How to get ul structure from HTML

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I am making a configuration page, that splits a category tree over 3 columns for easy browsing like:

```
**Column 1**          **Column 2**          **Column3**
   Category1             Category3             Category5
    *SubCategory1*       Category4               *SubCategory5*
   Category2              *SubCategory4*         *SubCategory6*
     *SubCategory2*      etc.
     *SubCategory3*
```

I am using jsp, jquery, and struts2. What I am trying to do is configure the order in which categories/subcategories are displayed. Now I show the structure like that, and I am able to drag them from a column to another, sort the categories of a column and sort the subcategories, using jquery and modifying directly the HTML, but I don't realize how to get the data of the modified structure to persist it over my DB.
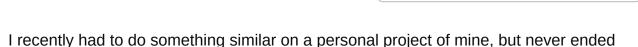
jquery   html   jsp   struts2

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asked Dec 23, 2008 at 17:29

Mg.
1,467 ● 2 ● 16 ● 29

2 Answers

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I recently had to do something similar on a personal project of mine, but never ended up actually using the feature I was writing it for, but here's the code I used:

```javascript
function refactor() {
    var array = jQuery.makeArray($('ul#remapped > li:not(.target)'));
    var mappedArray = jQuery.map(array, function(i) {
        var merged = $(i).find('ul.merge > li:not(.target) > span');
        return {
            column: $(i).children('span').text(),
            merged: jQuery.map(jQuery.makeArray(merged), function(mi) { return
{ column: mi.innerText }; })
        };
    });

    var xml = '<columns>';
    jQuery.each(mappedArray, function(index, item) {
```

```
        xml += '\n\t<column>';
        xml += '\n\t\t<name>' + item.column + '</name>';
        if (item.merged.length > 0) {
            xml += '\n\t\t\t<merged>';
            jQuery.each(item.merged, function(mindex, mitem) {
                xml += '\n\t\t\t\t<name>' + mitem.column + '</name>';
            });
            xml += '\n\t\t\t</merged>';
        }
        xml += '\n\t</column>';
    });
    xml += '\n</columns>';

    $('div#result').load('/Tools/Csv/Refactor', { mapping: xml });
}
```

Basically, the user would use the UI to drag and drop as they please to create the structure they want. Then, they click a button which executes this method.

The $('ul#remapped') query is the element (in my code) that contained the new structure, and then I did some additional querying, again, based on my DOM structure, to extract the values I needed from the DOM and generate an XML string, which was then posted to the server.

I'm sure this isn't *exactly* what you need, but I'm hoping its close enough that you can modify it for what you need.

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answered Dec 23, 2008 at 17:50

Daniel Schaffer
57.8k ● 31 ● 118 ● 166

I'm presuming the structure gets modified by drag and drop. You can make an ajax call every time a change in the structure occurs and update the data in CategorySucategories table you have. I don't know your db structure, so I made an assumption about that too.

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answered Dec 23, 2008 at 17:40

Vasil
38k ● 27 ● 93 ● 116