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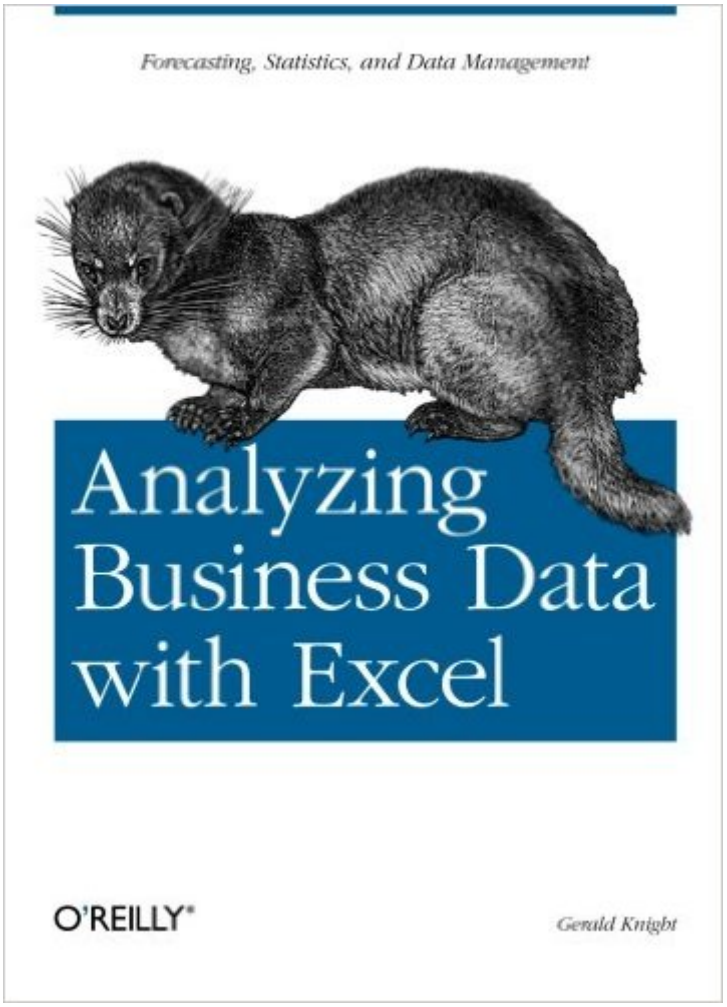
Analyzing Business Data With Excel



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Synopsis

As one of the most widely used desktop applications ever created, Excel is familiar to just about everyone with a computer and a keyboard. Yet most of us don’t know the full extent of what Excel can do, mostly because of its recent growth in power, versatility, and complexity. The truth is that there are many ways Excel can help make your job easier-beyond calculating sums and averages in a standard spreadsheet.Analyzing Business Data with Excel shows you how to solve real-world business problems by taking Excel’s data analysis features to the max. Rather than focusing on individual Excel functions and features, the book keys directly on the needs of business users. Most of the chapters start with a business problem or question, and then show you how to create pointed spreadsheets that address common data analysis issues.Aimed primarily at experienced Excel users, the book doesn’t spend much time on the basics. After introducing some necessary general tools, it quickly moves into more specific problem areas, such as the following:StatisticsPivot tablesWorkload forecastingModelingMeasuring qualityMonitoring complex systemsQueuingOptimizingImporting dataIf you feel as though you’re getting shortchanged by your overall application of Excel, Analyzing Business Data with Excel is just the antidote. It addresses the growing Excel data analysis market head on. Accountants, managers, analysts, engineers, and supervisors-one and all-will learn how to turn Excel functionality into actual solutions for the business problems that confront them.

Book Information

Paperback: 266 pages

Publisher: O’Reilly Media; 1 edition (January 13, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0596100736

ISBN-13: 978-0596100735

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I like the viewpoint of this book; I have a business problem, now how do I attack that in Excel? So many books come at business problems from the perspective of a specific feature in the product. This book teaches the solution to a complex business data analysis problem through use of the features in Excel. Excellent!It's a small book. The text is a little terse, but that's ok. Screenshots are used sparingly.If what you want is a feature by feature breakdown of Excel then this book isn't for you. But if what you have is some data that you need to crunch and you don't know much about Excel then check this book out.

As a strategy analyst I'm always looking for concise ways to present data and make it automated and professional-looking without lots of code that none of my clients can use.I agree with the previous reviewer, other books come at Excel and similar applications with a feature by feature breakdown so that in usage YOU have to work backwards to figure out how to apply software features to your problem.This book is organized by business problem and then proceeds to breakdown how your problem applies to the software solution. There is very useful code in some of the models, but nothing horribly difficult to implement.Excellent addition to my reference library. I've truly never seen a business data analysis book as well put together as this and I've been searching for years. You will not be disappointed.

Overall this is a good book, but it would be much nicer if they provided Excel worksheets with the data used in the book's examples. Some sample code is provided for dowload on Oreilly's website, but this does not include example data. Nonetheless, the book is worth looking at.

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