back in the late 90s, programmers or salespeople would often be responsible for a website's usability; but nowadays we usually assign that task to a properly trained UX designer."