Context

All systems have context and the understanding of a system requires us to understand the context in which a system is placed. The context of the system depends upon the:

- purpose of the system
- application of the system (the bigger task or activity for which the system is part of)
- environment.

To illustrate the importance of context, consider the three situations given below. Can the same pen be used in all these situations? It can certainly be used in situation (a), it may not work in situation (b) because of the lack of gravity and finally depending on the materials used it may not be allowed in the submarine shown in situation (c). The context of a system can therefore help in selecting the best possible solution to a given system purpose.



(a) In the office



(b) In space



(c) In a submarine

Context of the pen system.

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