Exploring the Philosophy of Data

In this survey, we will explore the philosophy of Data. The first question will ask you to vividly imagine yourself in one of your past job or life experience roles, so to get you in the right mindset for the rest of the questions.

The 25 questions of the survey, expected to take around half an hour, will ask you to categorize very short scenarios as Data, Information, or Knowledge and then to quickly explain your categorization in a few sentences.

The intent of this survey is to probe your philosophy of data through indirect categorization, so as to differentiate your applied understanding from any theoretical definitions you have.

Welcome, and thank you for choosing to participate in this survey on the Philosophy of Data. This survey is being presented as part of data gathering for Brian Ballsun-Stanton's study, HREC ethics approval 09298. If you have any concerns, questions, or complaints, please contact the ethics secretariat. If you have any questions or comments about the questions below, please contact brianb@student.unsw.edu.au

This survey is completely anonymous and we ask that participants not take it multiple times.

The survey software will allow you to resume later by creating a login and password. Please do not use an identifiable user name for this. While it is impossible to associate your username with the survey, it is also useful to not be able to identify the username. At any time you may choose to exit and submit or exit and clear the survey. No record will be kept of people who exit and clear the survey.
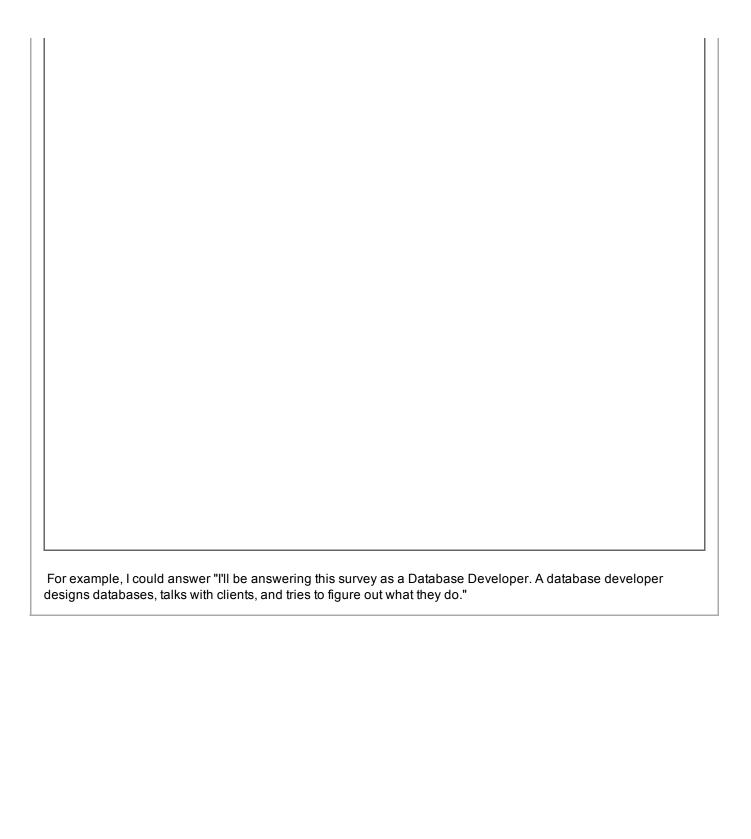
There are 53 questions in this survey

Thinking about your role

This survey is exploring what you think about Data. To do that, the survey will present a list of short "scenarios". We will ask you to categorize the scenario as involving Data, Information, Knowledge, or something else, depending on your own understanding of the terms.

We believe that people can have different philosophies, depending on what job they're doing. For this survey we ask that you think about the scenarios from the perspective of one of your jobs.

1 This survey has requested that you answer it from the perspective of one of the jobs that you do. Please describe the duties of that job (in general).

Please write your answer here:

For example, I could answer "I'll be answering this survey as a Database Developer. A database developer designs databases, talks with clients, and tries to figure out what they do."

Scenario 1

I am trying to understand what you think of as Data, and why.

The questions below ask you to categorize the scenario, and then explain the categorization.

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Alice receives a **letter** from Bob.

The questions below ask you to categorize the scenario, and then explain the categorization.
An example category that "letters from Bob" may fall into could be "Data" If it is simply that, then indicate the category it does belong to.

Then please, in a sentence or two, explain why you categorized the scenario as you did.

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2 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ○ Data
- ○ Information
- ○ Knowledge
- ○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

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3 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

[   ]

Scenario 2

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Alice receives a letter from Bob containing **instructions** on how to build a machine.

4 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

5 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 3

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Alice receives a letter from Bob containing a **short story** he has written.

6 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ○ Data
- ○ Information
- ○ Knowledge
- ○ Other [_____]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

7 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 4

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Alice determines the **locations for parts** of a Rube Goldberg style machine to cook her breakfast.

8 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [ ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

9 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 5

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Alice receives a letter from Bob. The letter is a **time chart** of what shows he has watched on TV for the last week.

10 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

11 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 6

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Bob receives an e-mail from Alice, it is a **record of the daily temperatures** outside her apartment for the last week.

12 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

13 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 7

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Bob receives a flash drive from Alice. It contains **mp3 music files**.

14 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [_____]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

15 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 8

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Bob attends a symphony with Alice and enjoys the **live music**.

16 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ◯ Data
- ◯ Information
- ◯ Knowledge
- ◯ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

17 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 9

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Bob **ignores** the traffic noise outside the symphony.

18 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

19 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 10

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- As Bob is mugged walking home, the mugger **demands** his wallet and watch.

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20 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [_____]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

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21 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 11

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Charlotte finds a microfilm in a hollow coin, it contains a **list of numbers and times** about something unknown.

22 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [_____]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

23 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 12

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Charlotte finds a microfilm in a hollow coin, but cannot decypher the **code**.

24 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

25 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 13

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Charlotte finds **the secret key** to the code, and realizes it's a letter for technical support to the spy's handlers.

26 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ○ Data
- ○ Information
- ○ Knowledge
- ○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

27 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

[   ]

Scenario 14

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Charlotte finds a microSD card in a hollow coin, it contains **a planning program** for something unknown.

28 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

29 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 15

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Charlotte creates **a statistical profile** of a spy, to predict their actions.

30 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

31 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 16

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Dave **lectures** to a classroom about database design.

32 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

33 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 17

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Dave grades **quizzes** from a relational alegabra course.

34 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ◯ Data
- ◯ Information
- ◯ Knowledge
- ◯ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

35 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 18

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Dave discusses the **reasons** behind one of Eve's incorrect answers.

36 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

37 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

[   ]

Scenario 19

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Dave writes a survey asking people to **describe their impressions** of a user interface.

38 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

39 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 20

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Dave saves an **empty word document** in preparation for his later work on a conference paper.

40 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

41 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 21

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Eve writes **poetry** describing the winter wind.

42 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ⃝ Data
- ⃝ Information
- ⃝ Knowledge
- ⃝ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

43 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 22

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Eve interviews students for the campus TV station and gets **short quotes** for her topic.

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44 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

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45 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

[   ]

Scenario 23

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Eve looks at **the weather report** and decides to bring an umbrella.

46 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

47 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 24

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Eve receives a letter from an ex-boyfriend, **telling** her to take her stuff back.

48 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

49 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 25

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Frank **selects** which instrument readings to include in his experiment.

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50 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else"

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51 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Scenario 26

Please read the following one sentence scenario. Categorize the highlighted word or phrase in context of the scenario.

- Frank **designs** an experiment

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52 Please categorize the above scenario. *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

○ Data

○ Information

○ Knowledge

○ Other [   ]

Please be as precise as you desire. If something is not easily categorized as "Data", "Information", or "Knowledge" You are welcome to use the "Other" choice to describe it more exactly. Perhaps it's completely different like "Emotion" or "Wisdom". Perhaps it's different from the other things you categorized, "Data as something" or "Information as something else."

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53 Please explain in one or two sentences why you categorized the scenario that way.

Please write your answer here:

Thank you for taking this survey. If you have any questions or comments about the survey please e-mail [me](.).

If you would like to discuss your philosophical intuitions about data, you are welcome to e-mail [me](.). This conversation will be covered under a strong confidentiality agreement and will not be linked to your survey responses.
21.08.2010 – 00:00

Submit your survey.
Thank you for completing this survey.