

Program

This is a term used to describe the step-by-step procedures which the computer must take in order to solve a particular problem. The computer in itself can only do what it is directed to do. It can only answer a question "yes" or "no" and by a process of elimination through program control it can come up to the most logical or most correct answer. In order to make each of these steps it is necessary that they be programed into the computer. The reason why the computer is so effective, of course, is because it can determine these answers at extremely high speeds and thereby spill out this information very rapidly much much faster than what a person could do.

Computer System

A computer system would be considered as a complete computer environment which would include the central processor or main frame, all of the peripherals, all of the programs necessary to solve all of the problems that are brought to this particular computer. It includes the hardware, software, the people, the facility. It is all inclusive of everything associated with a particular computer.

System

This term would not necessarily have the connotation that the term computer system has. It would possibly be one small portion of the overall computer system; e.g., the assembly of procedures or processes or methods which would be used to run the computer is sometimes called an operating system. A system that controls the overall operation of the computers and determines priorities of certain input/output devices is referred to as an executive system. This would determine whether or not it should print-out the checks for example or whether it should read-in additional data prior to printing out the checks. These priorities are established as part of the executive system, therefore, the term system can be very very widely used and without an adjective describing the particular system it does not become a full and meaningful word in the computer language.