

2.3.4 Data Taxonomy

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Data is a complex concept and unfortunately the term is overloaded. Generically, it can describe all a range of concepts from a simple data point to the complex range of data and its association. In the [Cognitive Model](#) data is just one level in the human cognitive hierarchy.

In any data project, there are likely to be two components. The first is the data collected, assembled, or generated. Think of it as the raw content in the system. It could be hourly temperature readings from a sensor, the age of individuals in a survey, recordings of individual voices, or photographs of plant specimens. The second component is the data system in which the data is stored and managed.¹⁾

We usually do not think of data content separate from the system in which it is stored, but the distinction is important in terms of intellectual property rights. The question is what, if anything, is protected by [Copyright](#). Data that is factual has no copyright protection under U.S. law; it is not possible to copyright facts. Not all data is in the public domain. A project might, for example, use copyrighted photographs; the photographs are part of the project's "data." In many cases, the data in a data management system as well as the metadata describing that data will be factual, and hence not protected by copyright.

A database, on the other hand, can have a thin layer of copyright protection. Deciding what data needs to be included in a database, how to organize the data, and how to relate different data elements are all creative decisions that may receive copyright protection.

Because of the different copyright status of databases and data content, different mechanisms are required to manage each. Copyright can govern the use of databases and some data content (that which is itself original), but contract law, trademarks, and other mechanisms are required to regulate factual data.

The third word in the acronym DIDO is Data and every [node](#) therefore, manages and controls data. The data within the node is classified as either: [ledger data](#), [ancillary data](#) or [external data](#).

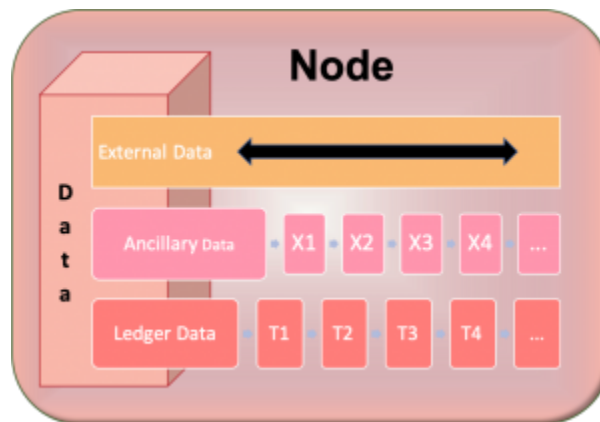


Figure 1: Types of Node Data

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1)

[Introduction to intellectual property rights in data management](#), Cornell University, Research Data Management Service Group, Accessed: 26 September 2021, <https://data.research.cornell.edu/content/intellectual-property>

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