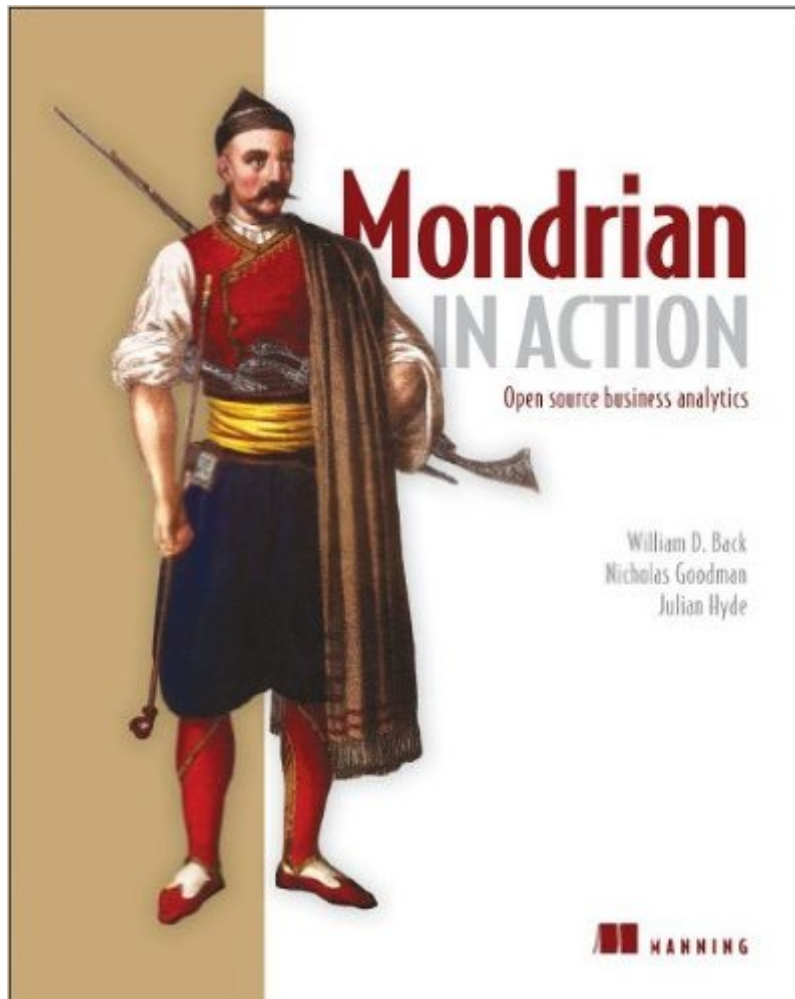# Mondrian In Action: Open Source Business Analytics

Synopsis

Summary Mondrian in Action teaches business users and developers how to use Mondrian and related tools for strategic business analysis. You'll learn how to design and populate a data warehouse and present the data via a multidimensional model. You'll follow examples showing how to create a Mondrian schema and then expand it to add basic security based on the users' roles. About the Technology Mondrian is an open source, lightning-fast data analysis engine designed to help you explore your business data and perform speed-of-thought analysis. Mondrian can be integrated into a wide variety of business analysis applications and learning it requires no specialized technical knowledge. About this Book Mondrian in Action teaches you to use Mondrian for strategic business analysis. In it, you'll learn how to organize and present data in a multidimensional manner. You'll follow apt and thoroughly explained examples showing how to create a Mondrian schema and then expand it to add basic security based on users' roles. Developers will discover how to integrate Mondrian using its olap4j Java API and web service calls via XML for Analysis. Written for developers building data analysis solutions. Appropriate for tech-savvy business users and DBAs needing to query and report on data. Purchase of the print book includes a free eBook in PDF, Kindle, and ePub formats from Manning Publications. What's InsideMondrian from the ground upâ "no experience required A primer on business analytics Using Mondrian with a variety of leading applications Optimizing and restricting business data for fast, secure analysisAbout the Authors William D. Back is an Enterprise Architect and Director of Pentaho Services. Nicholas Goodman is a Business Intelligence pro who has authored training courses on OLAP and Mondrian. Julian Hyde founded Mondrian and is the project's lead developer. Table of ContentsBeyond reporting: business analytics Mondrian: a first look Creating the data mart Multidimensional modeling: making analytics data accessible How schemas grow Securing data Maximizing Mondrian performance Dynamic security Working with Mondrian and Pentaho Developing with Mondrian Advanced analytics

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Customer Reviews

Who this book is for:The first thing to note about this book is that it would have more appropriately been named something like Mondrian With Pentaho in Action. The Mondrian engine (which is open source) can be used in a stand-alone fashion or with another system, but the book focuses almost entirely (other than chapter 9) on using it with Pentaho (commercial open source-community and enterprise editions). This doesn't mean the book is only useful to users of Pentaho, since the majority of the material on setting up Mondrian, security and the data would be useful without Pentaho.Things the book does well:1. It does a good job of leading readers to the material they will want to read by providing a table (in the "about this book" section) of which chapters would be useful to which type of readers (Business Analysts, Data Architects, Enterprise Architects, Application Developers)2. It contextualizes the material presented by giving some of it in story form3. Lots of specific instructions on how to use Mondrian (code examples, schema examples etc)Things the book does poorly:1. Captions are embedded inline rather than being next to their associated figure. This may simply be because I was reading in on my iPad rather than as a hardcopy. Example: on page 9 there are descriptions of Figures 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7. Figure 1.5 is on page 9 while Figures 1.6 and 1.7 are on page 10.2. Some terms are used before they are defined and explained. Example: on page 27 the term "cube" is used, but it isn't explained until page 61.3. The book was written by an employee of Pentaho and focuses on the Pentaho analytics platforms.

As a java developer and having had some previous experience of the Pentaho BI Suite, I found this book, on the whole, interesting and relevant. The book attempts to provide salient information for all of the IT roles that deal directly with data and IMO I think it does a great job. It's really good at last to find a resource with so much information.I think that the key chapters to get up and running are chapters 1, 2, 3 in conjunction with the Appendices. Chapters 4, 5, 7 give you in depth detail to get more from this tool. Chapters 6 you process as you need to! Chapters 9, 10 & 11 are the real revelation. There is much to learn.The style of being in a fictional company which changes its

requirements over time is very practical. I also liked the use of What If scenarios towards the end of the book. There is much detail to absorb. There is also a really comprehensive list of very good references in the Appendices.The subject has definitely raised my awareness for where this type of reporting could be used and I've found a few areas where I'd like to take this further.For anyone who uses Mondrian already or wants to start using Mondrian or just needs to know about Mondrian, this is the reference book to have.Chapter 1. Beyond reporting: business analyticsThis chapter goes into the basics of analytical reporting. Explains on how Mondrian fits in and its use with Pentaho. We get an intro to OLAP databases and Mondrian's compatibility with many databases.Chapter 2. Mondrian: a first lookThis chapter gives an intro to MDX & Saiku which I'd never heard of. Goes into creating reports and defining Cubes & Measures.

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