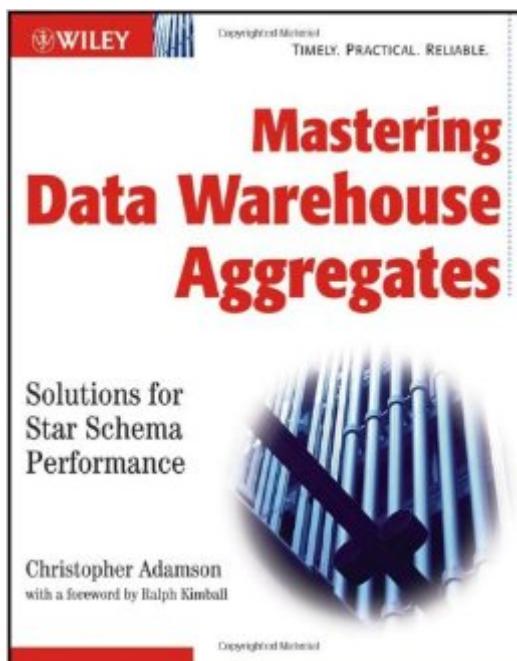


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# Mastering Data Warehouse Aggregates: Solutions For Star Schema Performance



## **Synopsis**

This is the first book to provide in-depth coverage of star schema aggregates used in dimensional modeling—from selection and design, to loading and usage, to specific tasks and deliverables for implementation projects. Covers the principles of aggregate schema design and the pros and cons of various types of commercial solutions for navigating and building aggregates. Discusses how to include aggregates in data warehouse development projects that focus on incremental development, iterative builds, and early data loads.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Chris does a great job of laying out both the good and bad associated with using aggregates as a means to support Business Intelligence and Hierarchical-type queries within a Data Warehouse environment. As a disciple of Ralph Kimball's Chris kept true to the doctrine and helped the reader understand why he recommended the facts he did throughout the manuscript. The material was easy to follow and his illustrations were clear representations of the material being presented. I especially liked that he added platform-specific hints and scenarios to tailor the material to the reader's environment. While I do not necessarily agree that building aggregate tables are the solution to many of the challenges in a Business Intelligence use of Data from a Data Warehouse, I do feel that Chris' book is a great place to start to learn the challenges and start down the path of solution to the problem. Add on material might include mention of other solutions that are not manual that also address the same challenge - such as the software package from HyperRoll.

I must confess that I was skeptic before reading the book, because I thought that it could not add very much to Kimball's books. However, I was wrong: this turned out to be a very useful book. Not only it contains the most detailed explanation of DW aggregates available, but it also contains a very good discussion of the loading process for various types of dimensions and facts, which forms the bulk of data warehouse "back room processing". One more final plus: the author completely adopts the Kimball approach to Data Warehousing, so this book fits very nicely with other books from Wiley's describing Kimball methodology.

This book answers the question of how can I make my data warehouse queries run faster. There is no magic to this, just pre-compute the data that you want to query and store that in your data warehouse. That is what is meant by 'aggregates' in this book. Of course that is easier said than done. The book covers issues like what to pre-compute and how to use the aggregate. It also has a nice introductory section on how to load a data warehouse with aggregates.

Aggregate tables can improve the performance of a data warehouse by hundreds or thousands of times. This book explains how to work with aggregates, and -- this was the most interesting part -- how to make it transparently, so the users don't have to know that they are querying aggregates. I strongly recommend this book!

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