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Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Analysis Services

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Microsoft® SQL Server 2005

Analysis Services
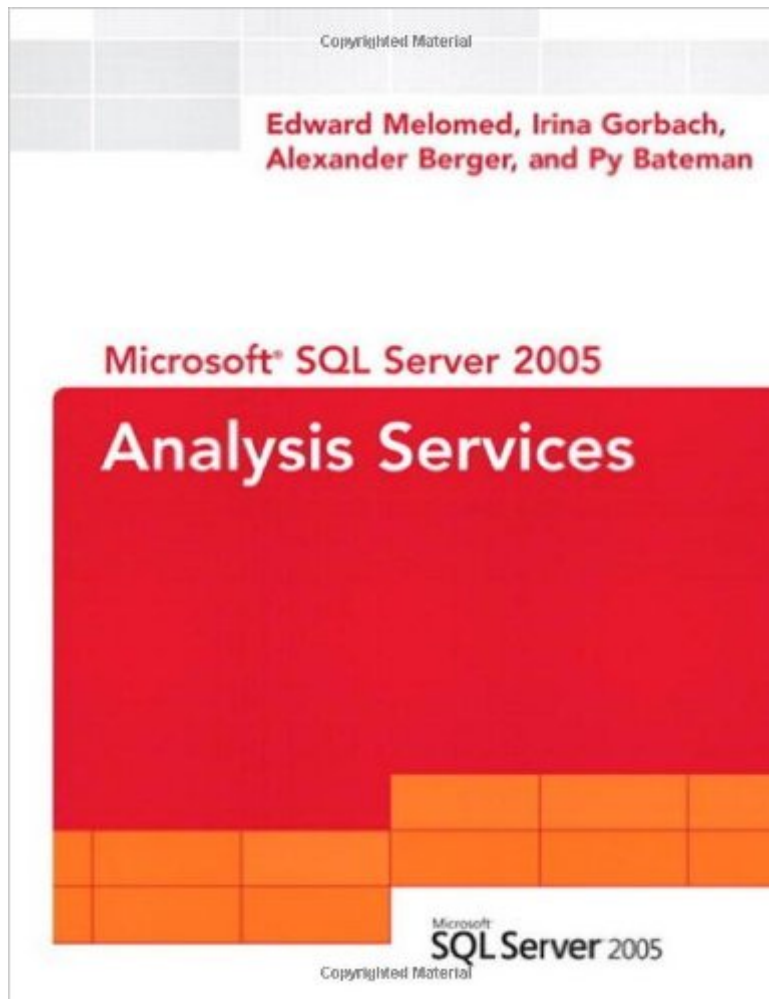
Microsoft
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Synopsis

Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services provides fast access to data by means of multidimensional data structures and the multidimensional query languag MDX. Analysis Services provides the capability to design, create, and manage multidimensional cubes based on data warehouse tables, and it serves as the foundation for the Microsoft Business Intelligence strategy. Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Analysis Services gives the reader insight into the way Analysis Services functions. It not only explains ways to design and create multidimensional objects, databases, dimensions, and cubes, but also provides invaluable information about the reasons behind design decisions made by the development team. Here's what you will find inside: Understand the key concepts of multidimensional modeling Explore the multidimensional object model and its definition language Learn the main concepts of the MDX language and gain an in-depth understanding of advanced MDX concepts Understand the mechanisms of integrating multidimensional and relational databases Learn how to build client applications to access data in Analysis Services Examine server architecture, including main data structures, data processing, and query resolution algorithms Gain a deep understanding of the internal and external protocols for data transfer, including the XML/A protocol Explore how Analysis Services manages memory Explore the security model, including role-based security, code-access security, and data security Discover how to monitor and manage Analysis Services All the code for the sample database used in the book can be found at www.informit.com/title/0672327821.

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Customer Reviews

Don't use this book to learn Analysis Services. Use this book as a reference after you have already learned Analysis Services from other books such as the ones by Teo Lachev or Reed Jacobson. This book doesn't even attempt to explain what a Dimension is, what an Attribute is etc. Instead it gives you DDL (XML) dumps for those things. Concepts are not explained using examples. I still gave it 2 stars because it has some programming info that other books do not have, and is good as a reference book for Analysis Services experts.

I've been architecting BI solutions for large enterprise customers for past 7 years and one of the biggest challenges is trying to optimize the processing performance without enough knowledge about how the OLAP engine works under the hood.This is the 1st book which not only covers all the spectrums of Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Analysis Services but also reveals how the core OLAP engine handles various tasks such as creating execution plan for cube processing; coordinating thread pools; handling dependencies;... It also describes each processing job's features (like whether it's a single- or multi- threaded task; how resource intensive it is;...) in great details.If you are interested in the OLAP physical storage (for example, how different types of data are stored and compressed; how the bitmap index is created and optimized; how the hash table is constructed to enable fast access; what the file extension .ahstore\.kstore\.map\... stands for;...), then this is the book for you because the authors are OLAP engine gurus who know the physical structure inside out.Once equipped with the deep engine knowledge, you would be empowered for a high scalable and performing OLAP solution architecture, design and implementation. It will also help you with the capacity planning to better match the hardware selection with your processing window.That's why I think this book is "The Key for Deep Divers".

The authors unveiled the secrets of Analysis Services internals. The book helps to understand why and how Analysis Services is designed, made, and how it runs. It helps immensely every designer and developer to get all of SSAS power. It describes not only the best practices, but also gives warnings about possible mistakes during cube design, processing and querying.Despite of its 900 pages, the book is filled with useful information that you don't find anywhere else, neither in MSDN and BOL, nor in other books and blogs.This book is absolutely not "yet another book about Analysis Services" and dramatically distinguishes itself over Wrox's publications.By the depth of the material presented, this book can be put in the same category as such wonderful books as Inside Microsoft SQL Server 2005 by Itzik Ben-Gan and Kalen Delaney.Analysis Services 2005 is a serious book for

serious people, but in no way dry or boring. I swallowed it in few days as a breathtaking adventure.

The book is not meant for beginners, but, doesn't expect the reader to be an expert on OLAP either. Some introductory knowledge of OLAP would be enough to derive a great deal of benefit from this book. Most books on Analysis services deal with the user facing aspects of it - MDX or database modelling. This is the only book that covers the storage engine of Analysis Services and not just covers it - offers a great deal of detail in a way that is easily understood. This is not to say that query evaluation through MDX is given a short shrift. Both aspects of Analysis services are covered in a very detailed fashion. No other book talks about the implementation of processing algorithms, memory management, query evaluation and the like in such a clear and in depth fashion. Topics like Distinct count and Many to Many dimensions that many implementations stumble over are explained well. The book will pay for itself over and over again when you have to implement Analysis Services. It should really have been called Inside Microsoft Analysis Services 2005.

My title says it all: if you want a nuts and bolts book about Analysis Services and MDX, this is the book for you. If you want to know how to implement OLAP from a higher level, their are other books I recommend (Mundy and Thornwaite, for example). So far I haven't found a book that explains what goes on under the hood as well as this one, but then these guys invented it.However, if you have specific implementation problem, there are really no solution short cuts in the book. On the other hand, you can probably figure out if you will be able to solve it by digging into the specifics of Analysis Services implementation.

I agree with a previous reviewer that you should not use this book to learn Analysis Services. Read another book for that, then come to this book if you need a more in depth theoretical understanding of the product.However I have to emphasize that the book is a very difficult read. I don't know how to say it better than that - it requires intense concentration to try and read through it and understand, and even then it's not easy. I would have preferred more clear examples that explained what they're talking about.I can't recommend this book simply due to the difficulty of reading it. It should have been written in a more accessible, clearer way. I believe only the most determined readers will complete the book.Again it does have some excellent in depth information on the product and why it was designed as it was, and gives a different perspective on everything which is indeed valuable - it's just hard to read, which in my opinion is a huge flaw.

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