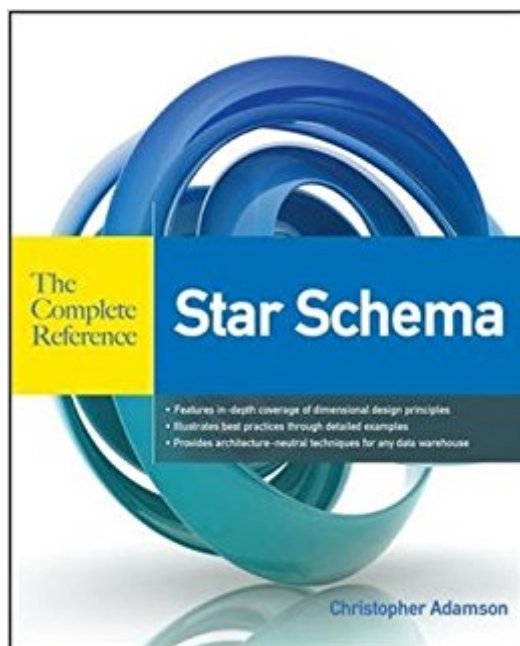The book was found

Star Schema The Complete Reference

Synopsis

The definitive guide to dimensional design for your data warehouse Learn the best practices of dimensional design. Star Schema: The Complete Reference offers in-depth coverage of design principles and their underlying rationales. Organized around design concepts and illustrated with detailed examples, this is a step-by-step guidebook for beginners and a comprehensive resource for experts. This all-inclusive volume begins with dimensional design fundamentals and shows how they fit into diverse data warehouse architectures, including those of W.H. Inmon and Ralph Kimball. The book progresses through a series of advanced techniques that help you address real-world complexity, maximize performance, and adapt to the requirements of BI and ETL software products. You are furnished with design tasks and deliverables that can be incorporated into any project, regardless of architecture or methodology. Master the fundamentals of star schema design and slow change processing Identify situations that call for multiple stars or cubes Ensure compatibility across subject areas as your data warehouse grows Accommodate repeating attributes, recursive hierarchies, and poor data quality Support conflicting requirements for historic data Handle variation within a business process and correlation of disparate activities Boost performance using derived schemas and aggregates Learn when it's appropriate to adjust designs for BI and ETL tools

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christopher Adamson is the founder of Oakton Software LLC and a faculty member at The Data

Warehousing Institute. He works with customers in all industries to establish data warehousing strategies, define and prioritize projects, and design solutions. Chris has taught dimensional design to thousands of students worldwide, and has written numerous books and articles.

For technologists looking for a thorough exploration of the traditional data warehouse star schema, nothing compares to this book. Other reviewers are correct that although works by Ralph Kimball are classics in this space, the content that Adamson provides here is presented in much greater detail with a far greater quantity of examples, and written very well. While I found myself referencing "The Data Warehouse Toolkit: The Definitive Guide to Dimensional Modeling" by the aforementioned author during a recent data warehouse project, because that resource is introductory many practitioners will likely end up referring to the design tips that The Kimball Group website offers as supplementary material on a more frequent basis, and many of these design tips are really only a point in the right direction.So to get to the point, Adamson offers great advice and explicit step-by-step explanations for many star schema topics. The only area that the author does not delve into is material around specific database products, but readers should be able to research this information after following along with the presentation that the author offers with this work. After discussing the fundamentals of analytic databases and dimensional design, data warehouse architectures, and stars and cubes, the author offers detailed presentations on fact tables, dimensions, hierarchies, bridges, snowflakes, and slowly changing dimensions, followed by discussions on performance and additional topics of interest for developers of dimensional models, including an exploration of some common dimensional features that often strain business intelligence tools, techniques to mitigate any shortcomings, and short discussions on process, design, and documentation.One great example of the thoroughness of this book is the presentation that the author offers in Chapter 10 ("Recursive Hierarchies and Bridges"). After discussing types of recursive hierarchies (balanced versus unbalanced and attribute-based versus instance-based), reporting challenges associated with recursive hierarchies, and the process and implications with flattening such hierarchies, Adamson delves into the hierarchy bridge, providing a detailed walkthrough of how to construct it and use it, how to avoid double-counting, how to hide the bridge from novice users, how to resolve the many-to-many relationship, and how to handle Type 2 changes to the hierarchy. The step-by-step explanation of this last item is especially well done, with great diagrams and a detailed discussion of the ripple effect of such changes and why you should not resist the ripple effect, despite the additional data involved. This explanation contrasts markedly with other material on this subject. While a single design tip called "Help for Hierarchies" from The

Kimball Group, for example, discusses this subject, it is done so at a very high level.As a data architect working through this book for the first time during a project, most of my time was spent in Part 3 ("Dimensional Design"), which breaks down into Chapter 6 ("More on Dimensional Tables"), Chapter 7 ("Hierarchies and Snowflakes"), Chapter 8 ("More Slow Change Techniques"), Chapter 9 ("Multi-Valued Dimensions and Bridges"), and Chapter 10 ("Recursive Hierarchies and Bridges"), although I did spend significant time with Chapter 4 ("A Fact Table for Each Process"), Chapter 11 ("Transactions, Snapshots, and Accumulating Snapshots"), and Chapter 12 ("Factless Fact Tables"). While I will likely continue to reference a number of other resources in this space, this is the one book currently in the marketplace that has staying power for the long-term. Highly recommended.

The book is broken down into six parts: I. Fundamentals II. Multiple Stars III. Dimension Design IV. Fact Table Design V. Performance VI. Tools and DocumentationThis is a very natural and logical progression through data modeling and ETL implications. You can read the book from beginning to end and/or use it as a reference when faced with a particular challenge. Star Schema covers a wide range of scenarios with examples that can be easily extrapolated to other industries or your particular data.Even being in IT, IT books can be dry. However, ChristopherÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â„¢s writing style is that of a mentor. He walks you through each topic with examples. Often, I came up with a question only to be answered on the next page. This keeps the reader engaged and that makes for a deeper understanding of the material. Not every Customer Dimension or Sales Fact is modeled the same. After you know the concepts and the data, you can produce the best design.From Conformed Dimensions to Recursive Hierarchies and Bridges, you will see your data and your data model in a new light. Every system needs a strong foundation. This book will help you develop a solid dimensional model that will support and grow as your business does.

This book really deserves its 5 stars. It is, by far, the best book on data warehousing I have ever read.Not only is the content very precise and comprehensive, but it is also very well written.Data Warehousing concepts are notoriously difficult to explain. That's why so many well-meaning DW books comes short. If you can only read one book on DW design, then make it this one.Contrary to the title, the book covers Snowflake Schema quite adeptly, and the author is careful to list all the pros and cons of going from Star to Snowflake. That leap from star to snowflake should always be taken with considerable thought.The book is light both on data analytics and ETL. This book is almost all about Star and Snowflake schemas.Pros:1)The best book on data warehousing design I

have ever read.2)Comprehensive AND in-depth coverage of both Star and Snowflake schemas.3)Very well written.Cons:1)Doesn't cover much outside of data warehousing. It has light coverage of data analytics and ETL.

This is a great book about data warehousing. Most people will embark into the task of building data warehousing without knowing what they are getting into... only to reinvent (likely in a half baked way) concepts that have been implemented long ago by data warehouse designers. Some people heard "data warehouse" and automatically think of Microsoft SQL Server or Oracle... but the concepts in this books are applicable whether you are using one of those databases, mysql, postgresql or whatever you use to get analytic data out of your operational data store.

I have been working designing and developing OLTP databases for 20 years. I am new to Data warehouses and picked up this book based on reviews and I don't have any regrets. I have completed 4 out of 18 chapters ~ 85 pages. I love the way Chris analyses each topic from different angles and explains the pros and cons of each approach. I am fully satisfied with this purchase and would say that this is a great book to clear the concepts of database design for warehouses, which, is very different from OLTP designs.This book does not show how to use a tool. It is purely design concepts. If you are looking for a book that shows how to use a tool, you are looking at the wrong stuff.

I got this book to learn the basic, and as a reference. Although I knew something about Star Schema through other material encountered, I did not fully understand the logic and fundmentals behind the same--now I do, and clarified and put some meat on what I knew.Worth every penny, and more. Wish I had gotten it long time ago.

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