There are many databases that exist today. Databases are populated with data, but when put into context, it is called information. Data can be described as something such as apple. To the common person, an apple is a fruit (obviously). However, when the data is put into context, and the word apple is shown to be the name of a specific company. People can understand other data and numbers that might associate with that company name. Databases organize information so people are able to not just be able to view data, but to understand information.

The hierarchical model is a set of linear models that are shown in different levels. It is shown in a tree-like structure. In this model, each child can only have one parent but a parent can have more than one child. Relational data models are simplified into specifically described tables and are more organized and better structured. The information can be structured and accessed in many different ways. The relational database model is better because it is not limited to the parent child relationship as the hierarchical and network models have. XML is a great model for moving data around between different databases but should not be used as a database itself.