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Lab#1 Short Essays

1). The hierarchical model discussed in class, identifies data as if it were in a hierarchy. Through this, it organizes the data that is placed it in from most important to most common thus giving it context. Contrasting examples of "data" and "information" that illustrate the meaninglessness of "data" without context, would be the stats of an athlete or the prices of items at a store. Without any labels or proper context, it will just be read as a smorgasbord of random rational numbers. However, with the proper labels or symbols, it will give meaning to the numbers, and thus turn the data into information. The more understandable the labels and/or symbols, the better. It will also reduce the chances of "dangerous data" from occurring, as it does happen if there is no context.

2.) The hierarchical database organizes data like it was in a hierarchy, while network database has data organized from parent files to child. The only difference between the two models is that the hierarchy models do not share the same members of the hierarchy, whereas the network model does so. The relational model had the data organized into tables for easier access of viewing and modifying data. As a model of data storage, XML does seem to be very organized, as it has its data in a hierarchal nested structure, with its elements tagged.