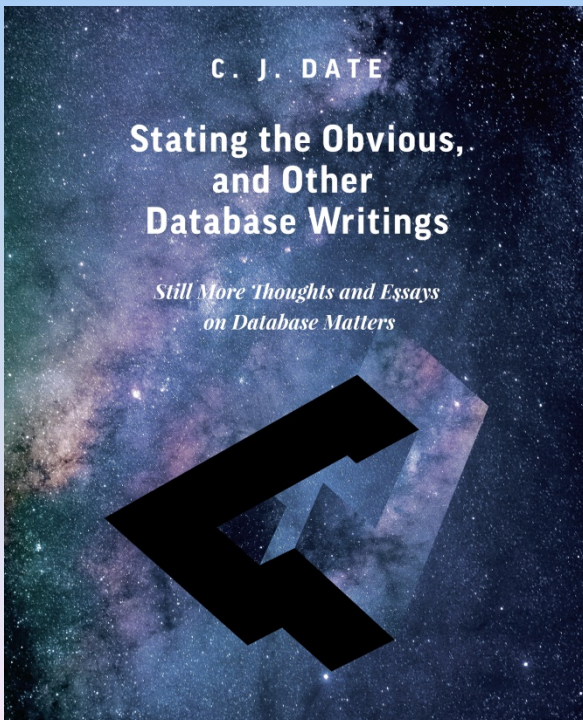


Stating the Obvious, and Other Database Writings

Some things seem so obvious that they don't need to be spelled out in detail. Or do they? In computing, at least (and probably in any discipline where accuracy and precision are important), it can be quite dangerous just to assume that some given concept is "obvious," and indeed universally understood. Serious mistakes can happen that way! The first part of this book discusses features of the database field—equality, assignment, naming—where just such an assumption seems to have been made, and it describes some of the unfortunate mistakes that have occurred as a consequence. It also explains how and why the features in question aren't quite as obvious as they might seem, and it offers some advice on how to work around the problems caused by assumptions to the contrary.



About the Author

Chris Date has a stature that is unique in the database industry. He is best known for his textbook *An Introduction to Database Systems* (Addison-Wesley), which has sold some 900,000 copies at the time of writing. He enjoys a reputation that is second to none for his ability to explain complex technical issues in a clear and understandable fashion. He was inducted into the Computing Industry Hall of Fame in 2004.

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