

# Beginning DB2

From Novice to Professional



Grant Allen

## **Beginning DB2: From Novice to Professional**

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*For Lindsay, who laughed at all the right times.*

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# About the Author

■ **GRANT ALLEN** has worked in the IT field for nearly 20 years, most recently as Chief Technology Officer for a leading Australian software vendor, before taking on his current role at Google. His work has involved private enterprise, academia, and government around the world—consulting on large-scale systems design, development, performance, data warehousing, content management, and collaboration. Grant is a frequent speaker at conferences and industry events on topics such as data mining, compliance, relational databases, collaboration technologies, the business of technology, and more. He is now a team leader at Google, using database technologies to tackle problems of Google-scale and beyond.



# About the Technical Reviewer



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# Introduction

**W**elcome to *Beginning DB2: From Novice to Professional*. This book—which is all about the DB2 relational database management system for Linux, UNIX, and Windows—is designed to get anyone started on the road to mastering DB2. *Beginning DB2* is not designed to be a complete reference library for DB2; DB2 is far too large a piece of software for any one book to cover every advanced feature and option. But *Beginning DB2* is designed to capture the state of the art in DB2 capabilities and technology, presenting a comprehensive set of introductory and gradually more advanced material to allow anyone to be up and working with DB2 in no time.

## Who This Book Is For

This book is for everyone. No, really! I'll even be sending a copy to my mother. Instead of writing a book just for database administrators, or database developers, or even developers of web and desktop systems that want to use a database, I wrote *Beginning DB2* to capture what you need to work DB2 into any environment or development project. Whether you're a web developer, project manager, avid blogger, or podcasting star, *Beginning DB2* will help you take your database work to the next level.

## How This Book Is Structured

This book is split into five parts, each designed to help you master certain aspects of DB2:

- **Part 1** deals with DB2's heritage and shows you how to acquire and install your own copy of DB2.
- **Part 2** discusses the great tools that come with DB2 out of the box.
- **Part 3** leaps into the wide world of Structured Query Language (SQL) and treats you to the depth and breadth of DB2's SQL capabilities.
- **Part 4** takes a tour of the fantastic developer options IBM adds to DB2 for languages such as Ruby, PHP, Java, C#, Python, and more.
- **Part 5** covers the all-important administrative details that will make you a database administrator “par excellence” with DB2.

## Conventions

I tried to keep the conventions in this book very simple. Where a piece of code is used, it is presented in fixed-width Courier font, such as this (working) example:

```
select * from sysibm.sysdummy1
```

For syntax descriptions and other technical elements, I use the same font for clarity, but have endeavored to use a conversational style to discuss the meaning and use of commands and technology. This helps you reach a better understanding in a shorter period of time. More importantly, it also saves trees because you don't need to buy a book that repeats the great reference material for DB2 that you can find online.

## Prerequisites

There are very few prerequisites you'll need to get the most out of this book. In fact, there's nothing stopping you from reading the book without installing DB2 and trying the examples. But I'll take a wild guess that you *want* to do that, so you'll need a computer with a supported Linux distribution, such as CentOS, OpenSuSE, or the like; or Microsoft Windows XP or Vista. Exact versions and instructions on downloading the edition of DB2 suitable for you are in Chapter 1 and Chapter 2.

## Downloading the Code

Examples and code snippets used in the book will be available in zip file format in the Downloads section of the Apress website ([www.apress.com](http://www.apress.com)). The author has also set up the site [www.beginningdb2.com](http://www.beginningdb2.com), where the examples can also be obtained.

## Contacting the Author

Any questions, comments, or errata can be sent to the author at [grantondata@gmail.com](mailto:grantondata@gmail.com), or visit the book's website at [www.beginningdb2.com](http://www.beginningdb2.com) or the author's website at [www.grantondata.com](http://www.grantondata.com).