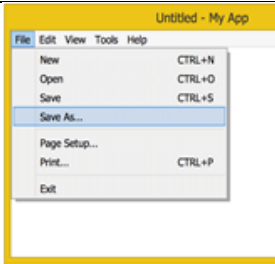






Year 8 Computing: Summer 1- User interface Design

	Key term	Definition
1	User interface	A user interface is the method by which the user and the computer exchange information and instructions.
2	Command	An instruction given to a computer
3	Input	Data which is inserted into a system for processing and/or storage
4	Output device	A device used to output data or information from a computer, eg a monitor, printer or speakers.
5	Software	The programs, applications and data in a computer system. Any parts of a computer system that aren't physical.

Types of user interface

Text based interface	A text interface works by the user entering special commands with the keyboard. When these have been entered, the user interface will then respond.	
Command line interface	A command-line interface allows the user to interact with the computer by typing in commands. The computer displays a prompt, the user keys in the command and presses enter or return.	
Graphical user interface	Sometimes shortened to GUI. The user chooses an option usually by pointing a mouse at an icon representing that option.	

Features of GUIs include:

- They are much easier to use for beginners.
- They enable you to easily exchange information between software using cut and paste or 'drag and drop'.
- They use a lot of memory and processing power. It can be slower to use than a command-line interface if you are an expert user.
- They can be irritating to experienced users when simple tasks require a number of operations