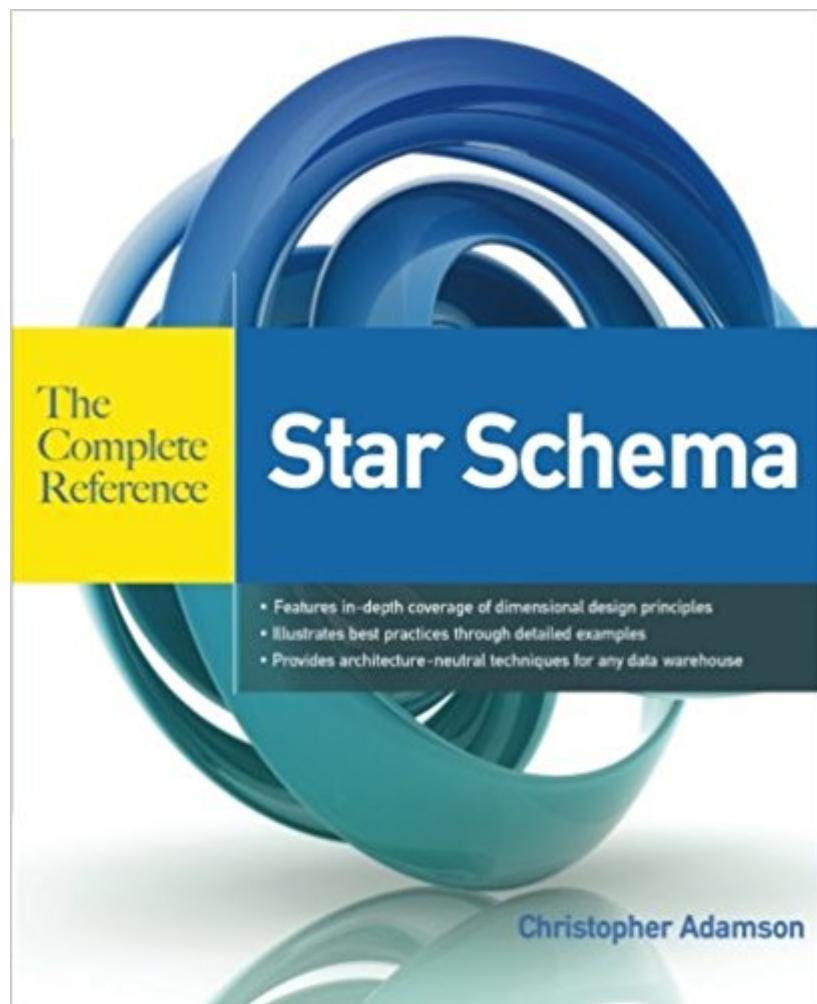


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# Star Schema The Complete Reference



## **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**

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.

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