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Database Management

Prof. Labouseur

4 September 2017

Data vs. Information

The database I am selecting that is used today is Oracle's MySQL. It's an open source database that is mostly used by Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, etc. The elements of data that are stored in its databases can be anything. MySQL stores data in multiple different formats which are then categorized. The data inputted into the database becomes information once it has been categorized by types such as numerical, character, etc. For example, Twitter's database might contain tweets of every single one of their users. All those tweets would have to be stored with some sort of parameters. That data wouldn't be useful without the organizational tags or values that correspond to said tweets in order to trace them back to their respective users. Twitter even uses hashtags too, which is another classification method in itself. Without the context of tags or values, there would be no organizational method and it would be complete chaos to find things. Once all the data has been classified and organized with its proper tags and values, it makes it very easy to search and cross reference information. When searching for specific information the database must have everything sorted and stored because if not that data would be meaningless and useless. Once organized, data becomes extremely valuable at providing information.

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Data Models

Network pre relational data models are usually a bunch of files that must be referenced in each other in order to find other data in their respective categories. For example, in an online store, a customer would order some sort of good online and have it delivered to them. They would receive an order confirmation and in that confirmation receipt, it would have an order number, a description of what they bought, the personal information of the customer (such as their address and other contact info), and most likely the contact of the stores representative. All of this information is stored under the order number, but if an employee were looking for a list of customers who purchased a certain specific good, they could simply look up the good and find a list of every customer who has ever purchased said good. Each component is connected and can be cross referenced. The shortcomings of this database would be when a new component / field wants to be edited or added all the other components must be moved and changed to know to also reference the new component / field that was created. In Hierarchical data models, it's almost similar to network pre relational models but it has a parent child relationship. The main field is the parent and every other field branches down from that. Everything relates to one another and can be traced all the way back to the parent field no matter how far along you go. As

for XML, it's useful for moving data and its information from database to database but not particularly for storing it.

