

Visualize data flows and behaviors to explain complex processes

Data Flow Diagram

a template brought to you by your friends at MURAL

INTRODUCTION

Data flow diagrams are typically used by IT and engineering teams to show the flow of information, source of data inputs, and how that data is stored. These visual representations of a system can help be used to explain complex processes to key stakeholders or to build out new structures with your team.

Data flow diagrams visualize relationships between external entities, processes, data stores, and data flows. You can visualize data flows with both parallel and asynchronous behaviors using our data flow diagram template.



PEOPLE
1+


TIME
1-3 hours



Intermediate


TOOL TIPS

Create connections at the speed of thought:

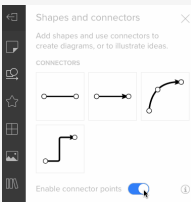



Hold **C** + click and drag to draw a connector.







Turn on connector points to create new diagrams faster.



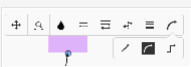



Click on the connector points to instantly add new connectors and shapes.



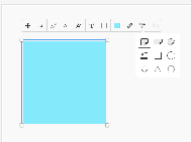



Change connector styles.



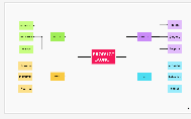



Switch between different shapes and sticky notes quickly.



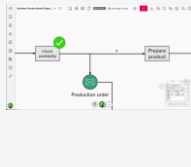


Bulk edit objects of the same type by filtering your selection from the toolbar.

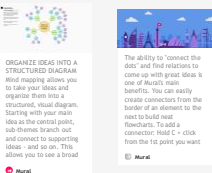




Add labels to connectors double click on the line or choose the “+T” symbol from the connector’s toolbar, then type your text.



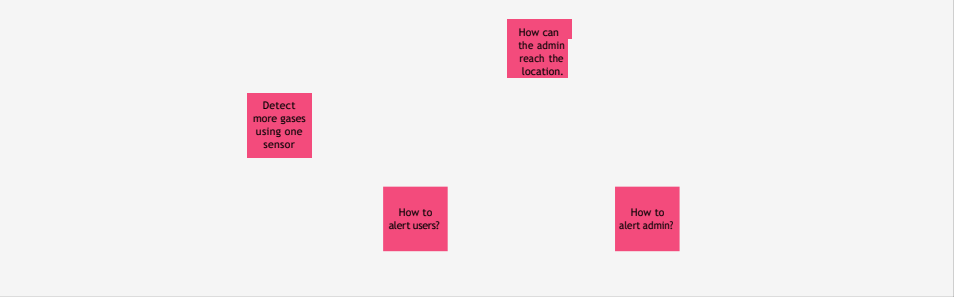
RESOURCES



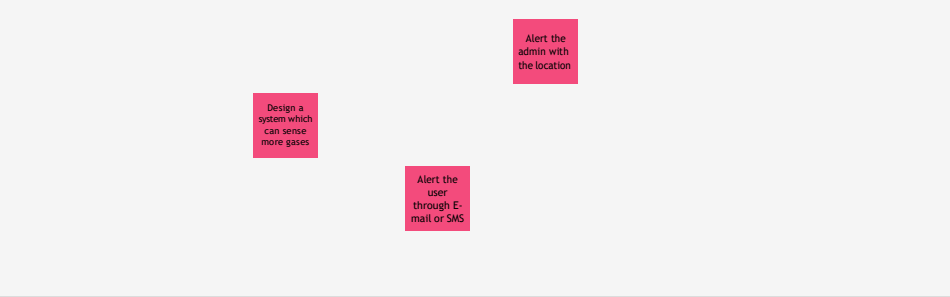
INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Define the process you want to visualize, or use a pre-existing one
- 2 Develop the data flow by using the shapes and connectors in the key
- 3 Adjust and fine tune the data flow
- 4 Review the data flow
- 5 Next Steps

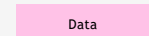
BRAINSTORMING AREA




NEXT STEPS



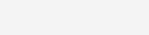
FLOW KEY


Data


This small rectangle is used for data that is required frequently or is produced in the process.


Process

This shape is used for actions or instructions, the things that must be done.



External entity


It is where data comes from or goes to. It is external to the process.



Connects elements of the flow.

VISUAL KEY

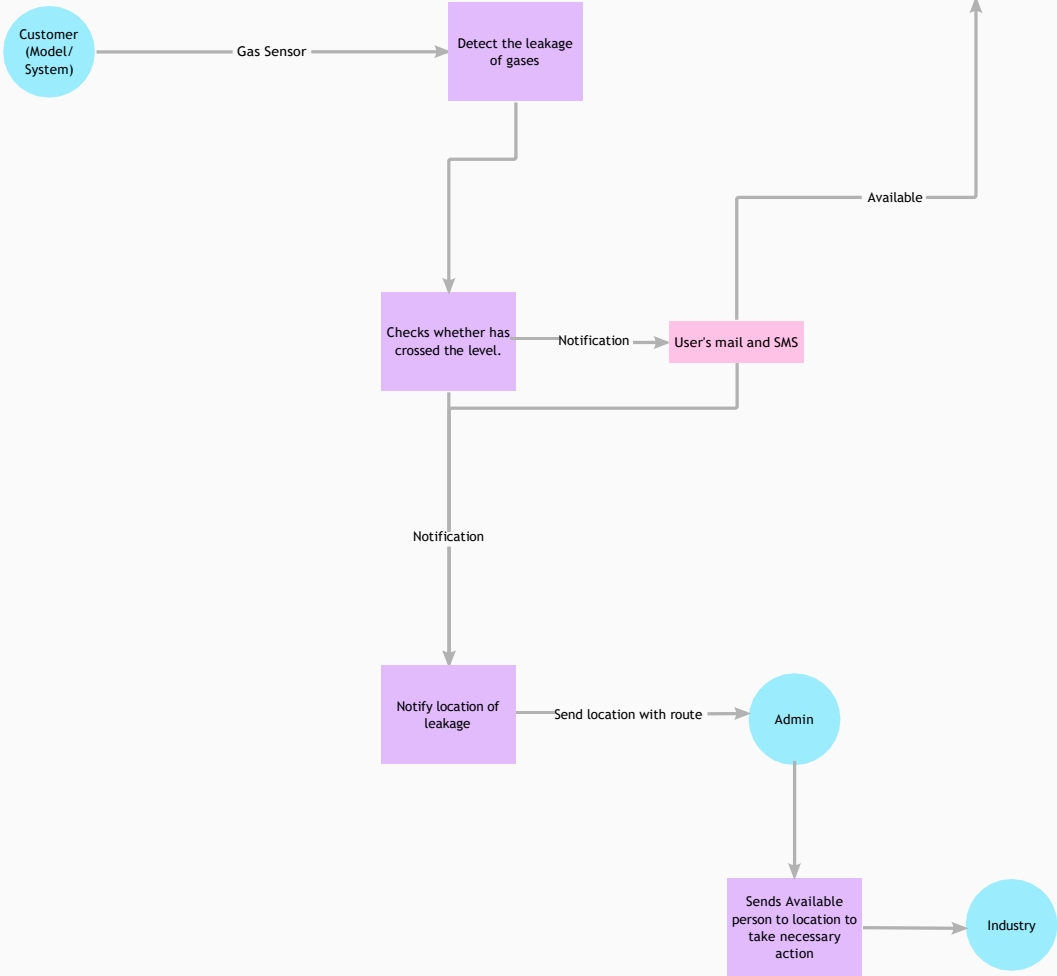
You can also make your diagrams more engaging by using images and icons!


Data


Process


External entity


Add your own!



Share your feedback