

# Data and Raw Data

## Definition - What does *Data* mean?

Data, in the context of computing, refers to distinct pieces of digital information. Data is usually formatted in a specific way and can exist in a variety of forms, such as numbers, text, etc. When used in the context of transmission media, data refers to information in binary digital format.

## Techopedia explains *Data*

Data is a broad term in computer technology, but it is often used to identify and separate information from mere bits.

In telecommunications, data often refers to digital, rather than analog, information. Unlike analog transmissions, which require a hard-line connection for the duration of a transmission, digital data is sent in packets.

## Raw Data

### Definition - What does *Raw Data* mean?

Raw data refers to any data object that hasn't undergone thorough processing, either manually or through automated computer software. Raw data may be gathered from various processes and IT resources.

Raw data is also known as source data, primary data or atomic data.

## Techopedia explains *Raw Data*

Raw data is primarily unstructured or unformatted repository data. It can be in the form of files, visual images, database records or any other digital data. Raw data is extracted, analyzed, processed and used by humans or purpose-built software applications to draw conclusions, make projections or extract meaningful information. The processed data takes the form of information.

Business intelligence, data mining and some artificial intelligence may process raw data to produce meaningful results.

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