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# A First Course In Database Systems (3rd Edition)



## Synopsis

Written by well-known computer scientists, this accessible and succinct introduction to database systems focuses on database design and use. It provides in-depth coverage of databases from the point of view of the database designer, user, and application programmer. The authors provide an overview of important programming systems (e.g., SQL, JDBC, PSM, CLI, PHP, XQuery, etc.) and the intellectual framework to put them into context. For software engineers, database engineers, and programmers.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 592 pages

Publisher: Pearson; 3 edition (October 6, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 013600637X

ISBN-13: 978-0136006374

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 1.4 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #65,081 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Computers & Technology > Networking & Cloud Computing > Network Administration #90 in Books > Textbooks > Computer Science > Database Storage & Design #192 in Books > Computers & Technology > Databases & Big Data

## Customer Reviews

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Structural problems: Chapters not written on top of each page, difficult to navigate. Content: I think for a first course, it could be a little clearer. The book implies too much knowledge of certain things, and the solutions are not even online for the third edition. It seems too varied in its goals.

Clear concise intro do DBs. I understood a lot about DBs already and just wanted a review. This book is perfect for this.

I bought this book to refresh my DB knowledge learnt during university years. Chapter 1-5 has made an excellent description regarding the theory and DB design principles. The examples are crystal clear, and more importantly, they are very concise and to the point unlike many other DB books that are very wordy. However, this book failed to introduce many basic terms and concepts such as surrogate keys, candidate keys, 1NF, 2NF etc. Starting from Chapter 6 till chapter 10, it focuses on SQL. This portion seems to be an SQL reference manual rather than a college level course book. The SQL grammar and usage are explained very well. But the academic and practical discussions on the advantages, benefits of Views, Stored Procedures etc are missing. These topics I believe are very fundamental to the DB users. I end up reading other two books "Fundamentals of Database Systems" and "Introduction to database systems" to complement this book. Additionally, when discussing Index, the author does not explain the potential underlying structures for better usage of index. I understand that the author's complete book might contain details on indexing. However, simply from a DB user perspective, it will still be helpful to learn the basics of index internals as a first course on DB. All in all, this book is a good introductory book though lacks some basic concepts and fundamental coverage. Based on the content and book price comparing with other DB books, I rank this book 3.5 star.

Riddled with typos. Chapter number are horribly labeled (i.e. not labeled at all). Poorly marked separation between examples and main text, so you're having to switch contexts and trains of thought quite often with little or no warning.

Decent book, some explanations could be more in-depth. Gives great detail on overall concepts. Make sure you are up to speed on relational algebra before you dive into the text. I know this is a Database book, but it would be nice to include more review of relational algebra. Of course, if you're in graduated school, relational algebra is expected knowledge.

good

The book is excellent for beginners in the field of Databases. SQL is covered very good. The examples, (based on beer, bars, sells, drinkers, likes and ...) are also very good (although I do not

like beer or alcohol in particular), explained in detail and the students understand them very well. I am using it for the English speaking group of computer science at our University, and so far (we have covered almost half of the book), everything is going rather well. Thank you Mr.Ullman.

This is a great book for what I needed. The postage was unbelievably fast and efficient even that it came from overseas. Really happy.

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