

Raw Data

Raw data, also known as source data or atomic data, is data that has not been processed in order to be displayed in any sort of presentable form. The raw form may look very unrecognizable and be nearly meaningless without processing, but it may also be in a form that some can interpret, depending on the situation. Raw data can be processed manually or by a machine.

Raw data in some cases, can be nothing more than a series of numbers. However, the way those numbers are sequenced, and sometimes even the way they are spaced, can be very important information. A computer may interpret this information and give a readout that then may make sense to the reader.

Binary code is a good example of raw data. Taken by itself as a printout, a binary code does very little for the computer user, at least the vast majority of users. However, when it is processed through a computer, it provides more understandable information. In fact, binary code is often the source code for everything a computer user sees.

In some cases, raw data may never be seen in its final form, especially by those working in data entry applications. In these situations, the user is responsible only for entering the information. In some cases, the person entering the raw data may not even know exactly what they are entering or why. This is especially helpful when security or privacy is important. It helps ensure no worker inserts any biased or intentionally false information for the purposes of hurting or benefiting someone.

For example, in some medical applications, there can be very strict regulations regarding patient privacy, yet the data still may need to be entered into a database. To prevent as many people as possible from identifying the person, each patient may be assigned a number. Their conditions may also be assigned a number, as well as their treatment options. Without the knowledge of what those numbers mean, there is no way to identify the patient or condition. That identifying information may only be available to a handful of people.

In some ways, the example with the patient is a rarity in that hardly ever is processed data converted into a form considered raw. Instead, raw data is usually processed to make it more refined. However, there are many different applications where raw data appears and

Data Entry

Data entry is the act of transcribing some form of data into another form, usually a computer program. Forms of data that people might transcribe include handwritten documents, information off spreadsheets from another computer program, sequences of numbers, letters and symbols that build a program, or simple data like names and addresses. Some people perform jobs that are exclusively data entry, while others, like programmers, might have to occasionally enter data.

Since the advent of computers, and since the beginning of typing, the need to collect and neatly present documents has required data entry. Good typists, especially those who are also excellent at 10-key typing often are the most qualified for data entry positions. On the other hand, many computer programmers are not terrific typists but still plow their way through inputting code into programs when needed.

People who work exclusively in the field of data entry are likely to be quick typists, able to read off longhand or typewritten documents, and must be accurate. In programming, the wrong letter, number or symbol can throw off an entire command function of a program. For spreadsheets or for documentation that will be published or printed, typos can result in misinformation or embarrassing errors.

Data entry requires focus and concentration, and some find the work exhausting and even challenging to the body. For any person who types all day, paying attention to maintaining good posture, typing in an ergonomically sound position, and taking breaks for the eyes and hands are all important. Most experts in workplace ergonomics suggest that people entering long streams of data should take a break at least once an hour by moving away from the computer screen. Hand exercises and stretching exercises for the body may also help prevent typing related injuries like carpal tunnel syndrome.

With a number of information systems requiring a constant stream of data, data entry doesn't necessarily have to take place in an office or workplace. Many people work out of their homes entering data, transcribing medical information, or updating websites — especially websites that offer merchandise. You can find numerous telecommuting data entry jobs available which provide people with an excellent way to have a flexible schedule.

What should be avoided for anyone who wishes to enter the data entry field are "scam" offers, which promise data entry work if you pay a fee. Although there are many of these scams on the Internet, there are many legitimate data entry jobs available through reputable freelance sites that don't require a fee. Typically, data entry jobs pay between 10-15 US dollars (USD) per hour. People with specialties like medical transcription, can make a little more than that.

In some cases, computers can perform data entry by scanning documents and converting information into different programs. It is predicted that this method and others may ultimately take over some data entry jobs. For example, voice software might eliminate the need for medical transcriptionists at some point. If you do plan to

work in the field of data entry, it can help to diversify your skills and learn something about the field in which you're working. For example, if you spend days entering code for websites, learning tools to program in HTML and Java might make you more employable in the future.

Data streams

A data stream is an information sequence being sent between two devices. Data streams exist in many types of modern electronics, such as computers, televisions and cell phones. A typical data stream is made up of many small packets or pulses. Each of these packets or pulses contains a small amount of information. When combined together, they make up the full piece of information sent. The process of sending these signals is called data transmission.