



Database Design for Mere Mortals: A Hands-On Guide to Relational Database Design (2nd Edition)

By Michael J. Hernandez

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whether you've read Mike's previous book or this is your first; whether you're happier letting someone else design your data or you love doing it yourself—this is the book for you. Mike's ability to explain these concepts in a way that's not only clear, but fun, continues to amaze me.”

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“The first edition of Mike Hernandez's book *Database Design for Mere Mortals* was one of the few books that survived the cut when I moved my office to smaller quarters. The second edition expands and improves on the original in so many ways. It is not only a good, clear read, but contains a remarkable quantity of clear, concise thinking on a very complex subject. It's a must for anyone interested in the subject of database design.”

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“Mike's excellent guide to relational database design deserves a second edition. His book is an essential tool for fledgling Microsoft Access and other desktop database developers, as well as for client/server pros. I recommend it highly to all my readers.”

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Programmers and software architects don't really make a conscious decision to design an application (particularly one with online exposure) around the three-tier model-view-controller design pattern anymore. Three-tier, largely because of its adaptability and stability, is the norm. All of which means you need a database to underpin each of your applications. Designing your databases correctly can make the difference between slow-running, complicated code and software that's speedy, modular, and easy to work with.

Database Design for Mere Mortals prepares someone with only a passing familiarity with databases for the important job of building the persistence layer (also called the data model) for software.

Michael Hernandez explains database design in tradesman's terms. That is, he shows his readers how to identify the business problems that have to be satisfied by a database, then proceeds to explain how to build a solid solution to them. Hernandez's approach combines procedural guidelines (first identify critical facts, then apply a certain logic to yield tables, then establish cross-references, and so on) with practical definitions that clear up much of the rich trove of jargon surrounding databases. He walks through numerous examples, and doesn't shy away from the complexities that always exist in real customers' requirements. If you're not familiar with database design, and want to be, this is the book you need. --David Wall

Topics covered: How to design databases that fit business requirements and make software construction easier. In addition to explaining relational database concepts, the author explains data integrity, null values, keys, table relationships (one-to-one, one-to-many, and many-to-many), and data types. He emphasizes processes designers should follow in building a new database or improving an existing one.

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Michael J. Hernandez is a program manager for the Visual Studio .NET group at Microsoft, and is a veteran relational database developer with more than fourteen years of experience. He has been a premiere instructor with training organizations such as AppDev Training Co., Focal Point, Inc., and Deep Training, and was one of the first two hundred Microsoft-authorized .NET instructors. He speaks regularly at conferences.

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