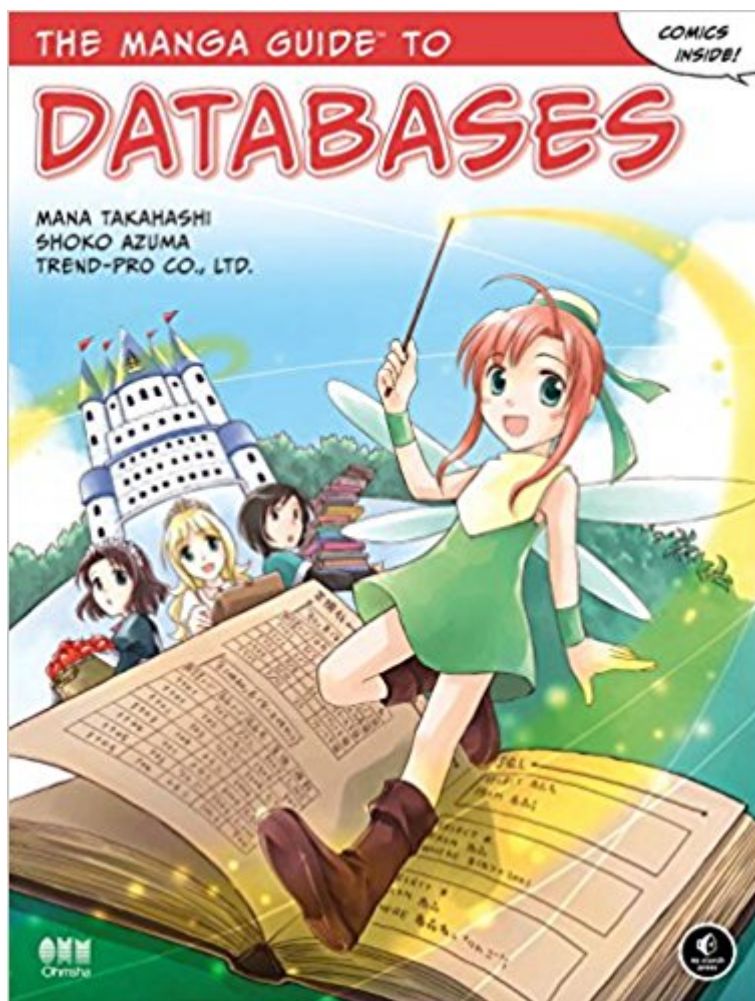


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The Manga Guide To Databases



Synopsis

Want to learn about databases without the tedium? With its unique combination of Japanese-style comics and serious educational content, *The Manga Guide to Databases* is just the book for you. Princess Ruruna is stressed out. With the king and queen away, she has to manage the Kingdom of Kod's humongous fruit-selling empire. Overseas departments, scads of inventory, conflicting prices, and so many customers! It's all such a confusing mess. But a mysterious book and a helpful fairy promise to solve her organizational problems "with the practical magic of databases. In *The Manga Guide to Databases*, Tico the fairy teaches the Princess how to simplify her data management. We follow along as they design a relational database, understand the entity-relationship model, perform basic database operations, and delve into more advanced topics. Once the Princess is familiar with transactions and basic SQL statements, she can keep her data timely and accurate for the entire kingdom. Finally, Tico explains ways to make the database more efficient and secure, and they discuss methods for concurrency and replication. Examples and exercises (with answer keys) help you learn, and an appendix of frequently used SQL statements gives the tools you need to create and maintain full-featured databases. (Of course, it wouldn't be a royal kingdom without some drama, so read on to find out who gets the girl "the arrogant prince or the humble servant.) This EduManga book is a translation of a bestselling series in Japan, co-published with Ohmsha, Ltd., of Tokyo, Japan.

Book Information

Series: Manga Guide To...

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: No Starch Press; 1 edition (January 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1593271905

ISBN-13: 978-1593271909

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 58 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #48,331 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Computers > Software #6 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga > Educational & Nonfiction #13 in Books > Children's Books > Computers & Technology > Software

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Mana Takahashi is a graduate of the Tokyo University, Faculty of Economics. She is an active technical writer and has published a number of books on topics such as Java, C, XML, Information Engineering, and System Administration.

A little background about me first: I'm a senior developer on a large database-centric project. I bought this book to give my intern (and coworkers needing a refresher) an introduction to databases. Before I loaned it to him I read it over a few nights. It turned out to be a good refresher for me as well! Shortly before I got this book I was discussing database normalization with a coworker, and neither of us could remember which normal form was which (we knew to implement them, just not which went with which number). This book explained normalization very clearly - probably the most concise definition I've seen. The book is heavy with examples and ties everything into a "real world" example: how to create a database to organize the data in the protagonists' kingdom. The format of each chapter is the same: comic to advance the story and give context to the database concepts being introduced, followed by explanatory text and review questions. The book covers everything from "what is a database" to database security and data replication. Before I could give the book to my intern to read our database administrator took it and read it. He had very high praise for this book - he felt it was an engaging, accurate introduction to database concepts. The book was equally helpful to my intern - the SQL examples really helped him out. If you're going to be studying databases or need to become familiar with how they operate you won't go wrong with this book. You'll even learn basic SQL syntax...this book is a great introduction and good start to working with databases.

Fun, simple introduction to databases. No one should think that they understand DBs after reading this, but if you were planning on studying databases (either in a class or real world setting), it would provide a good groundwork on which to build. Plus, it's fun enough that you probably won't get bored reading about 3rd normal form. I'll edit this review if I can convince my 10 year old daughter to read it, with her thoughts.

Overall I found this book quite nice and helpful. I have 13 years of experience as a professional

programmer but I've never done any database programming. The reason I'm writing this review is to raise one question/nitpick about the example application that it uses pretty much throughout. The example portrays it as feature that once a database is used, prices used in orders automatically update when prices change. It seems to me this is a bug, not a feature. In designing a real system, the prices recorded in an order should remain fixed at the time of order, shouldn't they? Maybe I'm looking for this example to be too realistic. On the other hand, this seems to me such an obvious concern that it makes the example a bit confusing. My other nitpick is one I saw raised elsewhere, which is that the SQL syntax used for joins is a bit weird. In particular the JOIN keyword is not used; instead the join conditions are placed in the WHERE clause. The place where I saw this nitpick raised suggested it was an older syntax. In general joins are not really delved into, but I can't really fault the book for that; it is not trying to be an in-depth book.

The right book for the right audience . . . having a basic understanding of database is important. Database ARE everywhere and that why knowing the basic of what a database does is so very important. This book is written for younger age readers (Middle School age) to provide them with the VERY basics of database concepts. I bought this book to help a friend out who has zero background in database to help her understand what a database is before deciding to invest in more expensive/specific books on Oracle, SQL Server or DB2. When I first got this book I starting reading it and wondered why I did not start with this book when I first started learning the basics.

The book is such an excellent introduction to learning the basics of database management, and it's so concise and fun to read that it made a three hour bus ride productive and fun. Highly recommended to anyone who wants a gentle, first introduction to database!

This is a fun introduction to Databases.

In case you're wondering, Tico is the name of the fairy that will teach you databases ...No, I am not going crazy, I am just writing a review of a very interesting, "new style" tech book that tries to blend japanese mangas and technical instruction on database concepts..and as unlikely as this might sound, it manages it very nicely! If I had to sum up the whole book in a word, it would be "cute". And cute not only for the graphic, entertainment content, but for the tech one as well! It's a fascinating new way of teaching and I would love to see it explored more.. The book is very small, and I see it more as a "proof of concept" than a finished product, and this is very reasonable seen the

innovative and original style that might or might be well received...I believe a book about 3 to 4 times its actual size, with a longer "story", more technical sections that are not afraid of going into the deeper o more complex real life scenarios, and a hefty amount of solved exercises could make a truly awesome text that would dominate the intro to database market and revolutionize the way we think about learning technical concepts. As it stands now, it's still a good introduction for kids or very young people (or older immature people like myself :), or for anyone who finds IT matters dry and un motivating. Great tool to "reconcile" yourself to databases if you had quarrels with it trying to learn it in the past! And if you liked the "Head First" style, you' re going to love this!

Great book.

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