

About the Author

Alex Petrov is a data infrastructure engineer, database and storage systems enthusiast, Apache Cassandra committer, and PMC member interested in storage, distributed systems, and algorithms.

Colophon

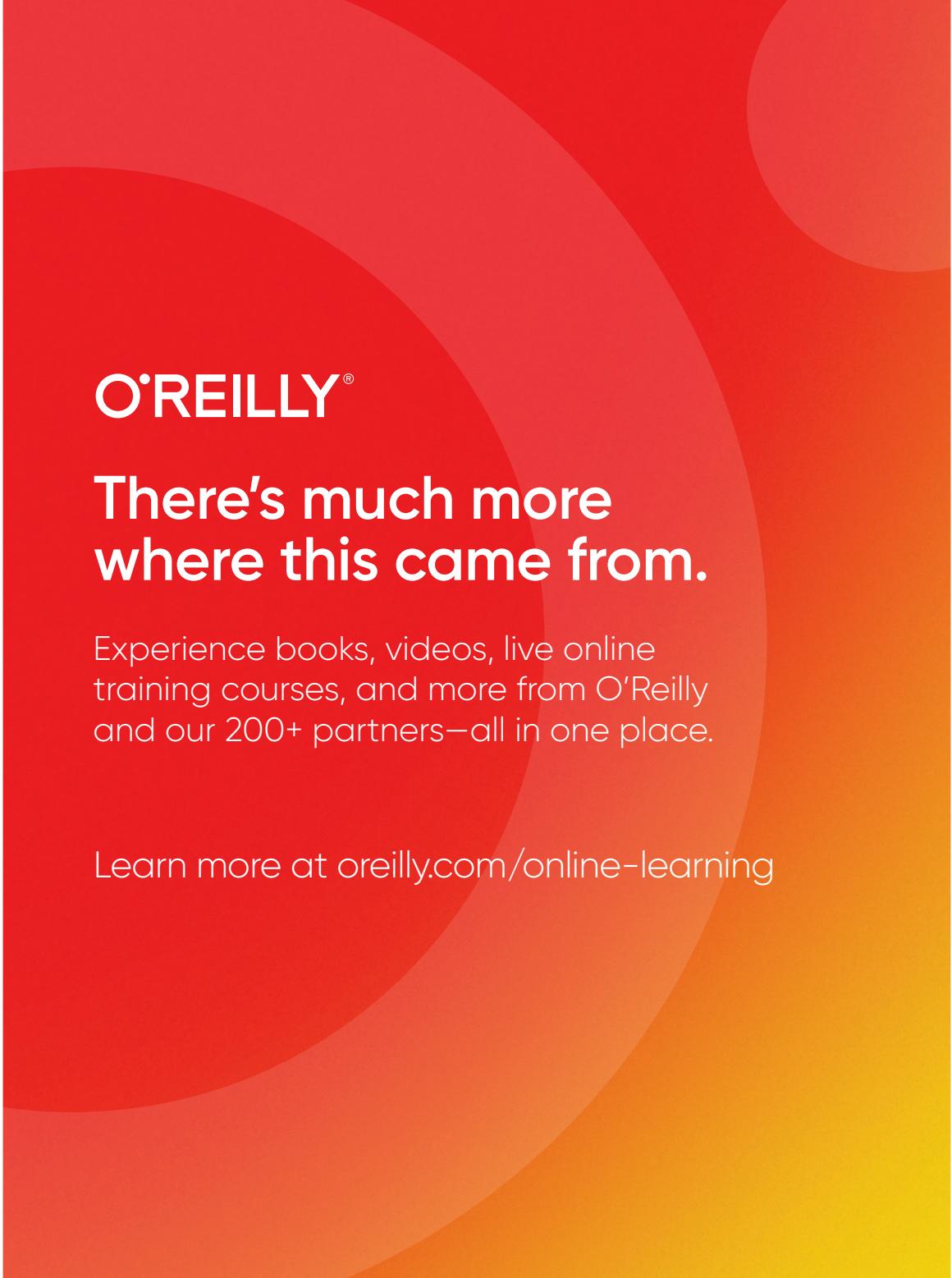
The animal on the cover of *Database Internals* is the peacock flounder, a name given to both *Bothus lunatus* and *Bothus mancus*, inhabitants of the shallow coastal waters of the mid-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific ocean, respectively.

While the blue floral-patterned skin gives the peacock flounder its moniker, these flounders have the ability to change their appearance based on their immediate surroundings. This camouflage ability may be related to the fish's vision, because it is unable to change its appearance if one of its eyes is covered.

Adult flatfishes swim in a horizontal attitude rather than in a vertical, back-up/belly-down, orientation as most other fishes do. When they swim, flatfishes tend to glide only an inch (2.54 cm) or so off the bottom while closely following the contour of the sea floor. One of this flat fish's eyes migrates during maturation to join the other on a single side, allowing the fish to look both forward and backward at once. Understandably, rather than swim vertically, the peacock flounder tends to glide an inch or so off the sea floor, closely following the contour of the terrain with its patterned side always facing up.

While the peacock flounder's current conservation status is designated as of Least Concern, many of the animals on O'Reilly covers are endangered; all of them are important to the world.

The cover illustration is by Karen Montgomery, based on a black and white engraving from Lowry's *The Museum of Natural History*. The cover fonts are Gilroy Semibold and Guardian Sans. The text font is Adobe Minion Pro; the heading font is Adobe Myriad Condensed; and the code font is Dalton Maag's Ubuntu Mono.



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