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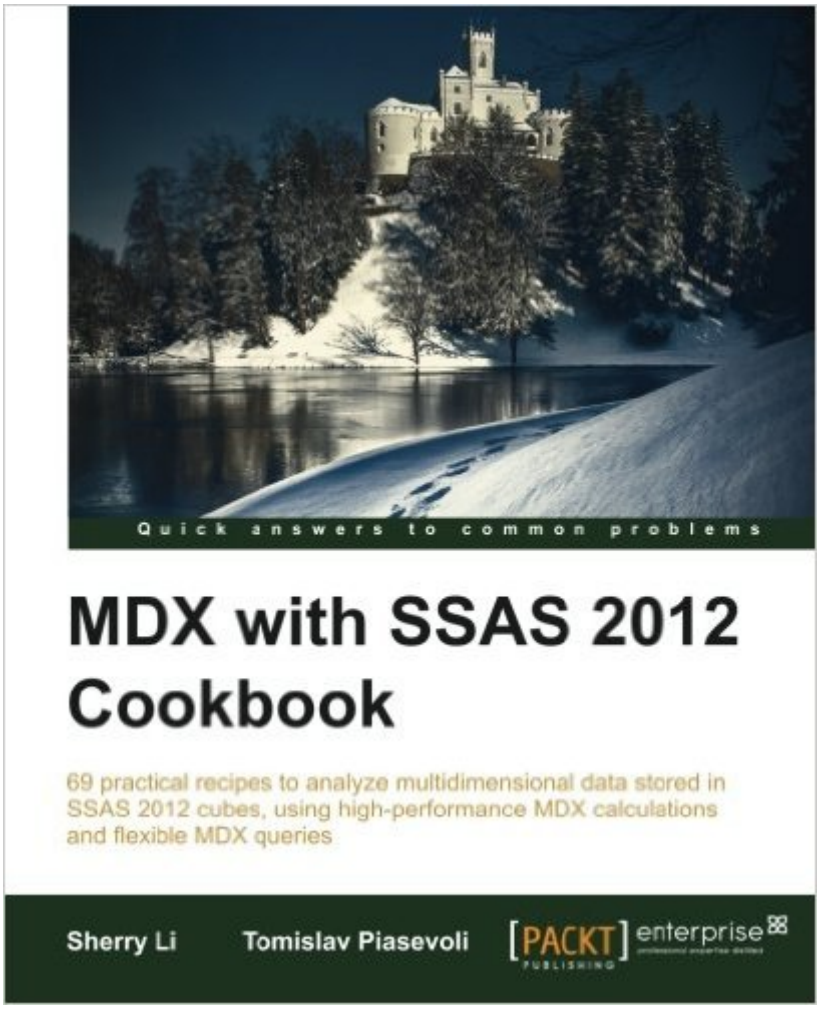
MDX With SSAS 2012 Cookbook



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Synopsis

In this book you’ll find 90 clearly written recipes to help developers advance their skills with the demanding but powerful language MDX and SQL Server Analysis Services. All leading to greatly improved business intelligence solutions. Overview A wide range of time-related, context-aware, and business-related calculations Combine MDX with utility dimensions Illustration of techniques to enrich business intelligence solutions, aided by practical, hands-on Cookbook recipes In Detail MDX is the BI industry standard for multidimensional calculations and queries. Proficiency with this language is essential for the realization of your Analysis Services’ full potential. MDX is an elegant and powerful language, and also has a steep learning curve. SQL Server 2012 Analysis Services has introduced a new BISM tabular model and a new formula language, Data Analysis Expressions (DAX). However, for the multi-dimensional model, MDX is still the only query and expression language. For many product developers and report developers, MDX is the preferred language for both the tabular model and multi-dimensional model. MDX with SSAS 2012 Cookbook is a must-have book for anyone who wants to be proficient in the MDX language and to enhance their business intelligence solutions. MDX with SSAS 2012 Cookbook is packed with immediately usable, practical solutions. It starts with elementary techniques that lay the foundation for designing advanced MDX calculations and queries. The discussions after each solution will provide you with a solid foundation and best practices. It covers a broad range of real-world topics and solutions and provides you with learning materials to become proficient in the language. This book will guide you through the hands-on and practical MDX solutions, best practices, and many intricacies that hide within the MDX calculations and queries. We will start by working with sets, creating time-aware, context-aware calculations, and business analytics solutions, through to the techniques of enhancing the cube design when MDX is not enough. We will then move on to capturing MDX generated by SSAS front-ends and using SSAS stored procedures, and we will explore the whole range of MDX solutions for real-world BI projects. What you will learn from this book Create time-aware calculations that are relative to the current date Construct context-aware calculations that are relative to members on axes Implement business-related calculations such as forecasting, allocation of values, and ABC analysis Combine MDX with utility dimensions Implement error handling Apply AND, OR, NOT logic Conditionally format your MDX calculations Optimize, dissect, and debug MDX calculations and queries Capture MDX generated by SSAS front-ends Register SSAS-related assemblies and use stored procedures in them Approach The book includes 90 detailed and step-by-step recipes

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Originally, I gave the book three stars, but after seeing "Microsoft SQL Server 2008 MDX Step by Step" by Smith and Clay I want to give it a zero. Frankly, I am pretty upset with the authors, who produced *this* even with the benefit of seeing *that*. I am also pretty upset with the clueless reviewers. I myself was taken in by the positive reviews, and feel pretty sore about the wasted time and effort. Don’t waste a second more on this inferior product - get the book by Smith and Clay.

Full disclosure: I haven’t finished it yet. So far, while I don’t doubt the validity of the content, it can be hard to follow (poor organization/editing), contains frequent english syntax errors (poor translation?), and is uncharacteristically dry even for a technical book. Three stars because, while I feel there are better intro alternatives (some free online), this content of the book will make you an MDX pro if you can get through it.

This book is the follower of the "MDX with Microsoft SQL Server 2008R2 Analysis Services Cookbook" originally written by Tomislav Piasevoli. For this second edition Sherry Li joined Tomislav and they combine their in deep knowledge of MDX and Analysis Services to bring the content of the book to an even higher level. The structure of the books is very similar and is again very easy to follow. It starts very simple with basic MDX techniques, evolves to frequently used patterns for e.g. TOP N calculations up to time intelligence calculations. Each single recipe describes a specific real world business scenario and splits it up into 4 sections: Getting ready, How to do it ..., How it works ... and There is more ...Getting ready â | explains the general prerequisites

and when a given recipe can be appliedHow to do it â | describes the basic idea and each single step in detail finally coming up with a solutionHow it works â | gives further insights on the elaborated solution and why it works like thatThere is more â | is dedicated to those who want to dig deeper into a given recipe/topic and the used techniquesThis structure is what makes this book a â œcookbookâ • â “ search for your topic and you find all necessary information in one place instead of having to work through several different chapters and topics.One of the things I liked the most about the book is the fact that it is not dedicated to MDX only. It also shows how to solve common problems without using MDX but by doing simple changes to the underlying data model which make calculations simpler and also improve overall performance of the cube. It also features some sections about MDX Script and cube calculations in general which you also barely find in any other book.All in all I would say the book is a good read for all beginners and intermediate MDX developers but also experts will learn some new things too â “ just as I did!

This is a very advanced MDX book. But if you are a beginner and you are willing to spend time to go over the book a couple of times, it can boost your MDX skill a lot in a short time frame. It offers many very practical examples you can mimic to solve the problems in your daily job projects.I love the book. I bought the first version for SQL 2008 R2. It helped me a lot in my projects and helped me advanced my MDX skill in a very short time. So I bought and read this version for SQL 2012. I feel its explanations on some topics and examples have improved and are clearer. It is very easy to read. Learning by example is an easy and fast way to learn MDX skill. Highly recommend it. A Must have book to a MDX developer!

This is a definite must have MDX reference book for anyone that is learning or already doing multidimensional Analysis Services development. The information contained in this book goes from elementary to novice to expert. What I like about the cookbook style is the scenario and solution design. Not only are the solutions provided, but it also explains them, which is extremely helpful. The recipes start out with a getting ready section, then explain how to do it, then explain how it actually works, and then wait, 'there's more':) So if you are getting into OLAP development or have been doing it for years, this is a must have book to add to your library.

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