Flowcharts

A flowchart consists of special geometric symbols connected by arrows. Within each symbol is a phrase presenting the activity at that stop. The shape of the symbol indicates the type of operation that is to occur. For instance, the parallelogram denotes input or output. The arrow connection the symbols, called flowlines, show the progression in which the steps take place.

Flowcharts should “flow” from the top of the page to the bottom. The main advantage of using a flowchart to plan a task is that it provides a pictorial representation of the task, which makes the topic easier to follow. We can easily see every step and how each step is connected to the next. The major disadvantage on flowcharts is that when a program is very large, the flowcharts may continue for many pages making them difficult to follow and modify.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Symbol | Name | Meaning |
|  | Terminal |  |
|  | Input/output |  |
|  | Processing |  |
|  | Decision |  |
|  | Flowline |  |
|  | Connector |  |
|  | Off-Page Connector |  |