Context Diagram

A context diagram also known as a level 0 data flow diagram, is a diagram drawn in order to define and show the boundaries of a software system. It displays the flow of information between the system and external entities. It is beneficial because it illustrates how data is processed in a system through inputs and outputs. It is focused on the flow of information in the which it displays where data is stored, comes from and where it's taken. In general context diagrams, have the main system in the center represented by a circle in the center of the diagram. Around the center there is all the external entities involved in interacting with the system. The goal of a contact diagram is to focus the attention on external factors and events that should be considered When developing a complete completed system with a set of requirements and constraints.

In order to develop the initial context diagram, I focused on the functionality the software was required to have implemented. From this I looked into the note provided to me when eliciting requirements from the stakeholders. My focus was on the key points and needs the stakeholder mentioned throughout the process of elicitation requirements. I also was able to consider the constraints imposed by the clients to system. For the context diagram I mainly focus on the primary usage of the software system the functionality that would help the business and users achieve their goals. This way it would be most beneficial to the users and customers of the system as it helps software engineers to visualize the interaction of the system with external entities to develop the system. In order to draw out my context diagram I used the system known as SmartDraw. With SmartDraw I was easily able to develop the context diagram in which I use a circle to represent the system placed in the center of the diagram and the external entities are represented by rectangle with rounded edges around the system. There are arrows that show the flow of the given information as well as description labels to help people understand the purpose of the functions of external entities for the system.

Context Diagram Level 0 Data Flow Diagram (DFD)