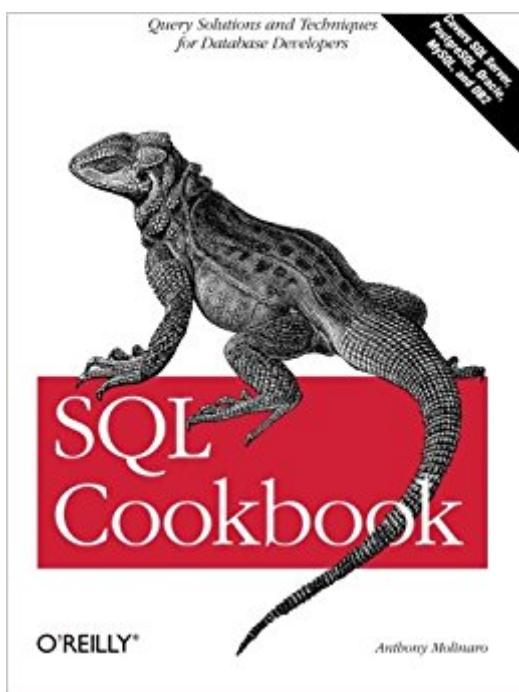


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# SQL Cookbook: Query Solutions And Techniques For Database Developers (Cookbooks (O'Reilly))



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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.

I am writing this review now, because a trick I learned from this book helped me reduce the execution time of an oracle 10g query from 37s to 1s. Yes, Oracle has these idiosyncrasies that can drive one nuts. I find myself visiting the solutions in the book over and over, especially when it comes to hierarchical queries or the queries that generate consecutive numeric values (I use these to generate sample data). I recommended the book to all my colleagues that do sql programming, and I am waiting for the second edition ;-)

I was recently thrown into a job where many queries are already written and need to be analyzed for problems. This book is extremely useful in its ability to give you a quick description on why this function or why this setup was used to do this specific problem. I have gotten through 2 chapters and have already learned many quick tricks that have sped up my problem solving quite a bit. Very solid book for beginner and expert.

I have owned this book since 2006, and I use it in a DB2 environment. I do not use SQL daily or perhaps I would have outgrown the book by now. As it is, the book is smudged and dogeared. It is the book I open every time I need to do something new with SQL, or something that I have not done for a long time. It is extremely well organized, and I rarely have to spend much time finding what I'm looking for. In all this time I have found only one example that was erroneous among all the various topics I've pursued; that was for a complex statement that could have been impacted by an update to DB2 over time. I think it's remarkable that a single book could be so useful over such a long

period of time. It is the single most valuable reference book I have ever purchased. I very much recommend it.

Some useful information and explanations, but I was expecting more based on the price and other reviews. The examples could be better. It's super detailed in many areas that I doubt I'll ever use.

I'm not going to summarize the text, since other reviews have done that very well. The only thing I want to contribute is that I bought the Kindle version for my iPod, and it doesn't have an index. I've had to return to the table of contents multiple times and still needed to guess where a keyword might appear. (Would you know, for example, that the "minus" set difference function appeared in the section titled, "Retrieving values from one table that do not exist in another" if you were unfamiliar with SQL?) There is so much information in this book that I reference constantly, and an index complete with hyperlinks to appropriate sections would have helped so much! As it is, I need the paper version of this book for my office, and the Kindle to read on the bus to work. Still, I would HIGHLY recommend this book to anyone who uses SQL, no matter what platform.

Majority of the cookbooks cater to seasoned programmers so they can quickly lookup a solution without having to reinvent the wheel. However, this particular cookbook can also be used by less experienced programmers as part of "learning by example" methodology. After learning the sql basics, I had decided to purchase this text. I would read the problem statement and then try to implement the solution by myself. I would compare my solution to that of the author's. Or in certain cases, cheat by copying the given solution. It took me 3+ months to try each and every problem in the text, but in the end, it definitely helped to improve my sql code reading, designing, and coding skills. I would recommend this book to anybody who is interested in mastering any flavor of sql.

On time as promised. Excellent seller. Love that SQL. Would like another book covering the bar-b-queing approach.

Over the last couple of years I have been learning SQL for data analysis and collection. The book itself is easy to understand, and the examples given make it easy to understand how the code is working to pull your results back. Great book for intermediate skilled SQLers.

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