**Software/hardware list:**

If you have any development experiment this book should be easy to follow. A beginner level knowledge of Unix commands, Python, and some Java is good to speed up the understanding but they are not absolute requirements.

In terms of software and hardware, a machine with 1GB RAM, dual core processor is the minimum requirement. For all practical purposes, any modern machine (your laptop from 2007 or newer) is good. You should have the following software installed:

Python, Java development kit 7 (JDK) or newer

Cassandra 2.1.x or newer

Hadoop 2.6.x or newer

The examples in this book are done in Ubuntu 14.04 and CentOS 6.3. So, if you have Linux/Unix/OSX machine, it is good. You may need to look for a Windows equivalent if it is your environment.