



Platform

Generated on: 2021-10-25 17:10:06 GMT+0000

SAP Commerce | 1811

PUBLIC

Original content: <https://help.sap.com/viewer/d0224eca81e249cb821f2cdf45a82ace/1811/en-US>

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Structuring Your Collection with Products and Categories

Products are the basic elements of each catalog. By grouping them, you can arrange your collection in categories. In order to build a hierarchical product structure, products can be kept in categories.

About Products

Products are goods or services that can be offered to a market. Products are typically the basic elements of both your collection and your sales catalogs.

In SAP Commerce, a product is a data structure that represents an item of merchandise, for example a shirt or a camera. It typically includes product attributes such as product name, description, sales unit, and price. Optionally, a product can hold product variants and link to images or other media.

Products are imported from third-party sources such as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, Product Information System (PIM) systems, or by file import. Products can be created and edited manually in the Backoffice Framework.

Creating and Nesting Categories

To organize products, you can group them into categories that represent logical groups. This enables you to bring related products together, for example by using a `shirts` category and a `jackets` category. You can compare categories with departments of a traditional store.

Categories can hold other categories, so that you can assemble corresponding categories including their products in a supercategory, also called parent category. Thus, you can nest categories arbitrarily and build up hierarchical category structures.

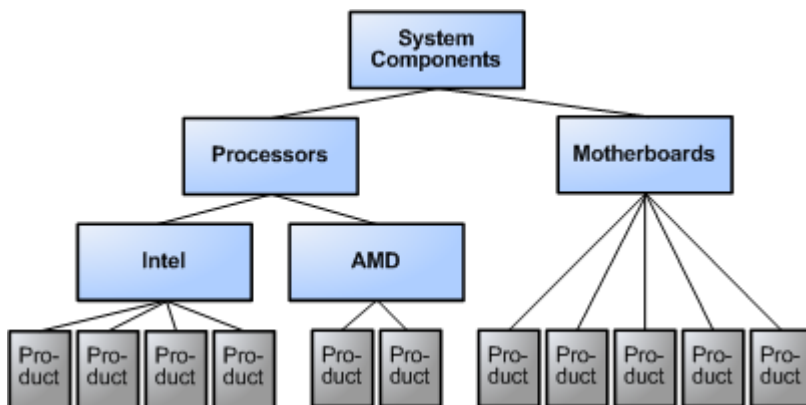


Figure: Sample Category Structure

Structuring Categories

The actual structure of your categories depends on the purpose of the catalog. If you create the category structure for a collection catalog to be propagated in a web shop, the category structure is typically used to provide customer navigation tools of the web shop front-end. Proper orientation and navigation in a web shop should reflect customer expectations and enable the customer to effectively access product information using easy pathways through the web shop.

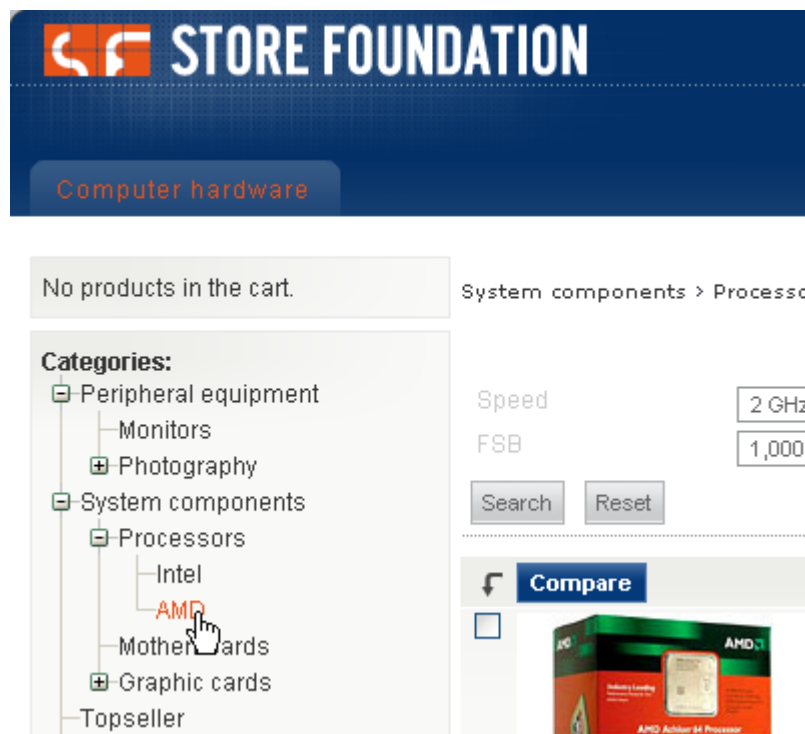


Figure: Sample Web Shop navigation based on a category structure.

If you create the category structure for a master catalog of a Product Information System (PIM), you can organize the category structure to group product attributes. This is usually related to the classification of categories. Such classifications enable you to define product attributes for selected categories only. Therefore, you should organize the category structure carefully because you need to consider the product attributes that you want to define by classification afterwards. For more information, see [Classification](#).

[Creating Categories](#)

Categories, like products, are usually imported from third-party sources such as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, PIM systems, or by file import. They can also be created and edited manually in Backoffice Framework.

[Controlling the Visibility of a Category](#)

To make a category visible in the storefront, you must explicitly define the user groups or individual users that are allowed to view the category. The visibility of a category also controls the visibility of all subcategories, products, and other objects that are contained in it. In contrast, a category is not visible if it does not contain any visible products.

[Adding and Managing Products in Categories](#)

Categories and products, including their category assignment, are imported from third-party sources, such as from ERP systems, from PIM systems, or by file import. Products can also be assigned to categories manually in the Backoffice Framework.

[Adding Media Items to a Category](#)

Media items, such as product images, are usually referenced by the product. On the **Multimedia** tab of the product editor you can reference images and other multimedia items.

Creating Categories

Categories, like products, are usually imported from third-party sources such as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, PIM systems, or by file import. They can also be created and edited manually in Backoffice Framework.

Context

To create a new category, perform the following steps:

Procedure

This is custom documentation. For more information, please visit the [SAP Help Portal](#)

1. On the Backoffice Administration Cockpit, access [Catalog Categories](#).
2. Click the [+](#) [Create](#) action button.
3. Fill in all mandatory fields.
4. Click [Done](#).
5. In the collection browser, select your newly created category and go to the [Category Structure](#) tab.
6. In the [Category Structure](#) tab, insert the category within the target hierarchical category structure.

The screenshot shows the 'Category Structure' tab in the SAP Backoffice Administration Cockpit. The breadcrumb is '[engraving_extraLargeFont] - Electronics Product Catalog : Online'. The 'CATEGORY STRUCTURE' tab is selected. The 'ESSENTIAL' section contains fields for 'Identifier' (engraving_extraLargeFont), 'Name' (empty), and 'Catalog version' (Electronics Product Catalog : Online). The 'SUPERCATEGORIES' section shows a selection of '[engraving] - Electronics Product Catalog : Online'. The 'SUBCATEGORIES AND PRODUCTS' section has 'Subordinate Categories' (empty) and 'Included Products' (DSC-H20 Green [1978440_green] - Electronics Pro...).

- Select one or more [Supercategories](#) to group this category together with comparable categories below one or more supercategories.
 - Select one or more [Subordinate Categories](#) to group other categories below this category; consequently the latter category becomes the supercategory of the selected ones.
 - Select one or more [Included Products](#) to logically group products in this category.
7. On the [Multimedia](#) tab, specify a category image and other media relevant for this category. You can also use the [Additional Multimedia Objects](#) group to manage product images that belong to products contained in this category.

Only SAP Commerce administrators can access the [Administration](#) tab. It provides editing data including primary key, changes, and copies.

Controlling the Visibility of a Category

To make a category visible in the storefront, you must explicitly define the user groups or individual users that are allowed to view the category. The visibility of a category also controls the visibility of all subcategories, products, and other objects that are contained in it. In contrast, a category is not visible if it does not contain any visible products.

Context

To set the visibility of the category, perform the following steps:

Procedure

1. On the Backoffice Administration Cockpit, access [Catalog Categories](#) to display the list of categories.
2. Select the category that you want to update.
3. In the [General](#) tab, go to the [Category Visibility](#) section.
4. Update the [Visible to](#) list by adding one or more user groups or individual users in the fields provided. You can also control the category visibility using personalization rules that check the category settings to verify which users are authorized.

i **Note**

For more information, see [Catalog Guide](#).

5. Click **Save** to continue action. Otherwise, click **Refresh**.

For more information on controlling visibility, refer to the following topics:

- [Visibility Control](#)
- [Users in the Platform](#)

Adding and Managing Products in Categories

Categories and products, including their category assignment, are imported from third-party sources, such as from ERP systems, from PIM systems, or by file import. Products can also be assigned to categories manually in the Backoffice Framework.

Context

→ **Tip**

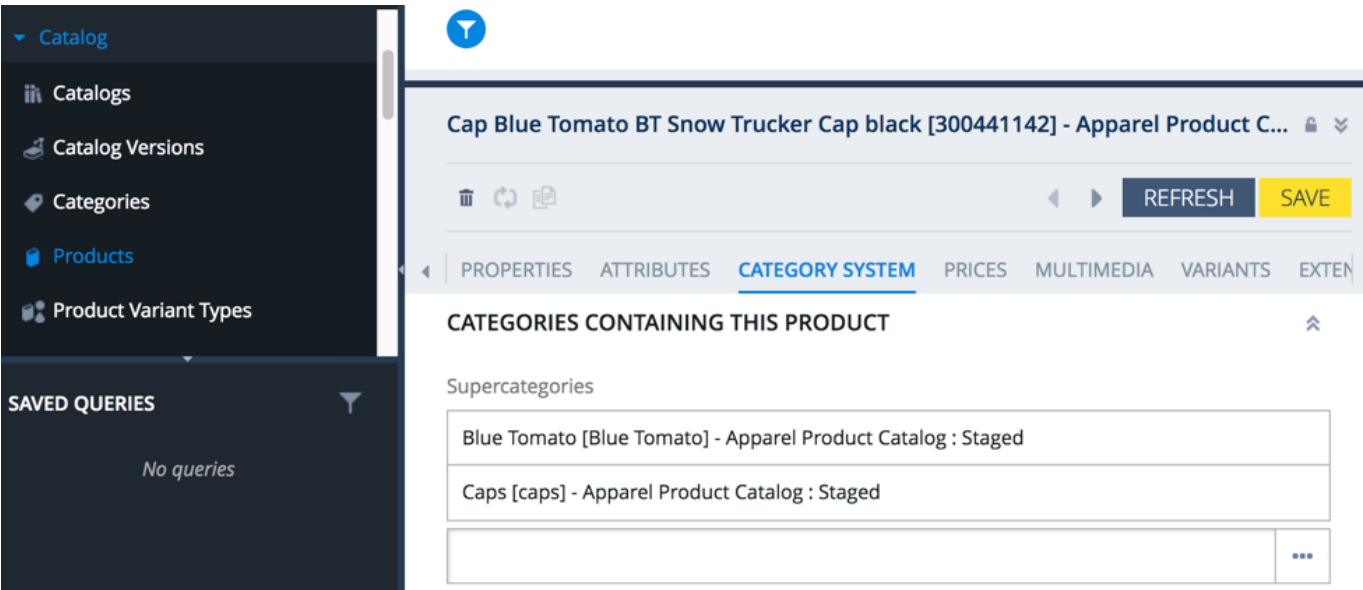
You can use the SAP Commerce Product Cockpit to assign products to categories in a graphical way by dragging and dropping. For details see:

- Catalog Perspective of the SAP Commerce Product Cockpit, section *Assign Product Button* of [Catalog Perspective](#)
- [Creating Product Assignments](#)

To add a product to a category, perform the following:

Procedure

1. On the Backoffice Administration Cockpit, access **Catalog Products** to display the list of products.
2. Select the product that you want to add to a category.
3. Click **Category System**.



4. In the **Categories Containing This Product** section, define one or more Supercategories in the fields provided.

5. Click **Save** to add the product to the category. Otherwise, click **Refresh**.

Adding Media Items to a Category

Media items, such as product images, are usually referenced by the product. On the **Multimedia** tab of the product editor you can reference images and other multimedia items.

Context

Instead of using the product images suggested in the product objects, you can reference any product image directly in the corresponding product category. In this way, they are referenced separately from the corresponding product, which enables versioning of media items. This ensures that provided media items held separately in categories do not change if the media item referenced in the product object is updated. To accomplish this, you need a media naming strategy that allows you to match products to their related images.

You also can use this method if you want to maintain media items in a separate media maintenance catalog.

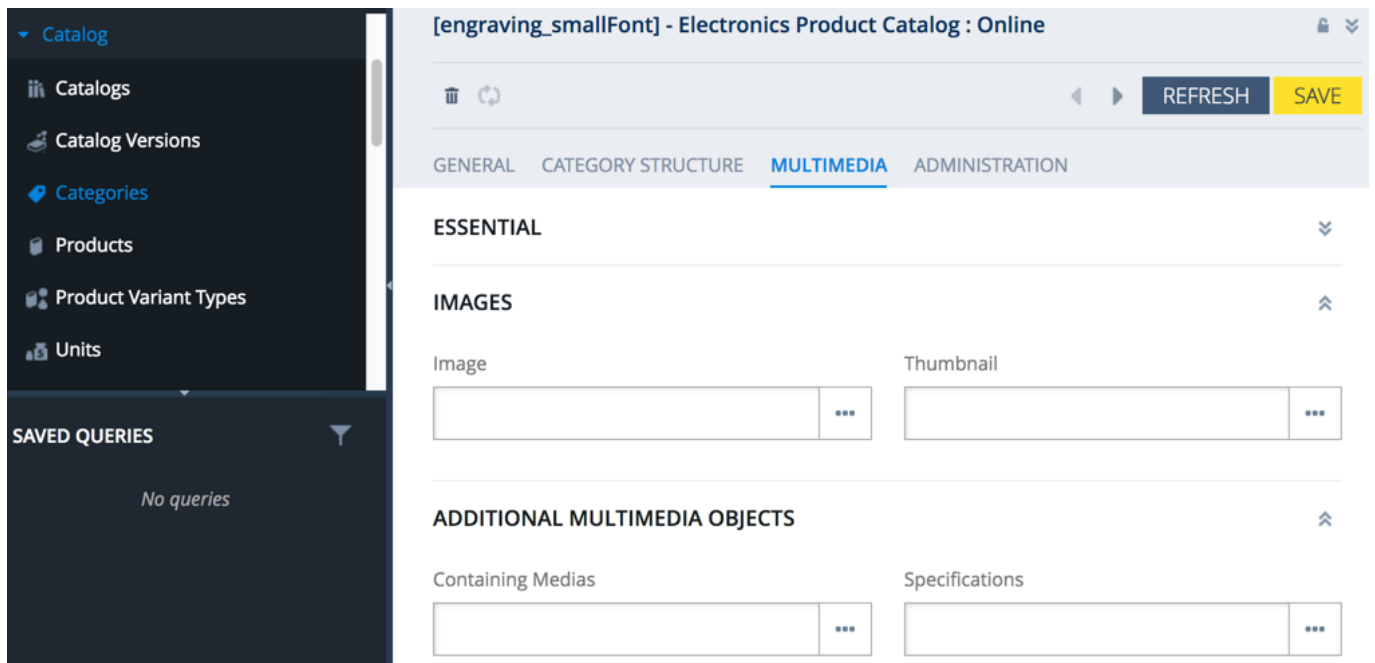
i Note

Ensure that you have already added a media item. To add media items, refer to [Creating a Media Item](#).

To add a media item to a Category, perform the following procedure:

Procedure

1. On the Backoffice Administration Cockpit, access **Catalog Categories** to display the list of categories.
2. Select the category where you want to add the media item.
3. Click the **Multimedia** menu.



4. Define a visual for the category in the **Images** section.
5. Go to the **Additional Multimedia Objects** section to reference media items related to the products in the category.
6. Click **Save** to add the media item. Otherwise, click **Refresh**.