

# Re: how would I store the XML

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*Source:* <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.xml/2005-08/msg00133.html>

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- *From:* [n o s p a m@xxxxxxxx](mailto:nospam@xxxxxxxx)
  - *Date:* 12 Aug 2005 07:08:31 -0700
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Trees and hierarchies in SQL are fairly complex when it comes to inserting, updating and maintaining the integrity of the Xml. I recommend against it, unless your data is purely relational, or you have the time to invest in learning to do hierarchies correctly.

So, unless you are using SQL Server 2005, I recommend storing the Xml in an ntext field (but validate it against your schema before storage). You can always "shred" the xml later (into relational structures).

When you are ready for SQL 2005, use a column of type XML and add your schema to a collection. This will offer data validation, indexing, and other benefits not currently available.

Below are a few links on hierarchical data storage, in case you want to go that route.

Trees in SQL: Nested Sets and Materialized Path  
<http://www.dbazine.com/oracle/or-articles/tropashko4>

SQL Lessons  
<http://www.dbmsmag.com/9604d06.html>

Maintaining Hierarchies  
<http://www.windowsitpro.com/Articles/Index.cfm?ArticleID=8826&Display...>

Manipulating Hierarchies with UDFs  
<http://www.windowsitpro.com/Articles/Index.cfm?ArticleID=16123&Displa...>

Trees and Hierarchies in SQL  
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1558609202/qid=11237899...>

p.s.: You might get even better responses by posting to:  
microsoft.public.sqlserver.programming

-KJ

- **References:**

- ◆ ***how would I store the XML***

- ◆ *From: rviray*

- Prev by Date: ***Re: Help on XML Explicit***
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