Professional Issues in IT Cheat Sheet

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What is a system?

a set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network; an assembly of parts or components existing together in an organised way.

a complex whole: for example, the railway system, the human body

a set of principles or procedures according to which something is done

generally have INPUTS, OUTPUTS, PROCESSES, BOUNDARIES

can be made up of many sub-systems	loosely or tightly coupled
	outputs from one or more sub-systems can provide inputs to other systems

What is Information?

Signs/ Signals	An action, impulse, event, non-event that can be detected, deduced, derived
Data	“A description of something that allows it to be recorded, analysed and reorganised.”
Inform-ation	Data that has been cleaned, processed, stored, organised, transmitted…
Knowledge	…information that has been analysed and interpreted
	… information that has been refined by experience, education, familiarity…
Wisdom	the quality of having experi-ence, knowledge & good judgement

σσ is an instance of information, understood as semantic content, if and only if: (GDI.1) σσ consists of one or more data; (GDI.2) the data in σσ are well-formed; (GDI.3) the well-formed data in σσ are me-aningful.

‘data’	defined as ‘the stuff of which information is made’.

What is Information? (cont)

‘well--formed’	means that the data are clustered together correctly, according to the rules (syntax) that govern the chosen system, code or language being analysed.
‘meani-ngful’	means that the data must comply with the meanings (semantics) of the chosen system, code or language in question.

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