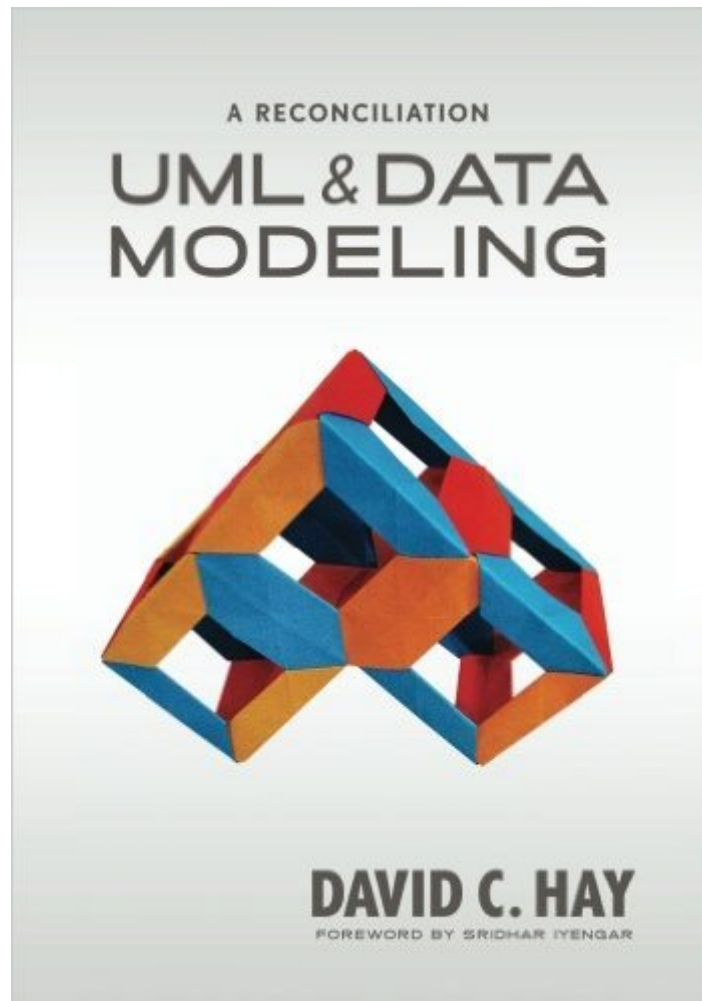


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UML And Data Modeling: A Reconciliation



Synopsis

Here you will learn how to develop an attractive, easily readable, conceptual, business-oriented entity/relationship model, using a variation on the UML Class Model notation. This book has two audiences: Data modelers (both analysts and database designers) who are convinced that UML has nothing to do with them; and UML experts who don't realize that architectural data modeling really is different from object modeling (and that the differences are important). David Hay's objective is to finally bring these two groups together in peace. Here all modelers will receive guidance on how to produce a high quality (that is, readable) entity/relationship model to describe the data architecture of an organization. The notation involved happens to be the one for class models in the Unified Modeling Language, even though UML was originally developed to support object-oriented design. Designers have a different view of the world from those who develop business-oriented conceptual data models, which means that to use UML for architectural modeling requires some adjustments. These adjustments are described in this book. David Hay is the author of *Enterprise Model Patterns: Describing the World*, a comprehensive model of a generic enterprise. The diagrams were at various levels of abstraction, and they were all rendered in the slightly modified version of UML Class Diagrams presented here. This book is a handbook to describe how to build models such as these. By way of background, an appendix provides a history of the two groups, revealing the sources of their different attitudes towards the system development process. If you are an old-school ER modeler and now find yourself having to come up to speed on UML to get that next job (or keep the current one), this is your guidebook to success. If you are a long time object oriented programmer who has to interact with data modelers, this book is for you too. David has done the hard work of mapping out how to do a logical entity relationship model using standard (and accepted) UML diagram components. This book shows you step-by-step, with ample examples, how to get from here to there with the least pain possible for all concerned. Kent Graziano Certified Data Vault Master and Oracle ACE Past-President of ODTUG & RMOUG Brilliantly organized: three books hidden in one cohesive work. Notwithstanding the tremendous value provided by cross-training data architects/modelers and object modelers/architects, making each better at what they do, Appendix B presents an absolutely awesome concise, yet detailed, history of modeling objects and data that clearly documents the differences in the approaches over the years and helps bring it all into perspective. This book is packed with useful information. Even the footnotes add clarity and offer interesting and often humorous editorial insight making it a fun read. Whatever viewpoint the reader is coming from this book has something to offer as long as the reader maintains an open mind. Roland Berg Senior Architect Diligent Consulting, Inc. San Antonio, Texas

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Customer Reviews

I always look forward to a new book by David Hay ever since I discovered his first book (Data Model Patterns: Conventions of Thought) in the mid-1990s at the Borders bookshop at Pentagon City when I was making one of my regular trips across the Atlantic to visit data modelling colleagues working with the US Army. Most of these visits were extremely frustrating. My team was responsible for data management for the British Army and, to put it bluntly, we did not see eye to eye with our American colleagues over how to approach data modelling. This was not very helpful because we would need to be interoperable if (or, perhaps I should say, when) both armies deployed together on operations. How refreshing it was, therefore, to find an American author who not only thought like us but even used the same data modelling notation as us. This latest book does more than it says on the cover. What David sets out to do is to show how, with a few tweaks to both the notation and the thought processes, you can develop a model that represents the business information needs of an organisation using UML - what the data modelling community normally calls a conceptual data model. David recognises that not only are the thought processes that underlie the two modelling techniques - entity-relationship modelling and object-oriented modelling - basically different but that the thought processes are far more important than the notation used. So the book starts with two introductions: one for data modellers and the other for UML modellers. He then goes on to explain the techniques to develop what he is now calling an architectural data model using UML.

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