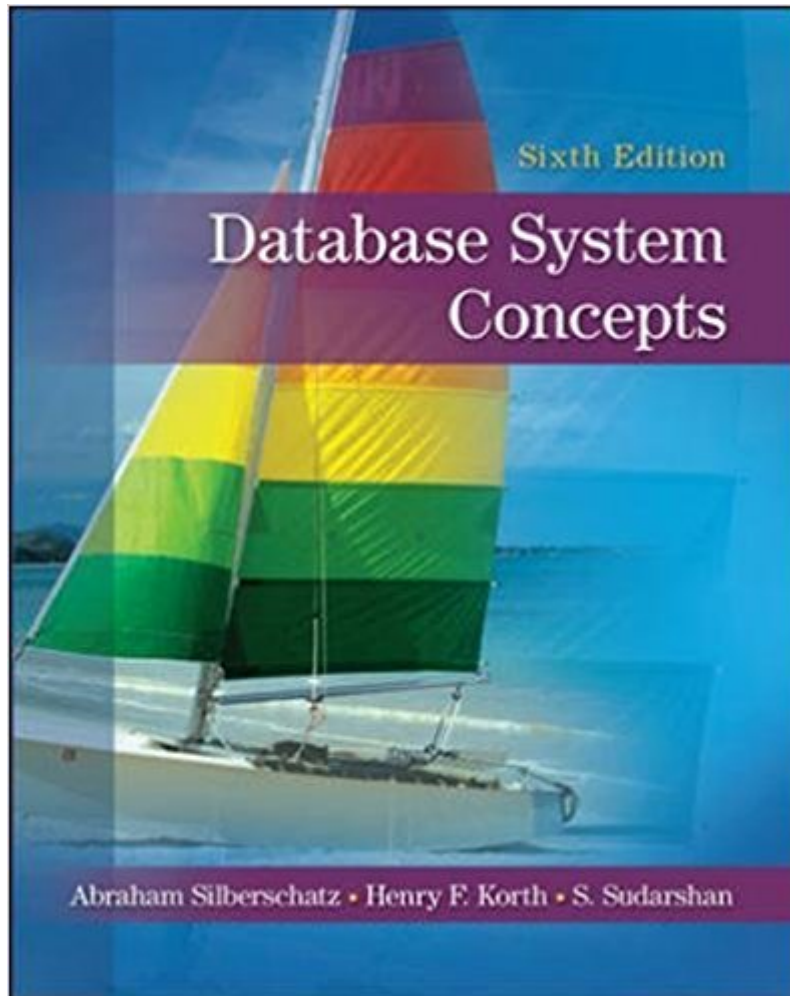




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Database System Concepts (Irwin Computer Science)



Synopsis

Database System Concepts by Silberschatz, Korth and Sudarshan is now in its 6th edition and is one of the cornerstone texts of database education. It presents the fundamental concepts of database management in an intuitive manner geared toward allowing students to begin working with databases as quickly as possible. The text is designed for a first course in databases at the junior/senior undergraduate level or the first year graduate level. It also contains additional material that can be used as supplements or as introductory material for an advanced course. Because the authors present concepts as intuitive descriptions, a familiarity with basic data structures, computer organization, and a high-level programming language are the only prerequisites. Important theoretical results are covered, but formal proofs are omitted. In place of proofs, figures and examples are used to suggest why a result is true.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Henry F. Korth. Lehigh University
S. Sudarshan. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Bombay
Abraham Silberschatz. Yale University

I do not agree with those people who have been reviewing badly this book on the false accusation that it does not comply with actual SQL syntax. First of all, the book focuses first on explaining SQL language as a Standard, as it is formalized in several revisions through the years. Second, probably

to cover some deficiency of the earlier editions, the author spent some time explaining how different commercial versions of SQL differ slightly in their implementation. New sections were added in this 6th edition to highlight the way MySQL, Oracle SQL and other dialects implement certain constructs through slight language changes. Last but not least - as the title reads - this is a book on Database "CONCEPTS" which means that it describes (and very well indeed) the concepts behind the definition of a DBMS and it does it from both a theoretical and practical standpoint. The perfect fruition of this book comes from its study side by side with practical assignments on some implementation of SQL. Since the book focuses on SQL Standard, rather than sticking with one specific implementation, the savvy student should acquaint oneself with the Reference Guide of the SQL implementation of his/her (or the teacher's) choice, and get to study on an actual database system. What I think is missing is an appendix to collect into a single place some BNF charts of the most common implementations, or a table to quickly lookup the differences among these dialects of SQL, so that the students can get an initial reference to jump start into using some DBMS in practice. One last important thing: this book exists in two versions. The hardcover is considerably more expensive than the paperback, but the quality of the paper, the ink and the fonts used make a big difference in the fruition of the book. Their ISBNs differ. Beware that there are many resellers that ship the paperback after receiving an order for a hardcover. These resellers try to get away with the excuse that the text is the same between versions. Indeed, if economy is more important to you than the quality of the print, then the paperback is a good way to save money, because there is a big difference in value between the two ISBNs. But if you pay the price for hardcover and get a paperback they you have been the victim of a "bait-n-switch" fraud. I was one of those victims, so I reported the reseller to , which forced that reseller to pay a refund.

One of the best books around for Database/SQL learning.

This book is great. I am taking a database class for College now and this book is the reason I am doing so well!

This book is very comprehensive in covering all beginner aspects of database concepts. However, there are so many errors in this book I absolutely had to sell it because I couldn't stand keeping such a book. For the fifth edition I was very disappointed. The ERD symbols were incorrect, and there are typos galore. You actually have to know all about databases to actually read past the errors and understand everything. For someone who doesn't know database concepts, this book

will only lead you to make errors when you try and apply the practices. I hope 6th edition is much better.

Great diagrams, really interesting topic. I think I got the international version but it works just fine.

This book is not terrible but not great either. The explanations in the book sometimes are not clear and leave a lot to be desired. The exercises certainly test your knowledge and learning of the material. The concepts covered are useful but the book is not clear enough in a lot of cases. The website the book mentions I don't think could be any worse. It really would not be that hard to setup the databases or at least the schemas on a website or include a CD or a download to help take care of this. This makes the book a little more useless due to the fact the website is horrid. I would avoid this book unless you are required to use it for a class.

This was the text for my graduate database course. I learned SQL with this book as well as tuples and how to analyze data to formulate an efficient database design.

I have many, many books, but this is one of the few times where I enjoyed reading a textbook. The concepts are very clearly explained and the examples are excellent. I will be using the book as a reference in the future.

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