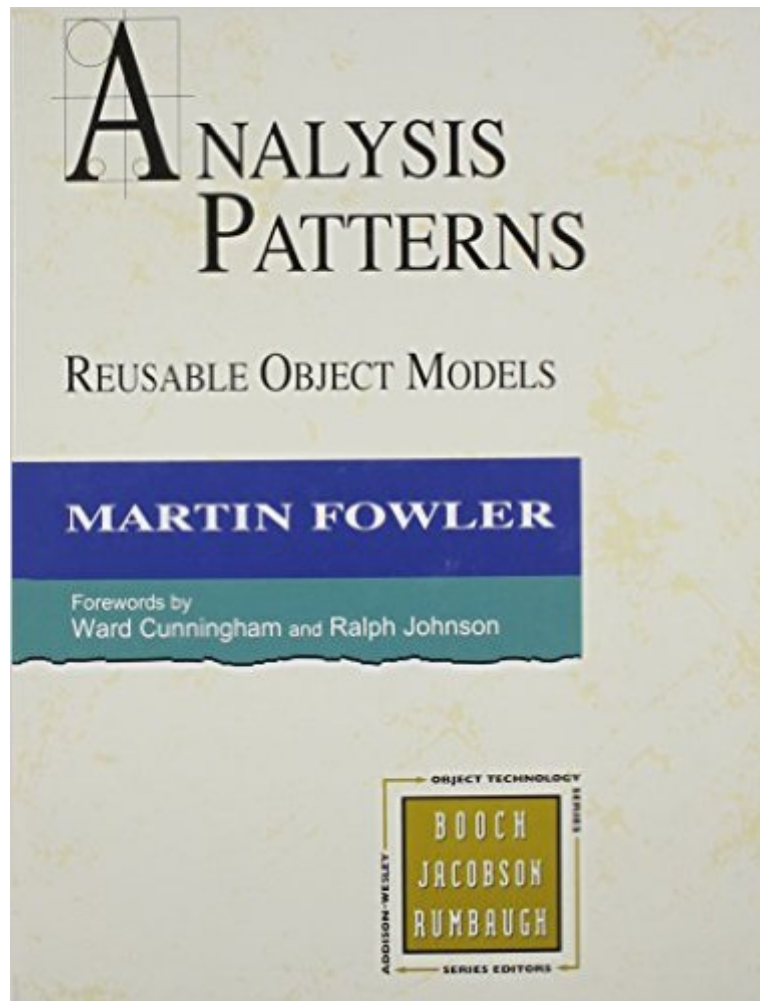


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Analysis Patterns: Reusable Object Models



Synopsis

This innovative book recognizes the need within the object-oriented community for a book that goes beyond the tools and techniques of the typical methodology book. In *Analysis Patterns: Reusable Object Models*, Martin Fowler focuses on the end result of object-oriented analysis and design - the models themselves. He shares with you his wealth of object modeling experience and his keen eye for identifying repeating problems and transforming them into reusable models. *Analysis Patterns* provides a catalogue of patterns that have emerged in a wide range of domains including trading, measurement, accounting and organizational relationships. Recognizing that conceptual patterns cannot exist in isolation, the author also presents a series of "support patterns" that discuss how to turn conceptual models into software that in turn fits into an architecture for a large information system. Included in each pattern is the reasoning behind their design, rules for when they should and should not be used, and tips for implementation. The examples presented in this book comprise a cookbook of useful models and insight into the skill of reuse that will improve analysis, modeling and implementation.0201895420B07092001

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Customer Reviews

This is simply an excellent book; quite possibly the best book I have read on analysis. Martin Fowler cheats by actually being able to write. He has a very lucid prose style making this a very readable book (a strength that also manifests itself in his book *UML Distilled*) even though it deals with

complex subjects. The book deals with using patterns to address particular business areas. However, it has a great deal to offer anybody interested in analysis or modelling (whether they are working in the OO world or not) and provides one of the best explanations I have read of the purpose and objectives of modelling. Each problem area is presented very clearly and a number of different solutions are presented at different levels of abstraction (and hence complexity) with lots of useful insight into the factors that would determine the appropriate model. Analysis Patterns is a book that bears reading and re-reading. I frequently refer to it as an excellent source of interesting ideas on ways of approaching complex modelling & analysis issues. I have never managed to take one of the patterns and apply it as is; however, the ideas and concepts expressed in the book influence many of my models (even when the business problem I am tackling initially appears to be entirely unrelated to any of the patterns). Frankly, this is a book I wish I had written.

I've got most of the books on patterns and find that this is the one I use the most. The writing is clear, the patterns address problems that I run into, and mostly the solutions are just what I need. This book is great to give to analysts who are having trouble agreeing with each other, because they often are persuaded by the book. It is great to give to analysts who are trying to master OO concepts, or to programmers who don't understand why things have to be so complicated. Everybody I know who has read it likes it. I just wish more people would read it! The only thing I don't like about the book is the notation. I wish he had used UML. On the other hand, after you spend a few days with it, it isn't hard to understand. It is just one more notation.

I bet you are an object oriented software developer striving to build better applications. If you have not read GoF Design Patterns and followed that with Vlissides's Pattern Hatching, read those first. Follow those with this, Martin Fowler's Analysis Patterns. As two readings of Design Patterns took my OO knowledge from infancy to adolescence, Analysis Patterns will take you from adolescence to adulthood. Fowler's work does not put together patterns from the Design Patterns book, but takes its time to decompose actual application domain concepts to applicable object models. It will then be up to you to use your knowledge from Design Patterns to create mechanisms that support properly modeled business concepts as Analysis Patterns describes. If you like OO modeling and design, but are wondering how better to apply your modeling concepts, Fowler's book is something you will definitely benefit from. However, make a pot of coffee per chapter - this book is very dense with concepts. Fowler ends Analysis Patterns with some more easily read chapters on application design on a larger scale. You've heard of "n-tier," his discussion of the concepts of "n-tier" at the end of the

book are possibly worth reading first. After reading this book-and understanding it's motivations-you will never again be tempted to take "innocent" shortcuts in your application design. You will not be motivated to use "Strings" for "measurements" or "doubles" for "distances." You will look upon your peer's object designs either with a new understanding that they know that going the distance with their object model is worth it-and you won't demand they dumb down their design ever again-and you'll likewise gain intuition about where a simplistic business domain model is going to fail.

The analysis model is often forgotten. Too often designers will do just that -- design, i.e., solve the problem before serious inquiry into requirements analysis. This book addresses that which is between the use-case and detailed design model. It is the domain analysis model. Fowler is an excellent student of M. Odell, and it's high time that Odell's thinking was made accessible to the domain analyst. Fowler's book is general enough to get across the point that it is how we think about the problem that is the important part of modeling, and not some arcane "modelling process" that is significant to methodologists. A note about reusability, as pertains the title: to my mind it is this thinking which Fowler describes that is a part of modelling that is reusable. The output of his thinking, the actual models in his examples deriving largely from the financial domain, could be in fact reused. But it is the thinking that is important. The only bad thing I can say about this book is that I fear, by its title, it may not reach its desired audience of the domain analyst, because these are, quite frankly, the scientist, the doctor, the finance expert, etc. that can really benefit from modelling since they have the in-depth knowledge of the domain. It is the job of whoever reads this book to spread the message. Power to the domain analyst

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