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Database Management

Lab 1

Data vs. Information

Databases today (real or imagined) contain information which is data with context. The elements or attributes of that data are identifiers such as a name and definition. The database organize data by giving it context so people can read and understand it. The database could take data like a number 1234 which is has no context so nobody knows what it means. The database will give 1234 attributes like its definition being a stock price and a unit like American dollars. Now users can read and understand the number because the database organized it.

The hierarchical model is a combination of linear models that are represented in different levels. The model is represented in a tree-like structure. Each child only can have one parent, but a parent can have multiple children. Relational data models are different and organized into tables making it a combination of the hierarchy model and the original file system model. The information can be organized and accessed in many different ways. The relational database model is a better model because of how it is not limited to the parent child relationship as the hierarchical and network models have. An example of a relational model would be two players in a game and some items the players have and do not have, there would be a table for each player, items, and inventory. XML is a good model for moving data to different databases but should not be used as a database itself.

