Subject: Re: Traversing subtrees
Posted by AJM on Fri, 05 Apr 2013 16:28:24 GMT
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Why do you think that a record with a null parent_id is not normalised? It signifies that a node does not have a parent, which either means that it is at the top of the tree, or it has been orphaned (ie: waiting to be assigned to a parent).

My tree structure is not supposed to be the only way to represent a tree, it just happens to be the one that suited my purposes many years ago when a particular requirement arose. There may be other ways to handle tree structures, so you are free to implement whatever takes your fancy.