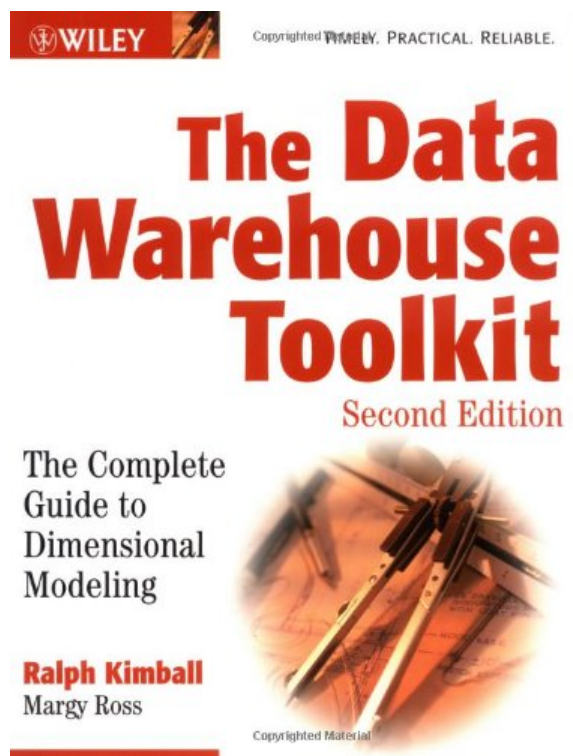# THE DATA WAREHOUSE TOOLKIT: THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO DIMENSIONAL MODELING BY RALPH KIMBALL, MARGY ROSS

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Review
"...this is the daddy of data warehousing process books. No other material available so concisely and precisely explains what is required from a data warehousing solution...this is a great book..." (Enterprise Server Magazine, July 2002)

From the Back Cover
The latest edition of the single most authoritative guide on dimensional modeling for data warehousing!

Dimensional modeling has become the most widely accepted approach for data warehouse design. Here is a complete library of dimensional modeling techniques-- the most comprehensive collection ever written. Greatly expanded to cover both basic and advanced techniques for optimizing data warehouse design, this second edition to Ralph Kimball's classic guide is more than sixty percent updated.

The authors begin with fundamental design recommendations and gradually progress step-by-step through increasingly complex scenarios. Clear-cut guidelines for designing dimensional models are illustrated using real-world data warehouse case studies drawn from a variety of business application areas and industries, including:
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* Human resources management
* Accounting
* Financial services
* Telecommunications and utilities

* Education
* Transportation
* Health care and insurance

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About the Author
RALPH KIMBALL, PhD, has been a leading visionary in the data warehouse industry since 1982 and is one of today's most well- known speakers, consultants, and teachers. He writes the "Data Warehouse Designer" column for Intelligent Enterprise magazine and is also the author of the bestselling books The Data Warehouse Lifecycle Toolkit and The Data Webhouse Toolkit (both from Wiley).
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* Telecommunications and utilities

* Education

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* Health care and insurance

By the end of the book, you will have mastered the full range of powerful techniques for designing dimensional databases that are easy to understand and provide fast query response. You will also learn how to create an architected framework that integrates the distributed data warehouse using standardized dimensions and facts.

This book is also available as part of the Kimball's Data Warehouse Toolkit Classics Box Set (ISBN: 9780470479575) with the following 3 books:

The Data Warehouse Toolkit, 2nd Edition (9780471200246)

The Data Warehouse Lifecycle Toolkit, 2nd Edition (9780470149775)

The Data Warehouse ETL Toolkit (9780764567575)

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Most helpful customer reviews

121 of 127 people found the following review helpful.
Practical Wisdom
By Jim Stagnitto
There are a lot of data warehousing books out there that try to answer the question: 'Why'? Why data warehouses are needed to help businesses make better decisions - why the OLTP systems that run the business can't do this - and sometimes even why businesses ought to invest in data warehouses. These books were terrifically useful to us years ago, when we needed help (and scholarly footnotes) in our data warehouse project proposals. This book is not one of those - it is all about:

How

How to actually design and build a repository that will deliver real value to real people. In this reviewer's opinion, Ralph Kimball's many contributions related to the 'how' of data warehousing stand alone.

An engineer wishing to jump-start his or her data warehouse education would need to read Ralph's Data Warehouse Toolkit first edition, his Data Webhouse Toolkit... a bunch of "Data Warehouse Designer" Intelligence Enterprise magazine articles... AND lurk on the Data Warehousing List Server...for a few years (all terrific resources - by the way) - in order to stockpile the knowledge that is crisply presented here.

No shortcuts taken by the authors that I can spot: all of the toughest dimensional design issues that I've tripped on - and that I can remember surfacing on in discussion groups over the past few years - are addressed in this significantly updated text. Not all of the solutions are 'pretty' - but it is clear that they thoughtfully address the problem. This approach, in my opinion, instills student confidence - and lets us know that we are getting sound instruction - not dogma.

The authors have been listening to and addressing the data warehouse community's 'pain' through periodicals and posts for years - but this book pulls these point solutions together very nicely. I learned a surprising number of really useful new techniques, and was genuinely enlightened by the 'Present Imperatives and Future Outlook' section.

As in the first edition, there is minimal philosophical lecturing, and zero religion. Instead, we get generous

helpings of real-world case studies - aptly applied to progressively more advanced series of design concepts.

This style absolutely works for me. And I suspect that engineering mindsets typical of the folks that build these things will likely agree. In short, the Data Warehouse Toolkit Second Edition will significantly lighten the load of books that I carry between data warehouse engagements.

Jim Stagnitto
Llumino, Inc.
[...]

45 of 48 people found the following review helpful.
Top-notch course in dimensional data warehouses
By A Customer
If you want to understand data warehouse design either as user, architect or developer, you need to read this book cover to cover.
Things I like about this book:
* Coverage of all core principles in dimensional data modeling using examples. Ralph does not just lecture to you -- he shows you how to put it into practice
* Coverage of a vast variety of domains. This alone makes the book a must-read
* Recap of major principles at the end of the book to bring it all together
* Excellent writing -- Ralph does not treat you like a dummy; neither does he assume that you have an IQ north of 200
* When you purchase this book, you are in effect purchasing a sliver of the combined knowledge of both authors in the data warehousing field. Highly recommended
I implemented a data warehouse using some of these principles back in 1999. The project was a resounding success and is the most popular application in the financial services firm that I implemented it in. (Infact when I lost my job at an Internet company, they immediately offered me a job based on this implementation). The only sad part to the whole story is that we made a few mistakes in implementation that are now very difficult to correct because the data warehouse has become core to the business -- we have too many end-user applications riding on it!

22 of 23 people found the following review helpful.
An Indispensible Book
By Paul A. Chernoch
After six years of creating data warehouse applications, making a plethora of mistakes and learning stuff the hard way, I wish I had had this book at the start! Every other page offers a solution to some problem or other that I have had. In the project I am just starting I am facing new challenges and am finding help with them as well. The best part is how solutions I used in the past which were appropriate for those problems are contrasted with solutions for problems like the ones I am facing now. Almost as bad as solving a problem the wrong way (or overlooking it entirely) is reusing an old solution that does not fit the new problem. This book clearly spells out when each solution is appropriate. I can not speak too highly about how useful this book will be for you!

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