

In hierarchal model involved going down the line one at a time to access any required information. This was inefficient because it required any information that was not currently being accessed by active members to be stored in an empty set of sorts, which took space, memory, and resources. Also, if multiple entities accessed the same attribute, they had to access it in their own hierarchy, which led to duplication of attributes.

The network model improved on this last point as it allowed multiple entities to access the same attributes, but there was still a problem as far as holding extra or unused data, as an empty set still had to be used.

XML is a semi structured model, which means it resembles a tree more than a table such as more common relational tables. XML reads a bit like a scripting language because of this, and such is the nature of scripting languages is limited because of it. I believe that XML has its uses, but the relational database is still superior.