Data Versus Information
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Aperture Laboratories has the following set of data: “Alex, 2, 4.56, Raymond, 5, 30.1, Jessica, 6, 10.9, Little Tommy, 1, 0.5”. This data is given to a core for analysis. The core then becomes instantly corrupted, spitting out incorrect information such as “Alex, who has 2 brothers, is 4.56 inches. Raymond, with an IQ of 5, is 30.1 miles long.” Now, since Aperture science knows that Alex only has sisters, the scientists begin to suspect that the data is incorrect due to no context being assigned to the data.

Aperture Laboratories then give context to the information. Alex, Raymond, Jessica, and Little Tommy are inputted as the names of the test subject. The integer numbers are inputted as the last test the subject was assigned. The decimal numbers are input as the amount of time it took for the test subject to die. This is put into a new core for analysis as information, since it now has meaning ascribed to it. The core then returns the following knowledge, “The average time it took for test subjects to die is 11.515 hours.” The data turned out to be incorrect, as the core assumed that the time was measured in hours. In reality, the number was measured in seconds. It is very important to be as specific as possible when inputing data and its context.

By doing all of this, the core now has the following information about test subjects: “Alex died in test chamber 2 after 4.56 seconds. Raymond died in test chamber 5 after 30.1 seconds. Jessica died in test chamber after 10.9 seconds. Little Tommy died in test chamber one after 0.5 seconds.” This information is now accurate, and allows the Aperture scientists to make conclusions such as “Little Timmy was the worst tester out of the 4 inputted”.