

: *What is a columnar database?*

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A columnar database stores data tables as sections of columns of data rather than as rows of data. Chapple explains "Columnar databases are a hybrid between NoSQL and relational databases. They provide some row-and-column structure, but do not have the strict rules of relational databases."

References

Chapple, M., "Introduction to NoSQL: Building Databases to Support Big Data," at URL <http://databases.about.com/od/otherdatabases/a/Introduction-To-Nosql.htm>

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Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, "Column-oriented DBMS," at URL http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Column-oriented_DBMS

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