



Data Flow Diagram - Legend

Structured Systems Analysis and Design Methodology

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SSADM provides a methodology for modelling the Functions within a system. The resulting model is commonly known as a **Data Flow Diagram**. The method has been chosen for this project for its simplicity: it uses of just four symbols, and because it was intentionally developed for both technical and non-technical people.

Unfortunately SSADM has been heavily enhanced by others, and the result is a massive documentary demand. The original Gane & Sarson core form is used in this document, plus a few minor extensions (indicated in *italics*), in order to maintain simplicity and provide a level of completeness. The massive documentary burden is avoided.

Its power lies in its ability to allow formal Decomposition of Processes, while maintaining context: to provide more detail, a Process which is depicted as a single box in one context/page, can be exploded onto its own page, showing its subprocesses). This allows an entire system to be defined as a series of related Processes, each to a level of detail that is relevant to the depth of analysis required, or to the Process concerned. It identifies the Data Flows that the Processes are dependent on, at the relevant level of detail. The result is a single integrated explorer-type tree, that defines the entire system.

A Data Flow Dictionary is required if the Function Model stands alone, however, in this project, since a Data Model and a full Data Dictionary is supplied, the Data Flow definitions are integrated into that.

As with any semantic diagramming or modelling technique, it is important not to vary the *symbol size*, and to keep each page (one exploded Process) simple and clear. The end result, not the current state of progress should be kept in mind.

Typeface & Conventions

Times	Definition name or Description, always a noun (DataFlow) or verb (Process)
Helvetica	Title, heading.
Courier	Definitive physical name of a system resource
[Option]	Option (item may or may not be included)
	Suffix: number of elements
{Choice1 Choice2}	Braces denote a choice (one item from the list must be included)

