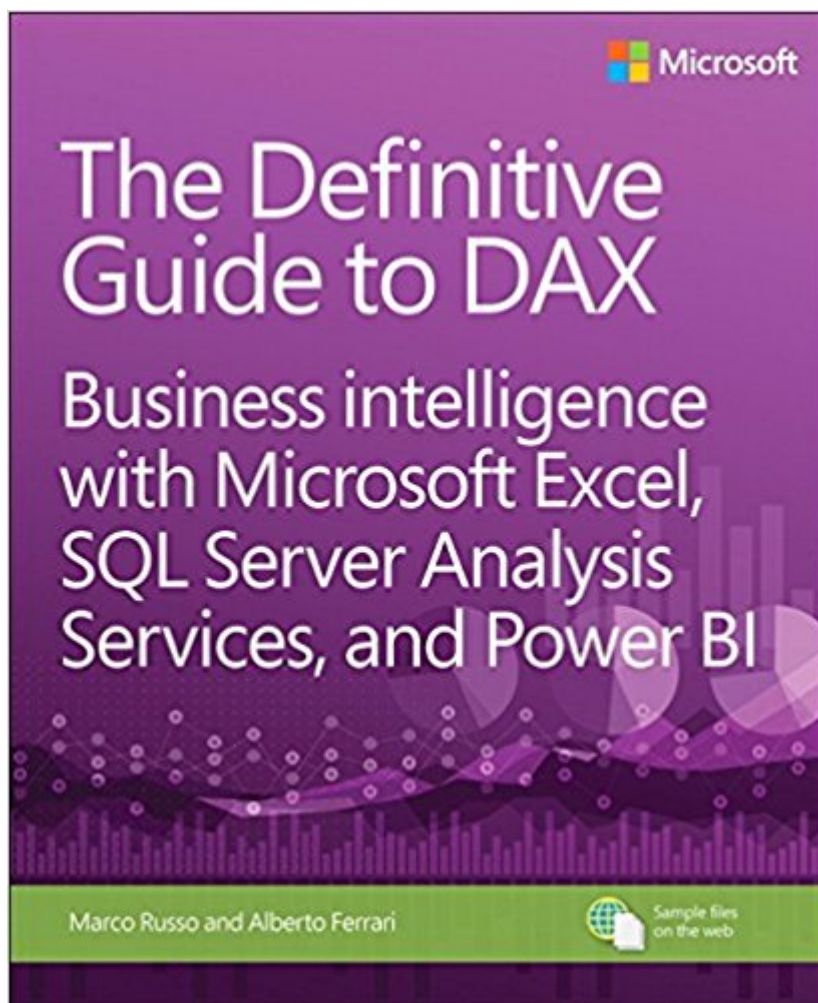


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# The Definitive Guide To DAX: Business Intelligence With Microsoft Excel, SQL Server Analysis Services, And Power BI (Business Skills)



## Synopsis

This comprehensive and authoritative guide will teach you the DAX language for business intelligence, data modeling, and analytics. Leading Microsoft BI consultants Marco Russo and Alberto Ferrari help you master everything from table functions through advanced code and model optimization. You'll learn exactly what happens under the hood when you run a DAX expression, how DAX behaves differently from other languages, and how to use this knowledge to write fast, robust code. If you want to leverage all of DAX's remarkable power and flexibility, this no-compromise "deep dive" is exactly what you need.

- Perform powerful data analysis with DAX for Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services, Excel, and Power BI
- Master core DAX concepts, including calculated columns, measures, and error handling
- Understand evaluation contexts and the CALCULATE and CALCULATETABLE functions
- Perform time-based calculations: YTD, MTD, previous year, working days, and more
- Work with expanded tables, complex functions, and elaborate DAX expressions
- Perform calculations over hierarchies, including parent/child hierarchies
- Use DAX to express diverse and unusual relationships
- Measure DAX query performance with SQL Server Profiler and DAX Studio

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Marco Russo and Alberto Ferrari cofounded [sqlbi.com](http://sqlbi.com), where they regularly publish articles about Microsoft PowerPivot, DAX, Power BI, and SQL Server Analysis Services. They also speak

regularly at major international conferences, such as TechEd, Ignite, PASS Summit, and SQLBits. Both consult and mentor on business intelligence (BI) and Microsoft BI technologies, having worked with them since 1999. Their books include *Microsoft Excel 2013 Building Data Models with PowerPivot*, *Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Analysis Services: The BISM Tabular Model*, and *Microsoft PowerPivot for Excel 2010: Give Your Data Meaning*.

This book will give you good insight into how DAX performs "under the hood". I'm fairly advanced in other tools for BI development (Python, R, SQL), but DAX has really given me a hard time. It's not a programming language - I understand that, but coming from a scripting language to DAX has been quite difficult for me. You have to train yourself to think differently about how your data is filtered and stored. This book does many things well. 1) After reading it, I'm confident that when I write a calculation, it performs as expected. It's really quite easy to write an expression with correct syntax that you think functions properly, but actually doesn't. I don't worry about that anymore, because, at the end of the day, this book really explains DAX well - quirks and all. 2) The companion files that go along with this book are also beautifully put together. You get Power BI, Excel, and DAX Studio files, each with all the tables clearly defined, and all the relationships already made. Obviously, time was taken to make sure you can easily follow through with examples, and you can't say that about many books of this nature. My main problem with this book is how it's written. I wasn't an English major. I don't know all the rules about where a comma goes and why. Also, it's a computer book - I'm not expecting great prose. I'm used to reading programming books that read like dictionaries than anything else. But... 1) This book is full of run-on sentences and commas that are clearly in the wrong place. While a sentence's meaning is correct, you'll sometimes end up spending an extra minute or two re-reading it and trying to phrase it so that it makes sense. There are sentences that span four or five lines. Seriously?! They couldn't break it up a little bit? 2) In an effort to make the book easier to follow, the author tries to use a conversational style (unsuccessfully, see above). The book tries really hard to read like there's a knowledge person sitting in front of you trying to explain things. But he does this thing where he'll spend two pages explaining something and working through an example, you turn the page again, and the second sentence is "you may have noticed that my explanation is not quite right". !\*(\$(&#!@#%\*!!!! ..... infuriating, annoying, unacceptable. If this book only did an average job of explaining DAX, I'd give it one or two stars, but the information inside is actually quite good. It's just that the style makes an already difficult topic harder to follow. Buy it. There's not really a better option. I haven't found a book that does a better job of explaining DAX, but be prepared to spend a good amount of time with

a pencil and highlighter trying to cut through sloppy writing.

Great book! I just finished studying the chapters up to chapter 5 and I have learned a lot. I plan on studying the whole book cover to cover. If you want a thorough understanding of the DAX language then this book is a must have!

Detailed and easy to read. Because of the Definitive Guide, I have confidence in the numbers that are generated from my reports. I highly recommend this book.

Really a complete guide.

Nice book. Gives me the added information I need to grow with DAX.

This really gives you all of the details and knowledge to build on. Definitely keep nearby to refer to often.

Amazing book, gives solid foundation and also a reference book

If you want to learn DAX this is the book period. You should read this first before DAX Patterns it will be much easy

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