

A computer can only do what it is told to do. It cannot think for itself.....at least not yet.

We, as humans, use software (programs) to accomplish the task of telling the computer what to do. But the computer doesn't understand the human languages that are used to tell it what to do.

So what has to be done, so it will understand, is to translate our languages to its language of 1's and 0's (see the ezpak named **What Is A Computer**). This is done in 2 conversion processes, basically. There is more involved, but it's information that is not needed to understand this topic.

Let's say you only speak English, and you want to converse with someone who only speaks French. This would then require a translator. Get the picture yet?

Okay, now let's apply this concept to an example where a human wants to talk to a computer. Humans write software in their respective language, using words, symbols, and numbers. Please keep in mind that this is just an overall general explanation. There is, of course, much more involved.

Now we have a program written by a human that tells the computer what to do. But if we load it as is, the computer just sits there confused. It can't read that program. So, once the human is finished with the program, they will "compile" the software into the computer language. This is done with a special program. Then it is stored on a storage device. (hard drive, cd, dvd, etc.)

This process is the "translator". In the end, the program written by the human is now just a big ole' list of 1's and 0's that the computer understands. Pretty cool, uh? **TIPPER Says**....this computer list is much, much, much bigger than the original software written by humans. Just thought you would like to know that so you can sleep better at work.

Then, once the computer processes the command the human gave it, it can send it back to the human on a monitor, a printer, etc. It's so very fast, it's mind boggling.

Everything the computer does is a result of software written by humans....directly or indirectly. When a computer is turned on, it is "really dumb". There is no software loaded yet to tell it what its job is. So it just sits there, until.....the BIOS is booted up.

This is where a very important, small program comes into being. You may have heard the slang term for it.....a "bootstrap" program....or "BIOS". The term BIOS is an acronym meaning **B**asic **I**nput **O**utput **S**ystem. Since the computer is a stupid box of parts when it's turned on, the BIOS is needed to "teach" it. It's basically a small software circuit that resides on the main circuit board. It tells the computer what it has in the way of storage, memory, keyboard, mouse, and so on. This way the computer can do its job properly. From that point forward, it starts doing what it's told what to do.

And that's how a computer is educated. That wasn't too difficult, was it?

BestFriendz Enterprises
1440 Beaumont Ave., SPC A2-146
Beaumont, CA 92223

Phone : 1.909.206.1139
E-mail: pa@bestfriendz.com
Web Site: <http://www.bestfriendz.com>

