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Platform, Services, and Utilities 2205 ▼ English

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The Type System

A type is a template for objects. Types define product data that objects may carry and specify relations between objects, and also make product data persistent by categorizing the data and relating it to database fields. Every object stored in Platform is a type instance.

Main Functions of the Type System SAR Commerce uses a system of types to organize data for exam

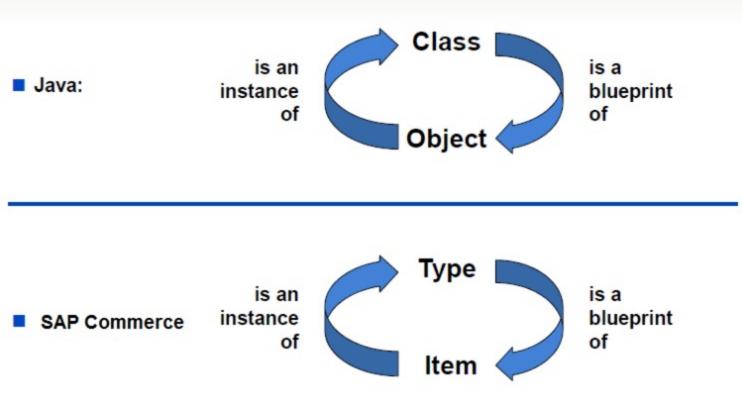
SAP Commerce uses a system of types to organize data, for example product information, customer data, addresses, or orders.

....

Types define persistent objects in several aspects:

- attributes manage and store data for the object,
- the deployment defines the database table the object is stored in (see Specifying a Deployment for Platform Types for more details)
- the Java class of the object.

A Type is the type definition in items.xml and its Java implementation.



Platform concept Java concept

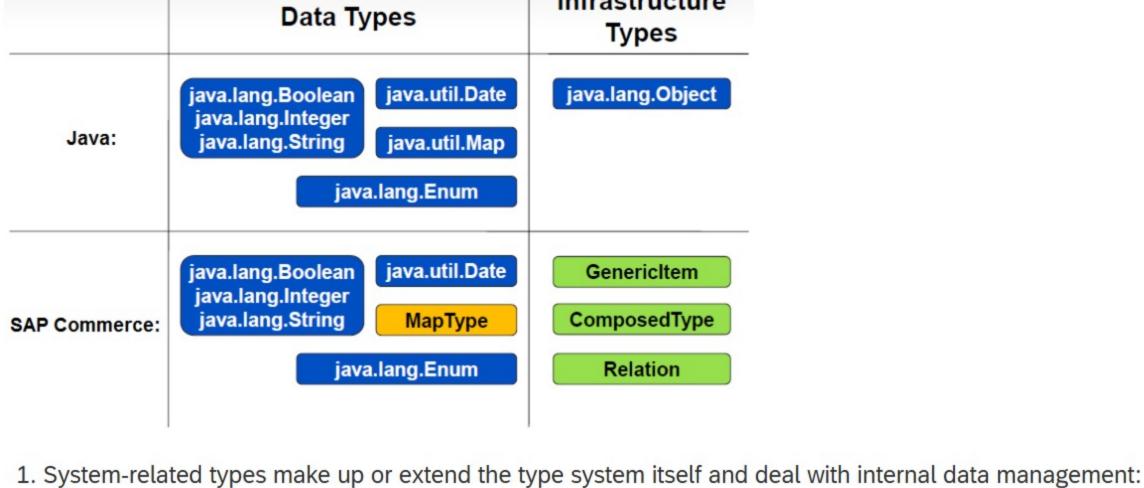
An object instance of a type is called an item:

type	class
item	object / instance

There are two major kinds of types: System-related types and business-related types.

Items and Types

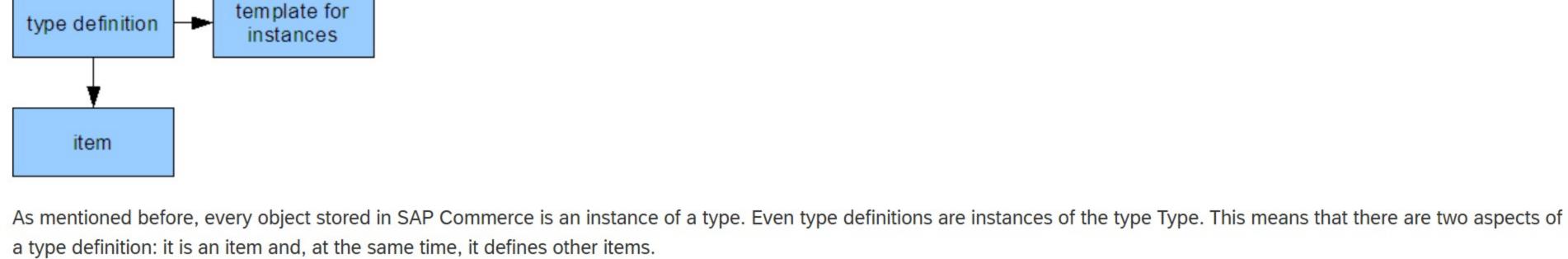
Infrastructure



- a. Infrastructure types: ComposedTypes (also referred to as ItemTypes) set up type definitions and may carry attributes to hold information. In the end, every persistent object in the SAP Commerce is an instance of ComposedType or of one of its subtypes.
 - b. Data types: CollectionTypes, MapTypes, EnumerationTypes, and AtomicTypes. These are used to describe attributes: carrying attribute values or representations for
- these values or creating links between objects

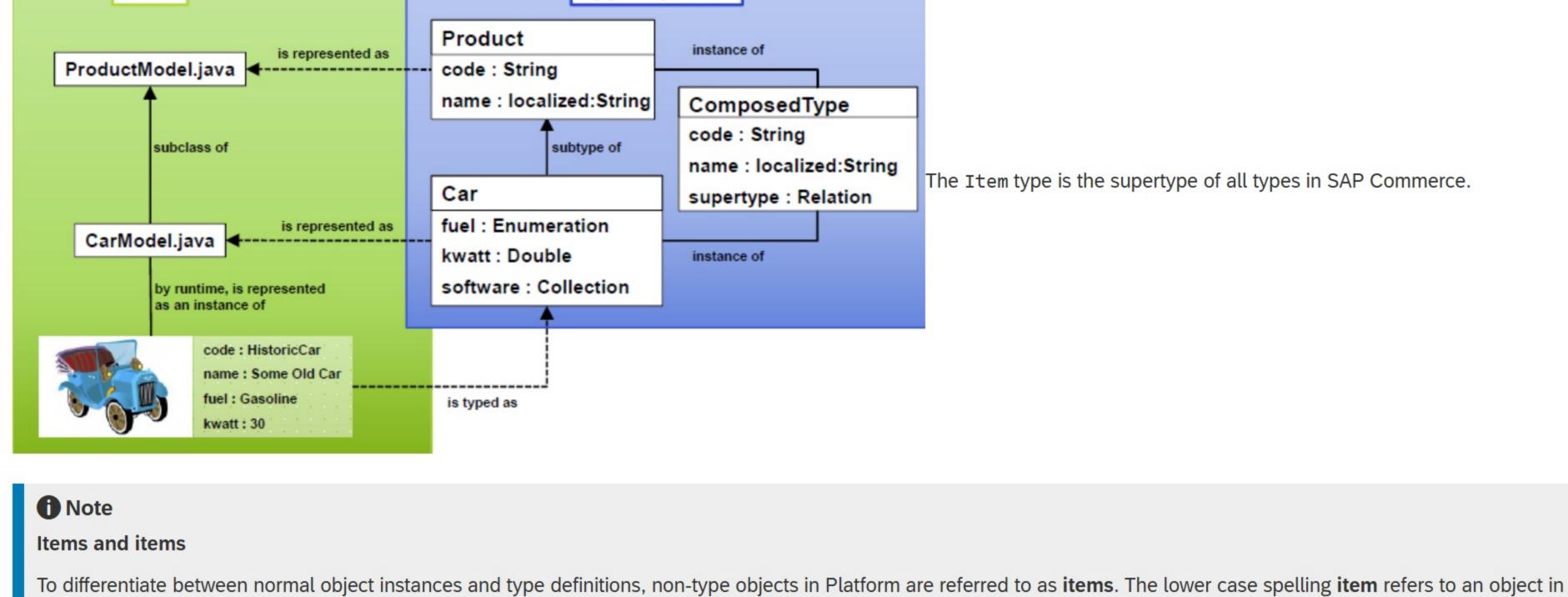
 2. Business-related types (like Order, Discount, Shoe) allow you to manage product and / or customer information so that you can run your business.
- For the out-of-the-box structure and hierarchy of the type system, consult the core-items.xml file.

Type System



Java

Java Classes vs Type System



Platform; the upper case spelling **Item** refers to the type definition.

Type definitions are stored as instances of ComposedType (or a subtype of ComposedType), so the definitions of Item and Product as items are instances of ComposedTypes.

You may want to define subtypes of ComposedTypes with additional attributes. The following code snippet defines an item called SpecialProduct that is a subtype of Product but its type is not defined as a ComposedType, but as a SpecialComposedType (via the metatype attribute). Instances of SpecialProduct are thus subtypes of Product, but the

On the API level, get hold of those attributes via getter and setter methods. An attribute in SAP Commerce:

type definition is stored as a SpecialComposedType.

Types and Attributes

Types may define attributes, which is the equivalent to Java classes having fields. You may easily edit item values in Backoffice as they are displayed in graphical editor elements.

a composed type, for example the Folder in the Media type
 a basic Java type, called the atomic type, for example the Description attribute is of type java.lang.String

• can be a reference to

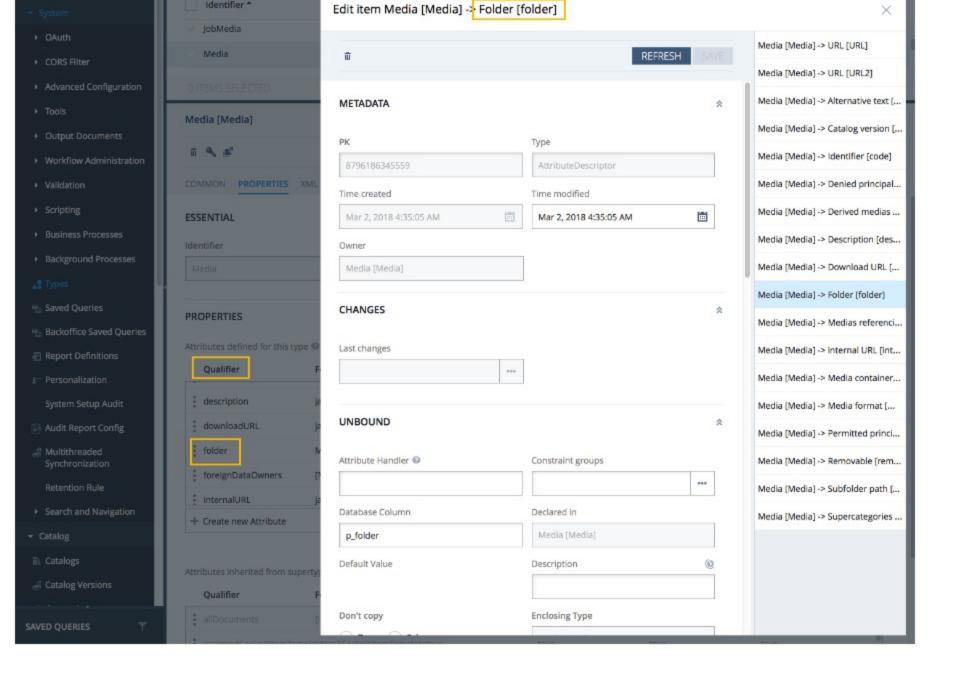
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SAP

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