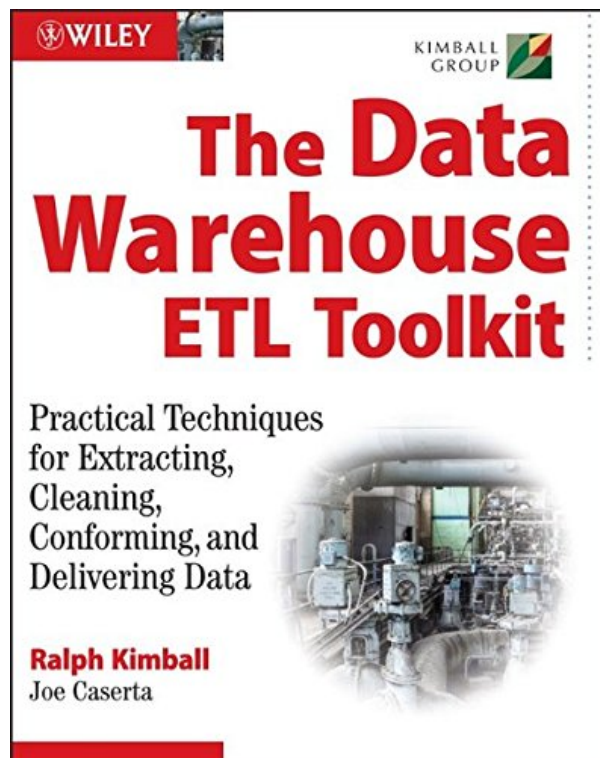


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The Data Warehouse ETL Toolkit

Practical Techniques
for Extracting,
Cleaning,
Conforming, and
Delivering Data

Ralph Kimball
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From the Back Cover

The single most authoritative guide on the most difficult phase of building a data warehouse

The extract, transform, and load (ETL) phase of the data warehouse development life cycle is far and away the most difficult, time-consuming, and labor-intensive phase of building a data warehouse. Done right, companies can maximize their use of data storage; if not, they can end up wasting millions of dollars storing obsolete and rarely used data. Bestselling author Ralph Kimball, along with Joe Caserta, shows you how a properly designed ETL system extracts the data from the source systems, enforces data quality and consistency standards, conforms the data so that separate sources can be used together, and finally delivers the data in a presentation-ready format.

Serving as a road map for planning, designing, building, and running the back-room of a data warehouse, this book provides complete coverage of proven, timesaving ETL techniques. Beginning with a quick overview of ETL fundamentals, it then looks at ETL data structures, both relational and dimensional. The authors show how to build useful dimensional structures, providing practical examples of techniques. Along the way you'll learn how to:

- Plan and design your ETL system
- Choose the appropriate architecture from the many possible options
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About the Author

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- Cowritten by Ralph Kimball, the world's leading data warehousing authority, whose previous books have sold more than 150,000 copies
 - Delivers real-world solutions for the most time- and labor-intensive portion of data warehousing-data staging, or the extract, transform, load (ETL) process
 - Delineates best practices for extracting data from scattered sources, removing redundant and inaccurate data, transforming the remaining data into correctly formatted data structures, and then loading the end product into the data warehouse
 - Offers proven time-saving ETL techniques, comprehensive guidance on building dimensional structures, and crucial advice on ensuring data quality
-
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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A field manual for the professional

By Rufus T. Fuddpucker, Esq. III

I've been doing this for 9 years, and this is the best book I've seen on ETL procesing and its role in data warehousing. Before you start your data warehouse effort have your team read this book. Not just the ETL members...both the front/back room technicians will benefit from understanding the clear presentation of what can be in scope (dare I say, "best practice" yikes!) for ETL processing. The ideas for capturing highly valuable data quality and cleansing processes is no less helpful than the emphasis on loading the data unless it is misleading enmasse or so obviously flawed. The bias toward driving the data to the front room for presentation forces data quality issues to the surface where they must be dealt with and the loop to operational systems (or perhaps even flawed ETL transforms!) closed. Illustrates alternatives for dealing with the messy reality of suspended data, late arriving facts and dimensions. Use it as a guide for your ETL efforts. Buy this book, read it and then buy a few more for your team if you agree.

9 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Indispensable How-To for all ETL Architects/Developers/Mgrs

By Doug Little

Ralph Kimball has rounded out his complete recipe for building fast, cost effective, robust and durable enterprise dimensional data warehouses with this immensely valuable addition to all IT & Data Warehouse professionals' bookshelves.

Without a doubt ETL has been the biggest stumbling block to deploying and maintaining well architected data warehouses that stand the test of time. Ralph draws on his years of experience and engagement with thousands of projects and crystallizes the `Best Practices' into an effective application architecture for all ETL systems regardless of what tools projects use for implementation.

In this thorough examination of the Extract, Transform and Load (ETL) process, Ralph identifies 38 critical functions that all ETL systems need to implement for success in the long haul. He thoughtfully lays out simple and practical approaches for how each of these functions can be implemented by projects with any size of budget.

For many, the paradoxical nature of ETL (seeming trivial yet replete with endlessly complex details that

constantly change) has been the proverbial straw that has broken the bank for many DW projects. Continual customer pressure to grow, improve performance, and quickly deal with changing business conditions have left developers and architects grasping for more powerful and flexible approaches to ETL that meet project timelines, yet evolve and improve with age. Armed with this enlightening roadmap, many DW professionals will be far better equipped to design and build systems that meet the challenges today and tomorrow.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

An essential book for a data warehouse professional

By I. Ranganathan

I have no doubt this book should be an essential guide for data warehouse professional. After reading this book, a database developer may become an expert, confident and successful in career. Project manager may find the book as essential guide in preparing detailed data warehouse project plan. The authors organized the chapters very well, packed the chapters with practical solutions.

Indy Ranga

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