



## Software, Firmware & Hardware

What's the difference between software, firmware and hardware? Think of it as a sliding scale of permanence.

### Software

Software is the set of user programs running on a system that are designed to be updated often by those users.

### Firmware

Firmware is semi-permanent software running on a system that may or may not be updated often, and usually require a higher level of skill or effort

### Hardware

Hardware is the physical components of a system that the software and firmware run on.

**Remember:** Software is the most temporary and malleable. Firmware is semi-permanent software that's tied more directly to the hardware and updated less often, while hardware is the physical components themselves. These are the most permanent.

Permanence and update change frequency—it's an interesting way to think about it.