

# State (glossary)

From SEBoK  
state

(1) *The values of key system element qualities or properties at a given time.* (Ackoff 1971)

(2) *A description of the current or future potential, or health of the system.* (Ackoff 1971)

## Source

(1) and (2) Ackoff, R.L. 1971. "Towards a System of Systems Concepts." *Management Science*. 17(11):USA.

## Discussion

The first definition is a mathematical one, taken from the cybernetic world.

The second is used more practical, and is used by the system operations or sustainment community.

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