SQL Cookbook: Query Solutions and Techniques for Database Developers (Cookbooks (O'Reilly))

By Anthony Molinaro

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You know the rudiments of the SQL query language, yet you feel you aren't taking full advantage of SQL's expressive power. You'd like to learn how to do more work with SQL inside the database before pushing data across the network to your applications. You'd like to take your SQL skills to the next level.

Let's face it, SQL is a deceptively simple language to learn, and many database developers never go far beyond the simple statement: SELECT columns FROM table WHERE conditions. But there is *so* much more you can do with the language. In the *SQL Cookbook*, experienced SQL developer Anthony Molinaro shares his favorite SQL techniques and features. You'll learn about:

- Window functions, arguably the most significant enhancement to SQL in the past decade. If you're not using these, you're missing out

- Powerful, database-specific features such as SQL Server's PIVOT and UNPIVOT operators, Oracle's MODEL clause, and PostgreSQL's very useful GENERATE_SERIES function

- Pivoting rows into columns, reverse-pivoting columns into rows, using pivoting to facilitate inter-row calculations, and double-pivoting a result set

- *Bucketization*, and why you should never use that term in Brooklyn.

- How to create histograms, summarize data into buckets, perform aggregations over a moving range of values, generate running-totals and subtotals, and other advanced, data warehousing techniques

- The technique of *walking a string*, which allows you to use SQL to parse

through the characters, words, or delimited elements of a string

Written in O'Reilly's popular Problem/Solution/Discussion style, the *SQL Cookbook* is sure to please. Anthony's credo is: "When it comes down to it, we all go to work, we all have bills to pay, and we all want to go home at a reasonable time and enjoy what's still available of our days." The *SQL Cookbook* moves quickly from problem to solution, saving you time each step of the way.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Anthony Molinaro is a SQL developer and database administrator with many years experience in helping developers improve their SQL queries. SQL is particular passion of Anthony's, and he's become known as the go-to guy among his clients when it comes to solving difficult SQL query problems. He's well-read, understands relational theory well, and has nine years of hands-on experience solving tough, SQL problems. Anthony is particularly well-acquainted with new and powerful SQL features such as the windowing function syntax that was added to the most recent SQL standard.

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From reader reviews:

Carrie Hunter:

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