



Who needs an XML DBMS?

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A better question for this panel

Who needs XML???

XML is:

- ◆ An interesting alternative to text files
- ◆ An excellent wire format
- ◆ A great presentation format for browsers
 - No more screen scraping

And ...

◆ A lousy data model

A truly lousy data model

- ◆ Have people forgotten why we gave up on the hierarchical data model 25 years ago?
- ◆ Impossible to represent M:N relationships cleanly
 - Is there something beyond M:N I don't know about
- ◆ In the old days every example involved suppliers and parts. Today it is authors and publishers
 - People keep pretending that their relationship is not M:N

What is interesting about XML?

- ◆ Attribute values are marked up with names
- ◆ Not all entities in a document are required to have exactly the same schema
- ◆ Both facilitate schema-later query processing
 - No need to load data into a database before being able to query it

The Right Way to Use XML

- ◆ Don't mix entity sets and relationships in same XML document
- ◆ Example
 - Author document - set of authors
 - Publisher document - set of publishers
 - Publishes document - M:N relationship between authors and publishers using foreign keys

Why?

- ◆ No need for Xquery
- ◆ No need for complicated XML->relational shredding
- ◆ No need for XML database systems that are bound to fail
- ◆ Process queries on XML documents using relational DBMS + table functions/OLE-DB
 - Perhaps augmented with XPATH for specifying selection predicates

Remember the 0 Brothers

- ◆ O2, Orion, Objectivity, Ontos, Ontologic, & Object Design!
- ◆ Why does anyone believe the outcome will be any different 10 years later for the X brothers