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New Book Introduces Programmers to Logical Database Design

24 February 2014 – The book *[Business Database Triage](#)*, previously only available privately, has been released for public sale. The book discusses how and why commonly used database designs and design practices impede software development and lead to unnecessary code complexity and maintenance difficulties; worse, the resulting applications generally become increasingly difficult to enhance over time.

In addressing this situation, the author begins with an informal overview of the history of data management, beginning with the ancient Greeks and progressing through the great philosophers and scientists up to the present. It will be demonstrated that, although scientific principles of data management have long been well-understood, they couldn't easily be applied to our databases until quite recently due to the decades-long lag between the growth of processor power and development of mass storage technology.

Although this disparity no longer exists, many compromises and bad habits of the past half-century have become ingrained; this book will help developers understand and overcome these by presenting increasingly complex real-world illustrations showing exactly how a lack of logic in their database designs causes such effects.

Later – in how-to sections with actual practical examples – the author shows how to accomplish logical database design, and how it can not only make life easier for developers, but provide better support for the businesses who pay their salaries.

Some of the proposed solutions will feel familiar, as many are reminiscent of good OO practices. The author explains why this should not be surprising and, as the examples and solutions are presented, simultaneously addresses and debunks many myths surrounding database design. These include, for example:

- Many developers who think they are using a relational database probably aren't ...
 - use of a relational database management system in no way guarantees a relational database.
- There is no inherent “impedance mismatch” between relational and object-oriented technologies ...
 - when a database is not actually relational (and many are not), there is, of course, a mismatch.
- Database designs should not be based on Business Needs or User Requirements ...
 - it must be *informed* by these, but using either as a primary driver will not serve the business well.
- A database schema should seldom ever be optimized for an application ...
 - optimizing a database schema for an application is almost always counter-productive.

All of the author's solutions can be implemented using existing RDBMS technology and programming languages, and enough technical detail is provided to begin experimenting with remedial actions.

The book, *[Business Database Triage](#)*, ISBN-10: 0615916937, is now generally available in America and Europe (although only in English). It may be seen, with further details about its content, on Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com/Business-Database-Triage-Frank-Oberle/dp/0615916937>).

Questions about the book may be directed by e-mail to antikythera@rcn.com.