Brian Powers

Allen Labouseur

Lab 1

January 24, 2017

Short Essay 1 : Data vs Information

I would like to tell you about a software called “The Specialist”. It is a software I am designing in my free time and it would have an interesting database. It is a software to help Dyslexics over come their specific form of dyslexia. Through doing reading comprehension, word search and vocabulary exercises the system will then consider what specific problems they are having and comparing them to multiple common forms of dyslexia. From that comparison, we can give people the best tips and tricks to accommodate their learning disability. Through having a single word highlighted on the page and having the user press side on the arrow keys the system is able to understand their reading speed; That data is simply how much a button is pressed but when that data is transferred into information we can understand how fast the voice option should read to the user.

Short Essay 2: Data Models

The Pre-Relational Databases such as hierarchical or network are flawed for the minor abstract examples that a system could encounter. Hierarchical databases are a database model that is a tree-like structure. Each layer is linked to a piece of the previous layer. The problem with this is something in the third layer cannot be linked to multiple parts of the second layer. In short it cannot account for redundancies. Network is an upgrade from hierarchical data, for the fact that it can account for some redundancy. It is a portrait in which objects are nodes and relationships are depicted as arcs. Although network has its positives it is mainly made for simpler systems. That being said XML can be used the same way that a network database can be except XML isn’t used for pure data as much as it is used for documents. XML can be very helpful if you were working in a system and you need to store portions of data and don’t need the benefits of an SQL database.