

Alternative Administration System

Version: 0.3, Created by [John Barounis](#) , www.alternative-administration-system.com

Alternative Administration System is an essential plugin for osCommerce cms that is ideal in task delegation and product manipulation. At it's core, AAS allows end users to utilize basic and advanced osCommerce administrative functions with added features of dynamic product manipulation.

HISTORY - ROADMAP

It all started on June 2011. I just had set up an osCommerce website for a friend for his local store. I did not like the way to handle the categories and products. So I started developing an alternative way to handle categories – products. So on 17/06/2011 I released the first version (0.1) with name:

Alternative Administrator Categories/Products Page Addon (jQuery, ajax edit)

It was very simple and you could only change the name, model, quantity and price of the product. Watch a presentation on youtube [here](#). After the first release and since I saw that users liked the idea, I continued developing it.

So by the next release (0.2 beta) which happened on 16/11/2012 I had changed a lot. Added more things such as the ability to choose what column – product field to display and an awesome feature viewing and editing product description by displaying a product preview window.

Note that these release was not actually a release at the official oscommerce addons page but at the forum.

<http://forums.oscommerce.com/topic/388744-alternative-administrator-categoriesproducts-page-addon-jquery-ajax-edit/>

That happened because I wanted users to test it before releasing the 0.2 version. Check a demo video [here](#).

After the beta release at the forum, users wanted to add some new features such as the ability to add new custom fields. All users' requests are done! Despite all those things – new addons, I was not happy enough with the user interface. I had to change it to make it simpler and more productive. So I removed the heavy jquery datatables plugin in favor of simple tables. Changed the colors, added hidden panels (which are visible only when user wants it). Added icons and much more...

I renamed the addon to: **Alternative Administration System: Categories/Products**. As you can see theres a “subcategory” Categories/Products. It means that this **Alternative Administration System** handles categories and mostly products.

Below you can find some cool new features:

- Add extra **custom fields** easily
 - All fields custom or not, can be editable or not, visible by default or not , sortable or not e.t.c.
 - You can also add fields from other mysql tables other than products

- Deletion of multiple products**
- Multiple prices edit**
- Right side panel (sortable fields, **choose what fields to display and sort - reorder them**)
- Bottom panel (contains: categories list, languages, display in stock or not)
- Top Search panel (hidden by default, opens when you click on search icon)
- Server side pagination** (includes max products per page)
- Advanced search** (search on specific field, developers can add their own custom fields)
- Order products by different fields - custom fields
- Print categories and/or products** (only the categories - products table, everything else is not displayed)
- Product rows are now sortable
- Multiple product status change
- Export products into csv, json, text or excel file**

And those are only some features.

Lots of code improvements.

04/10/2013

The **Alternative Administration System: Categories/Products** is renamed to **Alternative Administration System**.

Almost all the features of version 0.1 have been improved.

Product's editing description method has been changed dramatically. Now you can edit in other languages easily by clicking on the languages flag icon (for example: imagine editing a product in 4 languages, you make the changes in the text for every language and then you press a button to preview the changes and then another button to submit all the changes).

Gross price is also editable as requested.

The discount edit product prices drop down menu now includes the "=" for pricing selected products at the same price as requested

New things:

- ajax Temp list where you can "save" products from different categories so you can use other functionalities to them such as copy attributes
- ajax Copy, Move or Link products
- ajax copy or delete attributes from a product to selected products or to products the are under a category and/or subcategories
- ajax product's changes file import (export products data in a file and edit them using your favorite editor then upload and apply changes)
- ajax **Attributes Manager**.

- ajax Online Users Viewer (via charts => highCharts), + online users per country.
- ajax Calendar, keeping - adding events, notes
- ajax Worldwide Clocks
- ajax **Specials Manager**, yes you read it right. Now you can easily edit-add specials products!
- ajax All Edit method. You can edit all values easily without clicking in every cell.
- Ajax Expected products manager.

The whole code has been "dramatically" improved.

I am coding AAS in such a way so you can easily install it, making as less as possible changes in the osc core files.

Check a quick video demonstration of the new features on youtube.

Click [here](#) to watch the video!

09/02/2014

version: 0.3

Code has been dramatically improved. Fixed all the bugs found and those reported by users. New features added such as downloadable products manager, admin access control, admin edit control, new columns, modules, e.t.c.

Some of the new features added:

- Admin Access Control & Admin Edit Control
- Sort products by different columns
- View product list displaying column values such as images, price, attributes, model number, etc.
- Add custom columns such as products cost
- Quick change categories/products sort order via drag n drop
- Customizable category/product display per user
- Mass edit selectable column values (prices, quantities, weight, manufacturers e.t.c.)
- Easily printable HTML AJAX pages
- Custom Administrative settings per user
- Restrictive Administrative settings per user
- Downloadable products manager
- *Modules loader (ability to extend AAS functionality)*
 - *Add Category*

- *Add Product*
- *Customers Manager*
- *Reviews Manager*
- *Manufacturers Manager*
- *Orders Manager*
- *Products Monitor*
- *Payment Report*
- *Products Expected*

Support forum page can be found [here](#).

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