**DATA FLOW DIAGRAMS**

It is one of the most important modeling tools used by system analysts. It is used to illustrate how data flows in a system. DFD’s use a number of symbols to represent systems. There are four kinds of symbols. These are used to represent four kinds of system components. Processes, data stores, data flows and external entities

**COMPONENTS OF A DFD**

**1. Process**

Process show what systems do. Each process has one or more data inputs and produces one or more data outputs. Processes are represented by circles in a DFD.

🡪 PROCESS

**2. Data Store**

A component of a DFD that describes the repository of data in a system.

DATASTORE

**3. External Entity**

An object outside the scope of the system. It is represented in a box.

External Entity

**4. Data flow**

It shows how data flows between process, data stores and external entities. They model the passage of data in the system and are represented by lines joining system components.

Data flowWe have no control of flows between external entities. So we do not model them. Similarly stores are passive and can’t have data flows between themselves.

**DATA FLOW DIAGRAM**

Customer

Admin

Healthcare Provider

DFD for Admin:

DFD for Health Care Provider:

DFD for Customer: