**Data Flow Diagrams**

Software engineering

A data flow diagram is represented in diagrammatical data which gives you information about how data flows in a system. It gives you the source of data and how the data interacts with each other to produce the necessary output. A data flow diagram (DFD) maps out the flow of information for any process or system. It uses defined symbols like rectangles, circles and arrows, plus short text labels, to show data inputs, outputs, storage points and the routes between each destination. Data flowcharts can range from simple, even hand-drawn process overviews, to in-depth, multi-level DFDs that dig progressively deeper into how the data is handled. They can be used to analyze an existing system or model a new one.

A data flow diagram can dive into progressively more detail by using levels.

----------------------------------------IMAGE HERE--------------------------------------

**DFD LEVEL 0 DIAGRAM**

DFD Level 0 is also called a Context Diagram. It’s a basic overview of the whole system or process being analyzed or modeled. It’s designed to be an at-a-glance view, showing the system as a single high-level process, with its relationship to external entities.

----------------------------------------IMAGE HERE--------------------------------------

**DFD LEVEL DIAGRAM 1**

DFD Level 1 provides a more detailed breakout of pieces of the Context Level Diagram. It highlight’s the main functions carried out by the system, as breaking down the high-level process of the Context Diagram into its subprocesses.

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**DFD LEVEL DIAGRAM 2**

DFD Level 2 then goes one step deeper into parts of Level 1. It may require more text to reach the necessary level of detail about the system’s functioning.