Icecat URL Import Implementation Notes

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Our Mission

It is our mission to provide channel partners and buyer orientation websites with high-quality product information. More and more manufacturers work together with Icecat to take care of their product content; this makes it possible for us to distribute their product content for free. Here, you can always find the latest overview of sponsoring (free) brands in Open Icecat: http://www.icecat.biz/en/menu/partners/index.htm .

However attractive the free Open Icecat database is, the Full-Icecat database still contains many, many more brands: 6000+. If you are interested in subscribing to the Full-Icecat database, please contact us via the website.

Is there a catch with the free product content? No, because in that case the manufacturers take care of the product content and related costs. There is one thing that we ask the users of free Open Icecat: inform your business partners (distributors, manufacturers, resellers) via a newsletter and/or on your website that you are using Open Icecat, and that you would like your partners to join as well. The more partners join, the better and more complete Open Icecat will become.

Getting data

There are two methods of getting URL links. By creating direct links, or by downloading the pre-defined links from our server.

a. Creating direct links (URLs):

In response to client requests, and to make it more easy to integrate the URL versions of Open Icecat and Full-Icecat, we allow since today also direct linking without Icecat ID. Of course, the old method is also still supported, which has the advantage that the webshop knows in advance for which products product data-sheets are available.

General format I:

http://prf.icecat.biz/index.cgi?prod_id=<MPN>;vendor=<vendor_name>;shopname=<shop name>

Example Open Icecat user:

http://prf.icecat.biz/index.cgi?prod_id=LX.TEQ06.029;vendor=acer;shopname=openIcecat-url

General format II:

http://prf.icecat.biz/index.cgi?shopname=<shop name>;smi=product;ean_upc=<EAN or UPC code>

Example Open Icecat user:

http://prf.icecat.biz/?shopname=openIcecat-url;smi=product;ean_upc=0829160582733

Note:

- MPN= the Manufacturer Part Number or product code

- Use your own Icecat or Open Icecat registration code (shopname=<your registration code>).

- If you have a Full-Icecat susbcription, you will be able to access all data-sheets using your own registration code. As we also monitor the refers, we are able to detect and limit unauthorized 3rd party refers.

- EAN_UPC=the GTIN bar codes where EAN is the European variant and UPC the North-American.

b. Downloading pre-defined URLs from Icecat

The URL data are supplied in two formats – CSV and XML.

The export file already contains all data, required to import URLs. It contains: the Icecat product id, the vendor product id and the vendor brand name, plus the URL to a rich content product page. The explanation of supplier codes can also be found in the same data export file in case of the XML format, and in a separate file in case of the CSV export.

You can download XML data from the locations below

http://data.icecat.biz/export/export_urls.xml.gz or

http://data.icecat.biz/export/export_urls.xml

You can download CSV data from the locations below

http://data.icecat.biz/export/export_urls.txt

http://data.icecat.biz/export/export_suppliers.txt

or

http://data.icecat.biz/export/export_urls.txt.gz

http://data.icecat.biz/export/export_suppliers.txt.gz

Open-Icecat users should make use of the following server folder

http://data.icecat.biz/export/freeurls/

Information about the categories we use, can be found here:

http://data.icecat.biz/categories.xml

Mapped product numbers to improve the match

Sometimes distributors give their own interpretation of vendor product numbers, instead of using the original ones. And thus, one product can be mentioned a few times, e.g.:

Z891-091 and Z89/091

They refer to the same product. To avoid such redundancy, Icecat supports product code mappings.

In the export_urls.xml (or .txt) file, you can find the attribute called m_prod_id. In this attribute Icecat stores the mapped part number, which (sometimes) differs from the one supplied in prod_id (conforming to distributor data).

You can follow the following rule: when products have the same m_prod_id, they are treated as the same product in Icecat.

Using the m_prod_id attribute might help you to increase the match with Icecat descriptions.

GTIN: UPC and EAN to improve the match

GTIN (Global Trade Identification Number) is the family name for bar code standards that include UPC codes (GTIN-12) as they are used in North America and EAN (GTIN-8, GTIN-13 or GTIN-14) that are used in Europe.

Especially in some industries like consumer electronics, solely UPC or EAN are used or identifying a product. We have added a separate attribute to match on EAN or UPC.

Note: there can be multiple EAN / UPC codes per product, because per packaging variation a new code is published. Further, dependent on logistic processing and import/export sometimes different codes are given out per region.

Content quality level

Quality stands for the amount of data we can present on the product sheet. SUPPLIER and ICECAT are the highest level of quality. In this case, product images and features are always included. ICECAT stands for products edited by Icecat staff. SUPPLIER means that product content is imported from a vendor CMS. Qualifier NOEDITOR means that the respective product is not yet enriched.

How do URLs work?

When a visitor will follow an Icecat link, our product viewer will perform an on-line request. Data will be supplied real-time by the Icecat server.

Please, note that obtained URLs should be appended with the parameter shopname. So, e.g. if your login is "axio" you should append "shopname=axio", e.g.:

http://www.icecat.biz/prf/index.cgi?product_id=65926;mi=start;smi=product;shopname=axio

or

http://prf.icecat.biz/index.cgi?product_id=65926;mi=start;smi=product;shopname=axio

In case of Open Icecat, please register online via the website: choose "Login", and then "Register as new user". Your username / password combination will be provided immediately. Please, note that also unregistered usage with shopname=openIcecat-url is supported. However, this will provide less freedom to customize and optimize your templates.

In case of Open Icecat, it is important to include the language identifier:

http://prf.icecat.biz/index.cgi?product_id=439355;mi=start;smi=product;shopname=openIcecat-url;lang=en

English: lang=en

German: lang=de

French: lang=fr

Dutch: lang=nl

etc. In total we support up to 36 languages. If you need support for your language, check the website or contact us.

More Open Icecat examples:

http://prf.icecat.biz/index.cgi?product_id=439355;mi=start;smi=product;shopname=openIcecat-url;lang=nl

http://prf.icecat.biz/index.cgi?product_id=439355;mi=start;smi=product;shopname=openIcecat-url;lang=en

http://prf.icecat.biz/index.cgi?product_id=439355;mi=start;smi=product;shopname=openIcecat-url;lang=fr

http://prf.icecat.biz/index.cgi?product_id=439355;mi=start;smi=product;shopname=openIcecat-url;lang=de

Open Icecat / TechData

Tech Data / Open Icecat users can make use -in a number of countries- of already existing Tech Data part numbers mappings, which can be found in http://data.icecat.biz/export/freeurls/TD_mapping.txt

or http://data.icecat.biz/export/techdata/TD_mapping.txt (Tech Data Netherlands datapack part numbers) or for Belgian Tech Data resellers at:

http://data.icecat.biz/export/techdata/TB_mapping.txt (Tech Data Belgium datapack part numbers).

There are also exports for other Tech Data countries available.

The structure of the file is following:

Field name	TD partnumber	Icecat product ID	URL
Example			

Category information can be obtained via
http://data.icecat.biz/export/freeurls/categories.xml

Have more questions?

Please, contact us www.icecat.biz if you have any additional questions.