

lead in

► The title of the previous Unit makes use of a *simile*.

Do you remember it?

Soft as velvet, soft as butter, and soft as silk are similes, too, all used to emphasize that something (e.g., a fabric) is very soft.

Of course, you all know what soft means when it refers to computers, so you can easily guess that this Unit is about **software**. Before you start doing the activities below, work in pairs and say what you expect the Unit to cover. You can choose some topics from the following list:

modems / types of software / history of various operating systems / graphics card / word processor / programming languages / databases

► **Activity 1:** The following passage provides a simple definition of the word **software**. Fill in the gaps with suitable words. You can choose from the list below:

entire / browser / set / associated / operate / tangible / ranges

Software is a (1) _____ of instructions, or, in other words, a program that tells computer hardware how to (2) _____. The term 'software' was coined to differentiate this set of instructions from hardware, i.e., the (3) _____ components of a computer. Software comprises the (4) _____ set of programs and procedures (5) _____ with the operation of a computer system. There are a host of software programs available. Software (6) _____ from the Windows or Linux operating system that manages your computer, to the Web (7) _____ you use to peruse the Internet.

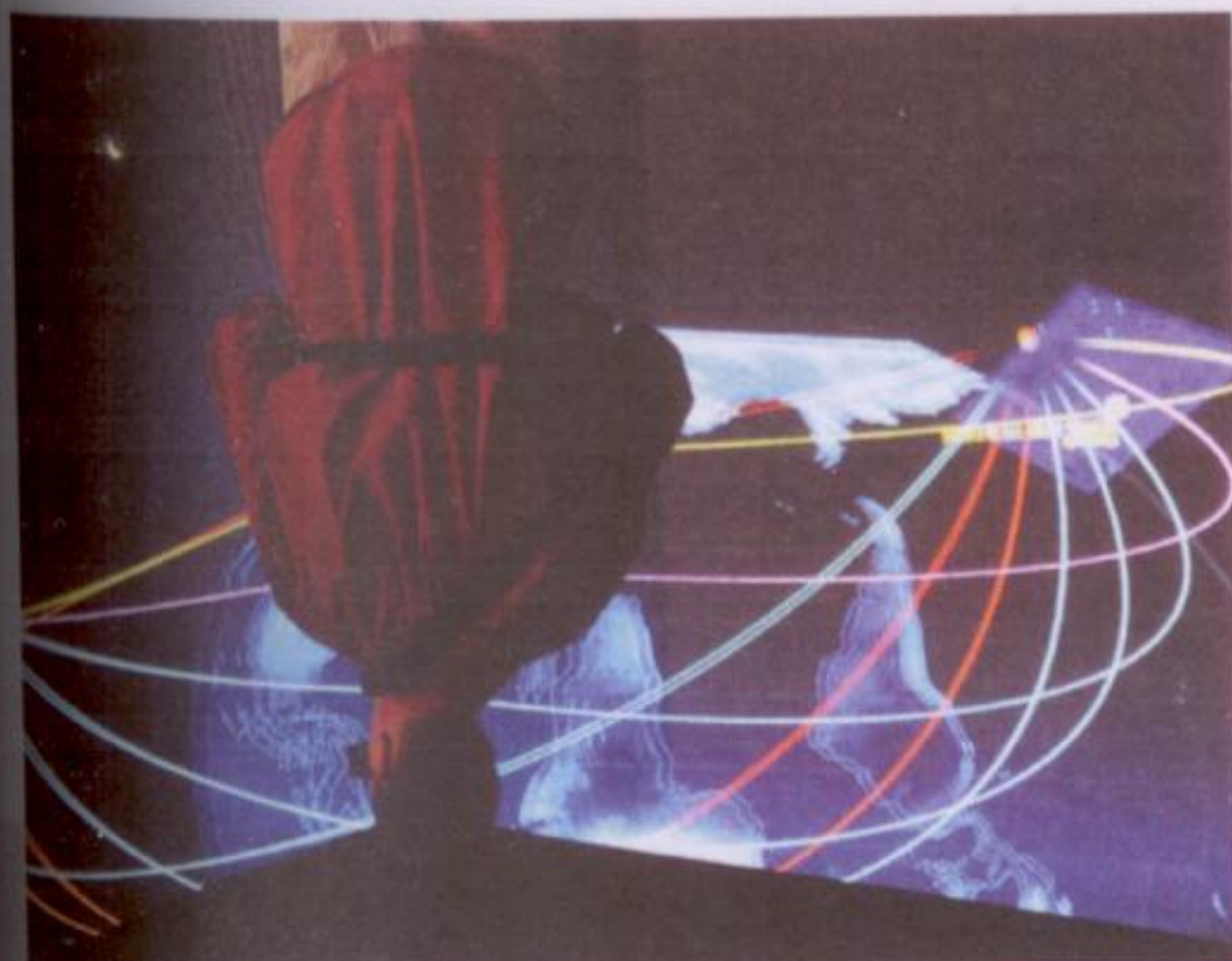
► **Activity 2:** Match the three types of software with their functions:

Types of software		Functions
1. System software	a. coordinates communication between the computers linked in a network	
2. Application software	b. controls the internal functioning of a computer, chiefly through an operating system. It also controls peripherals, such as monitors, printers, storage devices, etc.	
3. Network software	c. directs the computer to execute commands given by the user. It includes programs that process data, such as word processors, spreadsheets, database management systems, inventory and payroll programs, etc.	



"Computers themselves, and software yet to be developed, will revolutionize the way we learn."

Steve Jobs



At Idaho National Laboratory, SOPHIA is a cyber security software tool that helps protect energy sector networks and control systems.