Data Flow Diagram

Data flow diagram symbols, symbol names, and examples

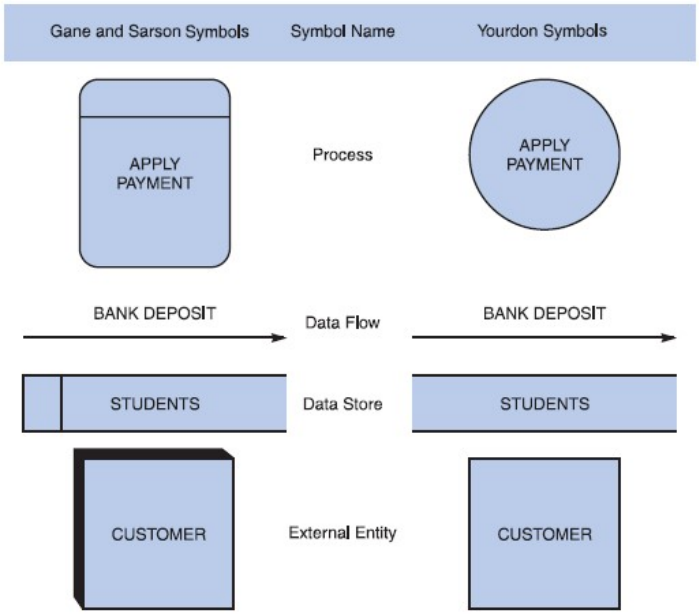

Figure B-5 Data flow diagram symbols, symbol names, and examples of the Gane and Sarson and Yourdon symbol sets.

Guidelines for Drawing DFDs

Step 1: Draw a Context Diagram: The first step in constructing a set of DFDs is to draw a context diagram. A **context diagram** is a top-level view of an information system that shows the system's boundaries and scope. Data stores are not shown in the context diagram because they are contained within the system and remain hidden until more detailed diagrams are created.

Example

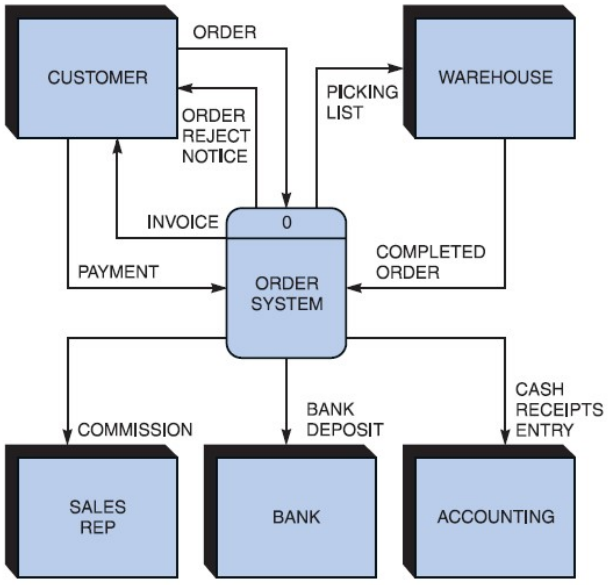

Figure B-6 Context diagram DFD for an order system.

Step 2: Draw a Diagram 0 DFD: To show the detail inside the black box, you create DFD diagram 0. **Diagram 0** zooms in on the system and shows major internal processes, data flows, and data stores. Diagram 0 also repeats the entities and data flows that appear in the context diagram. When you expand the context diagram into DFD diagram 0, you must retain all the connections that flow into and out of process 0.

Example

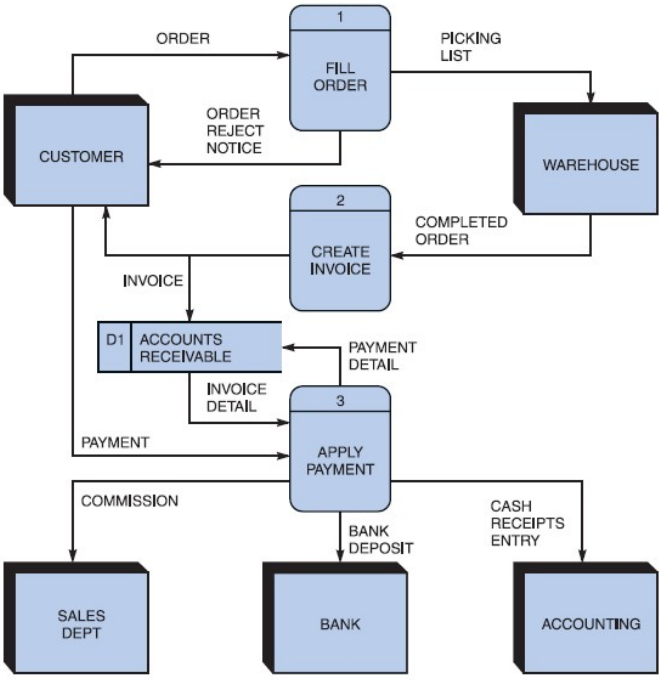

Figure B-7 Diagram 0 DFD for the order system.

Step 3: Draw the Lower-Level Diagrams:

To create lower-level diagrams, you must use leveling and balancing techniques. **Leveling** is the process of drawing a series of increasingly detailed diagrams, until all functional primitives are identified.

Leveling Example

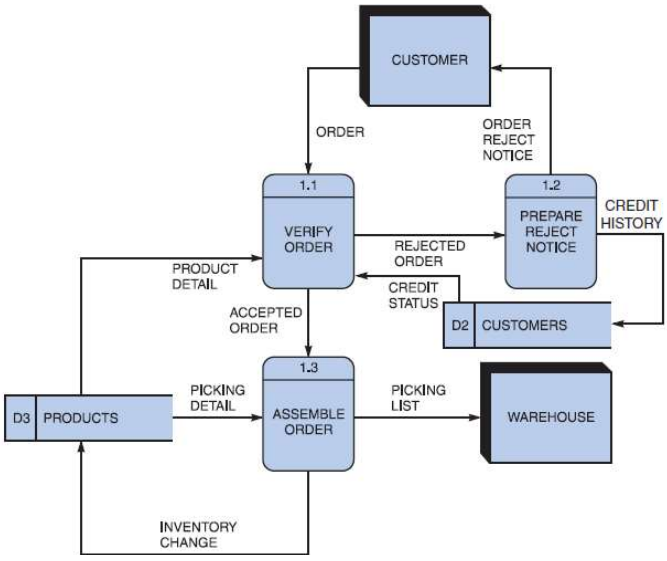

Figure B-8 Diagram 1 DFD shows details of the FILL ORDER process in the order system.