Flowchart

A simple flowchart representing a process for dealing with a non-functioning lamp.
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A **flowchart** is a type of diagram that represents a **procedure**, showing the steps as boxes of various kinds, and their order by connecting these with arrows. This diagrammatic representation can give a step-by-step solution to a given problem. Process operations are represented in these boxes, and arrows connecting them represent flow of control. They are implied by the sequencing of operations. Flowcharts are used in analyzing, designing, documenting or managing a process or program in various fields.

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Common Flowchart Symbols

Different flow chart symbols have different meanings. The most common flow chart symbols are:

- **Terminator**: An oval flow chart shape indicating the start or end of the process.
- **Process**: A rectangular flow chart shape indicating a normal process flow step.
- **Decision**: A diamond flow chart shape indication a branch in the process flow.
- **Connector**: A small, labeled, circular flow chart shape used to indicate a jump in the process flow. (Shown as the circle with the letter "A", below.)
- **Data**: A parallelogram that indicates data input or output (I/O) for a process.

- **Document**: Used to indicate a document or report (see image in sample flow chart below).

A simple flow chart showing the symbols described above can be seen below:

Sample Flowcharts and Templates

This page shows some sample flowcharts that were drawn with the RFFlow software. For general information about RFFlow, go to the RFFlow Home page.

These flowchart examples can be downloaded and edited. It is sometimes easier to modify an existing chart than to draw a new one. Each chart is then a template for your own custom chart.

If you haven't done so already, download the free trial version of RFFlow. Once it is installed, you can open the samples on this page directly in RFFlow by clicking the links to the .flo files. From there you can zoom in, edit, and print the sample chart.

The word flowchart has the same meaning as the words: flow chart, flow diagram, and flow sheet. The most popular are flow chart and flowchart. All are acceptable.

See the tutorials:

- How to Draw a Flowchart
- What do the different flowchart shapes mean?
- Drawing a Structured Flowchart

Software Development
Start
Design
Coding
Testing
Errors?
Yes
No
Design Error?
No
Yes
End

Flowchart of a One Second Response to a Switch
Start
Is Switch On?
No
Yes
Turn LED On
Start timer
Has 1 second expired?
No
Yes
Turn LED off
Reset timer
End

Note: It doesn't work for N= 0.