

An approach

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When drawing an DFD from scratch, where to start is often the issue.

A simple approach is to identify each of the following things first:

External Entities	Processes	Data Stores

Let us look at an example of how this might help:

Problem statement:

An EFTPOS machine has been installed at a new business in order to directly debit transactions from a **customers bank account**. The system works by a **customer** presenting their **credit/debit card** and either **inserting the card** (and **entering a PIN**) or **swiping it via NFC technology** that requires no PIN. The transaction is processed with funds being transferred from the **customers bank**. **Approval is sent** from the bank and a **copy of the transaction is stored in the business records**. A **receipt is printed** for the customer.

If we colour code the components visible

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External Entities	Processes	Data Stores
customer bank	card inserted into terminal enter pin card scanned via NFC transaction processed approval sent receipt printed	business database bank database

How might this be visualised?