**[Export a table containing an XML data column in SQL Server 2008](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8991187/export-a-table-containing-an-xml-data-column-in-sql-server-2008)**

[](http://engine.adzerk.net/r?e=eyJ0cyI6MTM2MzI4MTg2NDQ3MCwiYXYiOjQxNCwiYXQiOjQsImNtIjoyOTExLCJjaCI6MTE3OCwiY3IiOjU5MjIsImRtIjoxLCJmYyI6MTAxODcsImZsIjo3NDcyLCJrdyI6InhtbCxzcWwtc2VydmVyLTIwMDgsZXhwb3J0IiwibnciOjIyLCJyZiI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS91cmw_c2E9dCIsInJ2IjowLCJwciI6MTYwNCwic3QiOjgyNzcsInpuIjo0MywiZGkiOiI5NmNlM2I3YjhhM2Q0ZmRlODg2NThhYThjOGE4NTg3OSIsInVyIjoiaHR0cDovL2NhcmVlcnMuc3RhY2tvdmVyZmxvdy5jb20vIn0&s=lgr15b98oUSaYNR-WWl53A3omYs)

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| up vote 2 down vote [favorite](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8991187/export-a-table-containing-an-xml-data-column-in-sql-server-2008) | I need to export a table from SQL Server 2008 from database and then have that table restored on a local database. The issue is that one of the columns contains XML data. What would be the most effective way to do this?  [xml](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/xml) [sql-server-2008](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/sql-server-2008) [export](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/export)   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | [share](http://stackoverflow.com/q/8991187)|[improve this question](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/8991187/edit) | edited [Jan 24 '12 at 17:23](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/8991187/revisions)  [[http://www.gravatar.com/avatar/b4779212f57ff2e9549ea90a4499c2d7?s=32&d=identicon&r=PG](http://stackoverflow.com/users/13302/marc-s)](http://stackoverflow.com/users/13302/marc-s)  [marc\_s](http://stackoverflow.com/users/13302/marc-s) **234k**22292468 | asked Jan 24 '12 at 17:20  [[http://www.gravatar.com/avatar/3571cd085861d4ab6931ff0762c803b9?s=32&d=identicon&r=PG](http://stackoverflow.com/users/1111955/user1111955)](http://stackoverflow.com/users/1111955/user1111955)  [user1111955](http://stackoverflow.com/users/1111955/user1111955) **179**110 | |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | How would you do this if you did not have a XML column? – [Mikael Eriksson](http://stackoverflow.com/users/569436/mikael-eriksson" \o "55436 reputation) [Jan 24 '12 at 17:25](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8991187/export-a-table-containing-an-xml-data-column-in-sql-server-2008#comment11267405_8991187) | |  | usually, I would export to a flat file. But that causes an error with the XML column – [user1111955](http://stackoverflow.com/users/1111955/user1111955) [Jan 24 '12 at 19:37](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8991187/export-a-table-containing-an-xml-data-column-in-sql-server-2008#comment11269956_8991187) | |

**2 Answers**

[active](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8991187/export-a-table-containing-an-xml-data-column-in-sql-server-2008?answertab=active#tab-top) [oldest](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8991187/export-a-table-containing-an-xml-data-column-in-sql-server-2008?answertab=oldest#tab-top) [votes](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/8991187/export-a-table-containing-an-xml-data-column-in-sql-server-2008?answertab=votes#tab-top)

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| up vote 2 down vote accepted | You can also try the "Export Data" wizard. That should work well given your scenario.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | [share](http://stackoverflow.com/a/9041855)|[improve this answer](http://stackoverflow.com/posts/9041855/edit) | answered Jan 28 '12 at 0:25  [[http://www.gravatar.com/avatar/7c29145f5e5c929fa4ec52e6a80cbe6c?s=32&d=identicon&r=PG](http://stackoverflow.com/users/72324/csharp)](http://stackoverflow.com/users/72324/csharp)  [Csharp](http://stackoverflow.com/users/72324/csharp) **631**2824 | |
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| up vote 0 down vote | You can use XML instead of flat file.  Sample structure and data:  create table XMLTable  (  ID int,  XMLData xml  )  insert into XMLTable values  (1, '<root>item1</root>'),  (2, '<root>item2</root>')  Query data using for xml auto:  select \*  from XMLTable  for xml auto, elements  Result:  <XMLTable>  <ID>1</ID>  <XMLData>  <root>item1</root>  </XMLData>  </XMLTable>  <XMLTable>  <ID>2</ID>  <XMLData>  <root>item2</root>  </XMLData>  </XMLTable>  Load the XML to a XML data type variable in the target DB and use XQuery to insert data. Use .value() for regular columns and .query() for the XML column.  declare @XML xml  set @XML =  '<XMLTable>  <ID>1</ID>  <XMLData>  <root>item1</root>  </XMLData>  </XMLTable>  <XMLTable>  <ID>2</ID>  <XMLData>  <root>item2</root>  </XMLData>  </XMLTable>'  insert into XMLTable(ID, XMLData)  select T.N.value('ID[1]', 'int'),  T.N.query('XMLData/\*')  from @XML.nodes('/XMLTable') as T(N) |