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Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook

Paul te Braak

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Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook

Over 50 tips and tricks for analytical modeling using Business Intelligence Semantic Models with SQL Server 2012 and PowerPivot

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Paul te Braak : Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. It's PowerPivotBy Dimitri ShvorobI was surprised by page 37's intimation that the book's author is confused about such SSAS fundamentals as models (multidimensional and tabular) and storage modes (MOLAP, ROLAP and HOLAP for the multidimensional model, In-Memory and Direct Query for the tabular model). I don't think that all three or four Microsoft-BI-stack experts who served as the book's reviewers share the same misunderstanding of SSAS basics; it's more likely that they did not invest a lot of time in what they were asked to do. No surprises here - Packt is a publisher going for quantity over quality, and offering zero editorial support or oversight to its authors. Many of those are first-timers who have difficulty teaching but can manage the do-this-then-do-that style of a walking tour of software features. Lidberg's book about multidimensional modeling in SSAS, published by Packt a while back, followed that recipe; now te Braak's does the same for the tabular model.... Except that it is not quite a "tabular" book, but a PowerPivot one: out of the book's 300 pages, 180, or 60%, are pure PowerPivot for Excel; 10% in the end are given to PowerView, and SSAS Tabular gets just 30%. Now, whereas SSAS

Tabular is, to my knowledge, covered by just one other book - the venerable, high-quality, 600-page "Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Analysis Services: The BISM Tabular Model" by Ferrari, Russo and Webb [UPD: there is also a book by Teo Lachev] - the options for PowerPivot are not as limited. Would "Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook" be my top choice? No - I would go for "Microsoft Excel 2013 Building Data Models with PowerPivot" by Ferrari and Russo, or "PowerPivot for the Data Analyst: Microsoft Excel 2010" by Bill Jelen. I will assume that most of the interested readers are, in fact, after PowerPivot, not its "big brother" SSAS Tabular, so here are my recommendations for them - Ferrari-Russo and Jelen. I will also assume that the minority who are after SSAS Tabular are all familiar with the Ferrari-Russo-Webb tome - in that case, "Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook" will be an easy "pass". "Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook" is not a bad book - instead, it's an average book that tries to sit on two chairs, but either of those is occupied by a stronger fellow. Your appreciation of it, I expect, will be determined by how much value you find in its 2-in-1 proposition. PS. I am an MCSE: BI.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book that covers practical and useful applications without insulting the reader's intelligence, beginning to advanced. By Paul Turley. Good technology books usually come in one of two forms. Some of the books on my shelves go deep technically, contain useful tidbits of code but read like the phonebook. Just a few are interesting and insightful. This book is a rare gem that does both. Paul de Braak is well-known in the Business Intelligence community for his expertise and contributions and he delivers a unique guide that starts with the basics and proceeds to cover all of the essentials with depth and practical examples to solve some challenging business problems. You might expect a book that introduces fundamental concepts to gloss-over advanced topics and avoid complex applications. This book covers the essentials of data modeling and analysis with Excel and Power Pivot in language that is plain and easy to understand but it doesn't stop with the basics. It covers practical and useful applications without insulting the reader's intelligence. As an experienced data modeler, I found several useful techniques and new methods to use the tools and language. Paul's coverage of practical techniques spans the spectrum of business applications and product features. This is a rare book that is not only a good tutorial with many hands-on examples that can be repeated by the reader but it's also a great reference of useful techniques and code samples. Highlights include: The integration of Excel features such as ranges, tables, pivot tables and pivot charts with the additional features of Power Pivot and Power View that extend and enhance these capabilities. Examples and instructions are directed at Excel 2010 users and the author compares some of the different features in Excel 2010 and Excel 2013. Fundamentals of the DAX calculation language. Importing data as text, different date formats and implied data type columns. Beyond the basics, a schema.ini file is used to define column data types. Importing data from a database, working with database tables, views and queries, managing connections and challenges encountered running the table import wizard multiple times. Data feeds using OData and using a Reporting Services report to provide a data feed. Decisions a designer makes to enable the user's experience when browsing a model. This includes sorting values, navigating hierarchies that enable drill-down interaction. DAX "X" functions (SUMX, MINX, etc.) to perform row-level aggregation. Working with parent-child hierarchies using specialized DAX path functions. Advanced browsing features, adjusting pivot table options to optimize the user experience. Building and using KPIs and using alternate table relationships. Time calculations and date functions. This chapter covers running totals and totals to date. Date part aggregate functions (MTD, YTD, etc.), Essential data math and comparisons. LastYear and PriorPeriod functions, TotalYTD. Manufacturing calendar, working with "445" dates. Creating a dynamic relative time measure, using a shell dimension table. Using DatesBetween to show the average value for the past 10 days. Apply advanced modeling technique to bin, sort and rank values for reporting. Expand concepts introduced in chapter 3, using the DAX "X" functions to perform row iteration in advanced financial applications. Defining and working with many-to-many relationships. This is often no trivial task to completely understand many-to-many relationship requirements and to apply a working solution that provides the intended results. Addressing inventory and stock-keeping challenges. Conditional aggregation at different levels. Budgeting and forecasting vs actuals. Programming Excel to enhance the user's experience. Excel VBA event programming to respond to slicers. Using cube functions. Interacting with charts and slicers. Building solutions for the enterprise. Using the SSAS Tabular designer. Migrating Power Pivot models to Tabular server solutions. Managing connections, implementing impersonation, managing security. Using roles and perspectives. Generating and using XMLA script. Defining and implementing role-based, dynamic row filtering. Performing currency conversion. Managing and optimizing a Tabular solution. Deployment scenarios. Using SSDT to deploy and process models. Using the SSAS Deployment Wizard. Generating and using deployment scripts. Creating and managing partitions. Scheduling and executing processing tasks. Utilizing DirectQuery for real-time data results. Using Profiler to troubleshoot and optimizing a model. Querying a model using DAX. Comparison of similar and different concepts in multidimensional and Tabular semantic models. Query with MDX. Query with DAX. DAX tools and debugging techniques. Using DAX query techniques to simulate SQL query operations. Column aliases, joins, filters, deriving tables. Samples and top ranked results. Using Power View to present results and visualize data. Essential design features. Creating a table report using a matrix to pivot results. Time and data filters. Advanced filters. Creating charts. Bar charts. Stacked charts. Cluster chart. Using tiles to navigate sectioned results. Using images. Managing tables with default field sets. Table behavior and cards. Data categories and visual behaviors. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Outstanding Tabular

SSAS Cookbook By Dan English
The book is written by Paul te Braak, who is a lead business intelligence consultant in Australia and is one of the developers on the DAX Studio project, and he has put together an outstanding cookbook. When the book was released I was surprised and excited. I was surprised because I did not know that Paul was working on this (he is the sole author, big kudos to Paul), and excited because I knew it was going to be a good one. I had this one on my radar list of books to add to my collection; I am definitely a big fan of the Packt Publishing Cookbook series style of books. **Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook** What I like about the books is that they introduce a topic or situation and then go over the solution in a very simple and easy to understand format **Getting Ready, How to do it, How it Works, There's more**. Paul adds a lot of great insights in this book in explaining how the solutions work as well as including a bunch of **Tips** along the way as well. Paul does a great job on slowly working you into the Tabular modeling concepts and the only tool you need to get going is Excel and the Power Pivot add-in. Paul's examples use Excel workbooks and flat files for the most part, so that makes it really easy to get started and get your learn on. What is amazing is that this book is just over 300 pages and it is loaded with great content that covers items such as how to use Power Pivot, hierarchies, drilldown, parent-child hierarchies (including how to hide member in DAX), smart measures, smart keys, programmatic access in Excel **cube functions and VBA, querying with DAX, Power View, and more!** Simply amazing, Paul does a fabulous job and this is a great intro book that progresses into advanced topics and has great examples, tips, and insights that are a big time value add. I would definitely rate this as a must have for anyone doing tabular SSAS development and give it 5 out of 5 stars **Awesome job Paul and thanks for writing the book and sharing!**

In Detail Business Intelligence Semantic Models (BISM) is a technology that is designed to deliver analytical information to users through a variety of mechanisms that include model structure, definition, and design. This book demonstrates how to create BISM models so that information can be presented to users in an intuitive and easy-to-use format. Once the model is defined, we also show you how it can be managed and maintained so that the data in it remains current and secure. **Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook** is an all-encompassing guide to developing, managing, creating, and using analytical models using the Business Intelligence Semantic Model (BISM). This title covers a range of modeling situations and common data analysis related problems to show you the techniques required to turn data into information using tabular modeling. **Microsoft Tabular Modeling Cookbook** examines three areas of tabular modeling: model development, model management and maintenance, and reporting. This book is a practical guide on how to develop semantic models and turn business data into information. It covers all phases of the model lifecycle from creation to administration and finally reporting. It also shows you how to create models which are designed to analyze data. All sections of BISM modeling from development to management and finally reporting are covered. The sections on development examine a wide range of techniques and tricks required to build models, including moving data into the model, structuring the model to manipulate the data, and finally the formulas required to answer common business questions; all of these are discussed in this book in detail. Finally, the book examines methods of reporting on the data within the model, including the creation of data-driven workbooks and reports for a powerful end user experience. **Approach** This book follows a cookbook style with recipes explaining the steps for developing analytic data using Business Intelligence Semantic Models. **Who this book is for** This book is designed for developers who wish to develop powerful and dynamic models for users as well as those who are responsible for the administration of models in corporate environments. It is also targeted at analysts and users of Excel who wish to advance their knowledge of Excel through the development of tabular models or who wish to analyze data through tabular modeling techniques. We assume no prior knowledge of tabular modeling.

About the Author Paul te Braak (ptebraak@abaxdata.com.au) is a leading Business Intelligence Consultant based in Australia. He has been involved in Information Management for over 15 years, with the past 9 years focusing on the Microsoft Business Intelligence stack. His areas of interest include data modeling, data mining, and visualization. He is an active participant in the SQL Server community, speaks at various local and international events, and organizes a regional SQL Server Saturday. His blog can be found at www.paultebraak.wordpress.com.