

Simple Import for Virtuemart – Free Version

We developed Simple Import out of necessity. We used data from a number of different suppliers. There seems to be a common structure in the way data is handled. The result is an extreme powerful product import tool. Where possible, Simple Import automatically handles some of the data manipulations. In the past this would result in weeks of CSV file editing.

This is meant to be kept simple so there are not many options to deal with.

The most important part to using Simple Import is ensuring your data is in the same structure as the template.csv file.

Please note the header fields. **ALL fields** need to be included in the data file EVEN if there is no data for that field.

Product Variants

The most important part is to understand how Simple Import handles product variations (size, color, etc).

Product variations are automatically created. Take a look at the sample data-file.

Simple Import will automatically create a parent for the variants.

Look at the product_sku “BKNVBF8L”

Notice that there is also “BKNVBF8M” and “BKNVBF8XL”

A parent will automatically be created for this group of SKU's, with the values M, L, & XL

	B	C	S	T
1	product_sku	product_parent_sku	variant_type	variant_value
2	7-899	7-899		
3	7-902	7-902		
4	755-1	755-1		
5	AUJAC	AUJAC		
6	AUJACLT	AUJACLT		
7	AUVCAC	AUVCAC		
8	AUVWD2	AUVWD2		
9	AUVWD3	AUVWD3		
10	BCATT	BCATT		
11	BCCB	BCCB		
12	BCCB2	BCCB2		
13	BCLBC	BCLBC		
14	BCLBCCH	BCLBCCH		
15	BCLBCCH2	BCLBCCH2		
16	BCLMS	BCLMS		
17	BCPILOT	BCPILOT		
18	BCPILOT2	BCPILOT2		
19	BCPILOT3	BCPILOT3		
20	BKNVBF1L	BKNVBF1	Size	Large
21	BKNVBF8L	BKNVBF8	Size	Large
22	BKNVBF8M	BKNVBF8	Size	Medium
23	BKNVBF8XL	BKNVBF8	Size	Extra Large
24	BKNVBO7L	BKNVBO7	Size	Extra Large
25	BKNVBO7M	BKNVBO7	Size	Large
26	BKNVBO7XL	BKNVBO7	Size	Large
27	BKNVBP7L	BKNVBP7	Size	Medium
28	BKNVGB1L	BKNVGB1	Size	Large
29	BKNVGB1M	BKNVGB1	Size	Medium
30	BKNVGB1XL	BKNVGB1	Size	Extra Large
31	BKNVGB4L	BKNVGB4	Size	Large
32	BKNVGB4M	BKNVGB4	Size	Medium

Product Categories

The character “/” denotes a sub-directory.

The character “;” separates directory entries.

Take a look at the category part of the data-file

H
category_name
Home/Blankets;Blankets
Home/Blankets;Blankets
Home/Blankets;Blankets
Tools/Auto Vacs;Tools
Tools/Emergency kits
Tools/Auto Vacs
Tools/Auto Vacs

Look at the 1st line. This product will be put in the Blankets sub-category by “Home/Blankets”. This product will also be put in the Blankets main category by “Blankets”. The semi-colon “;” character separates the category entries.

Product Images

file_url and file_url_thumb are used for the product images. Simple Import does **not** automatically re-size product images. Product images are stored in “/components/com_virtuemart/shop_image/product”

When you put the file-name should be relative to the default Virtuemart product image path. Take a look at a sample of the data.

J	K
file_url	file_url_thumb
7-899/7-899_400.jpg	7-899/7-899_125.jpg
7-902/7-902_400.jpg	7-902/7-902_125.jpg
755-1/755-1_400.jpg	755-1/755-1_125.jpg
AUAC/AUAC_400.jpg	AUAC/AUAC_125.jpg
AUACLT/AUACLT_400.jpg	AUACLT/AUACLT_125.jpg
AUVCAC/AUVCAC_400.jpg	AUVCAC/AUVCAC_125.jpg
AUVWD2/AUVWD2_400.jpg	AUVWD2/AUVWD2_125.jpg
AUVWD3/AUVWD3_400.jpg	AUVWD3/AUVWD3_125.jpg
BCATT/BCATT_400.jpg	BCATT/BCATT_125.jpg
BCCB/BCCB_400.jpg	BCCB/BCCB_125.jpg
BCCB2/BCCB2_400.jpg	BCCB2/BCCB2_125.jpg
BCLBC/BCLBC_400.jpg	BCLBC/BCLBC_125.jpg
BCLBCCH/BCLBCCH_400.jpg	BCLBCCH/BCLBCCH_125.jpg
BCLBCCH2/BCLBCCH2_400.jpg	BCLBCCH2/BCLBCCH2_125.jpg

We usually put our product images in sub-directories because our supplier give us the images already listed in sub-directories. It makes it easy to just unzip the complete product image file into “/components/com_virtuemart/shop_image/product”.

Notice the file_url field “7-899/7-899_400.jpg”. The first part “7-899/” denotes a sub-directory within

the “product” folder”. The other part “7-899_400.jpg” is the file name. The same is true for the “file_url_thumb” field. You could just as easy put everything in one directory, but this may make it more difficult in the future for product updates.

Related Products

Related products are listed by the product_sku. Separate related products by using the semi-colon “;”.

Summary

The rest of the header fields should be self explanatory.

Simple Import Pro contains more detailed information during the import process that can help you debug your import file if you experience any problems. Also included with Simple Import Pro is tips and techniques to literally shave days off CSV file editing. There are really great formulas you can use in excel or other spreadsheet software to greatly simplify your efforts.

Visit [Simple Import Pro for Virtuemart](#) to learn more.

