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Overview of Multisite

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Agenda

- Multisite Overview
- Site Administrator

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Learning Objectives

At the end of this lesson you should be able to:

- Understand the multisite problem
- Learn about site groups, the site repository
- Administer multisite installations with Site Administrator
- Add, remove and configure a site in a multisite installation

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Section 1:
Multisite Overview

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Multisite Problem

- The term multisite refers to running multiple websites from a single ATG interface, with sites sharing certain resources.
- For example, consider a clothing merchant:
  - Clothing merchant has two brands; a luxury brand and a bargain brand.
  - They share customer profiles.
  - Both sites can share the same cart.
- A problem for the merchandisers is to create, manage, and host these sites under the same IT infrastructure, sharing certain resources.
- Multisite module allows us to host the two brand sites with their unique UI, but (optionally) share the cart.

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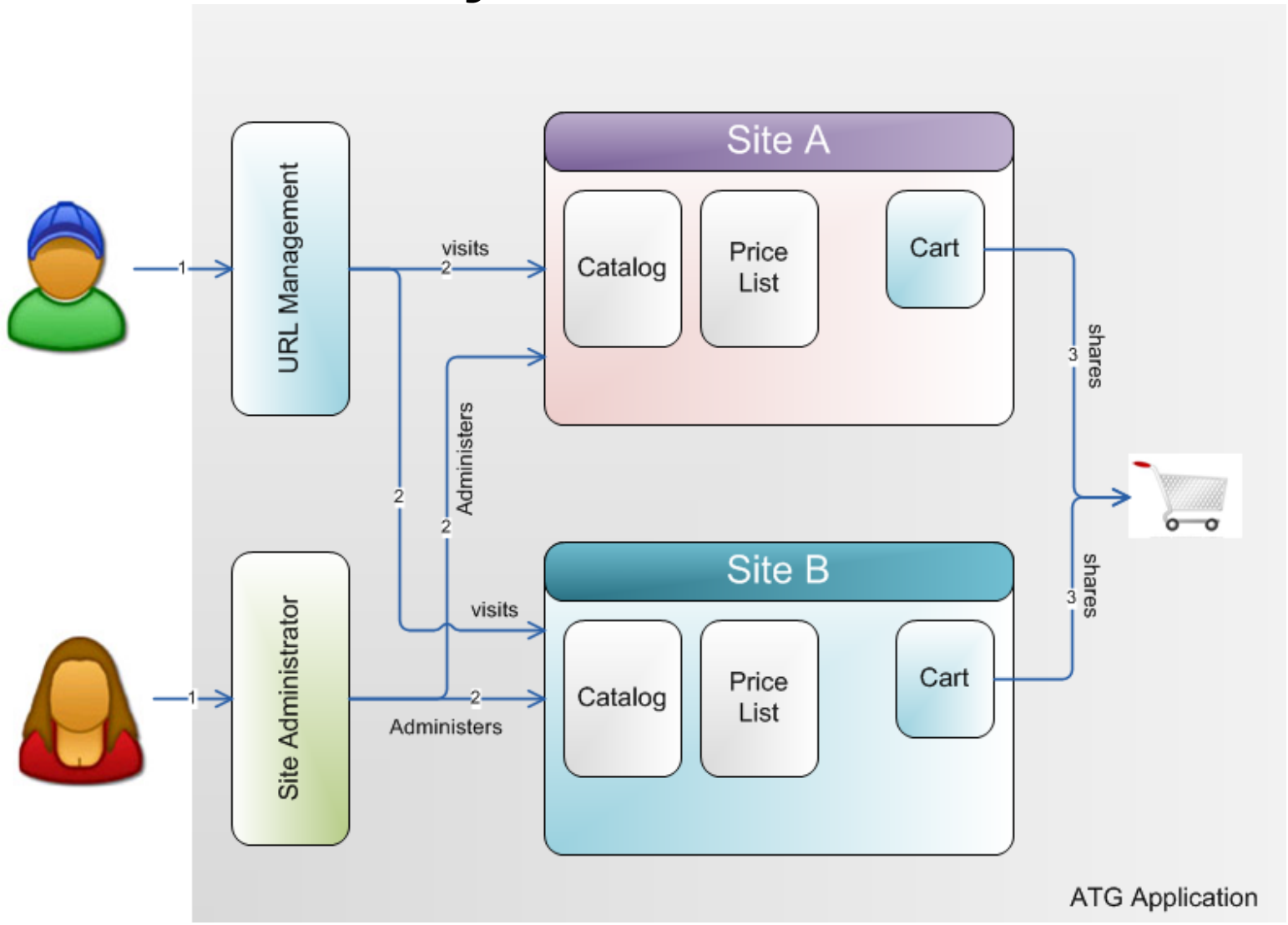
Multisite Subsystems



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How Does it Work?

- User Joe visits the URL publicized by the company for the luxury brand or the bargain brand.
- The SiteContextPipelineServlet receives the request and identifies the site that the request needs to go to based on configuration and URL or cookie.
- Based on merchandiser settings and based on the identified site, a catalog and pricelist are assigned to the user profile.
- The merchandiser does this using the **Site Administrator** interface in the BCC.
- The user is directed to the appropriate site.
- On the site, resources may be shared with the other site or not depending on the configuration.

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Determining the Site

- A multisite application must be able to quickly determine which site a given request is associated with.
- ATG platform includes a very flexible URL management system for ensuring that each request is associated with the correct site.
- There are two main approaches to making the determination:
  - Path-based strategy,
  - Domain-based strategy.

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Nucleus and Multisite

- Nucleus components and other ATG features can be divided into:
  - **Non site aware**: The instance behavior follows that of the settings on the components. E.g., there is one session scoped component per session for both sites. This is the default behavior.
  - **Site aware**: The instance behavior is the same as non site aware but the logic in the component can take advantage of the knowledge of the current site context.
  - **Shareable**: The instance behavior is controlled by ATG. For example, there may be multiple instances of session scoped components for the same session, if the component is marked as non shareable in the site administrator.

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Multisite and ATG Commerce

- Product catalog allows you to specify applicable sites at category, product, and SKU levels.
- Each site can have its own catalog and price list.
- Scenarios and targeters are site aware and can be configured with conditions restricting them to sites.
- Shopping Cart is a shareable type and can be configured to be shared or not.
- Order object adds a site ID property that tracks the order against a specific site.
- Promotions and coupons are site aware.
- ATG Search can limit search results by site.
- Multisite support exists in CSC, Content Administration, ACI, Outreach, and Campaign Optimizer.

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How is it Configured?

- **Site Administrator UI** allows for registration and administration of sites in a multisite environment.
- It is available through the ATG Business Control Center, and is designed for business users.
- It enables business users to configure new sites, adjust the settings of existing sites, and disable sites that are no longer needed.
- Administrators can create **site groups**. A site group comprises a subset of the sites in a multisite environment.
- Site groups provide a way to logically group sites to manage data sharing between those sites.
- A **sharing group** consists of a site group and the data the sites share.

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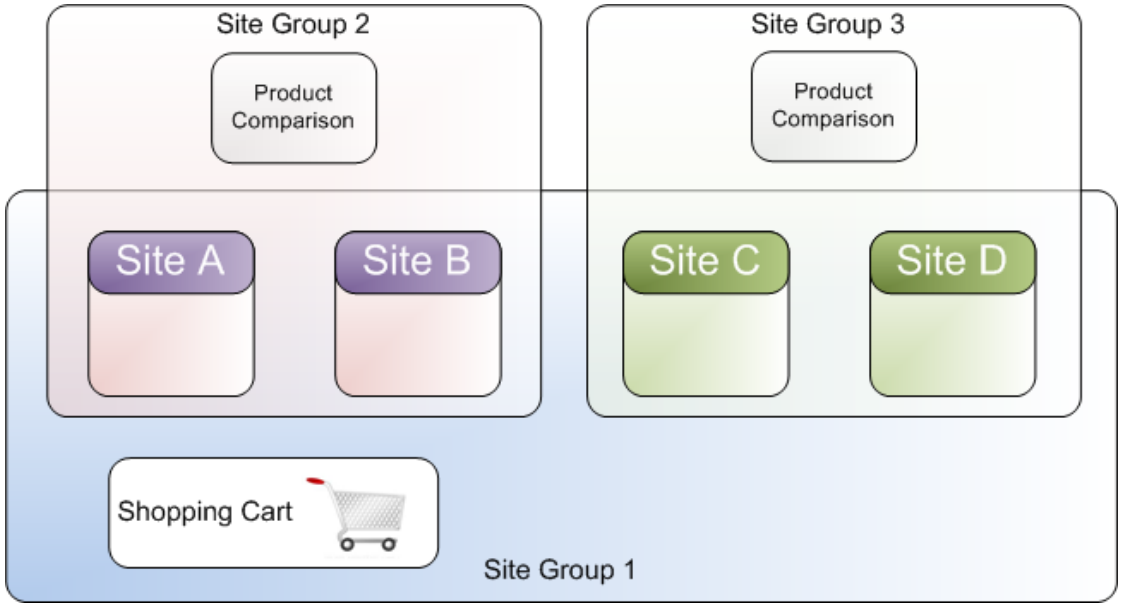
SiteGroups



- In the example above, Shopping Cart is shared across all sites.
- Product Comparisons are shared between site A and site B, and between site C and site D.
- Users will not be able to compare products between site A and site C.

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Site Repository

- Multisite configuration is stored in ATG site repository.
- The site repository determines the set of properties for a given site. It stores information about each site in a multisite environment.
- The site repository has three item types by default:
  - **siteConfiguration** : Stores the values of the site properties for an individual site.
  - **siteGroup** : Represents a grouping of sites.
  - **SiteTemplate** : Represents a site category, which is the editing environment for the site administration utility.
- Site configuration object stores:
  - Name, description, and site category (editing environment),
  - URLs for accessing the site,
  - Catalog and price list to be used for the site.

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Approaches to Multisite (1)

- Multisite approaches:
  - Affiliated sites,
  - Microsites,
  - Country sites.
- ATG supports all types of multisites.

- Affiliated sites
  - Affiliated sites are sibling sites that have largely independent catalog content.
  - Typically there is no overlap between the products sold on each site.
  - Example: Gap® and OldNavy®

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Approaches to Multisite (2)

- Microsites
  - Microsites are relatively small sites which have a child relationship with their larger parent site.
  - Typically shares many resources with parent site including part of a catalog, shopping cart.
  - Example: Seasonal or brand site in a larger parent site.
- Country Stores
  - Country stores, like affiliated sites, have a sibling relationship, but their catalog content differs by country or locale.
  - Their content may mostly be the same but have small differences in products that are offered.
  - They may have language or currency differences.
  - Example: US site and Canada site.

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Section 1
Check Your Understanding

What is the tool used to configure multisite and who is the intended audience?

Answer:

Site Administrator UI is for merchandisers to configure multisite.

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Section 1
Check Your Understanding

What are site groups?

Answer:

Site groups are groups of sites that share a common resource.

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Section 1 ✔
Check Your Understanding

What are the three item descriptors in the site repository?

Answer:

SiteConfiguration, SiteGroup, and SiteTemplate.

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Section 1
Check Your Understanding

What is a microsite?

Answer:

Microsites are relatively small sites which have a child relationship with their larger parent site. They typically share catalog and shopping cart.

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Section 1
Check Your Understanding

What is the difference between site aware and shareable nucleus components?

Answer:

In shareable type, instance behavior is controlled by ATG and configured in Site Administrator. In site aware components, developers must code the behavior.

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Summary

- Multisite means running multiple websites from a single ATG interface, with sites sharing certain resources.
- ATG uses a very flexible URL management system for ensuring that each request is associated with the correct site.
- Developers can share nucleus components, non nucleus components, and repository data between sites.
- Site administrators can specify which site or groups of sites can share certain resources.
- Site repository contains site configuration item type which holds the properties specific to that site.

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Section 2:
Site Administrator

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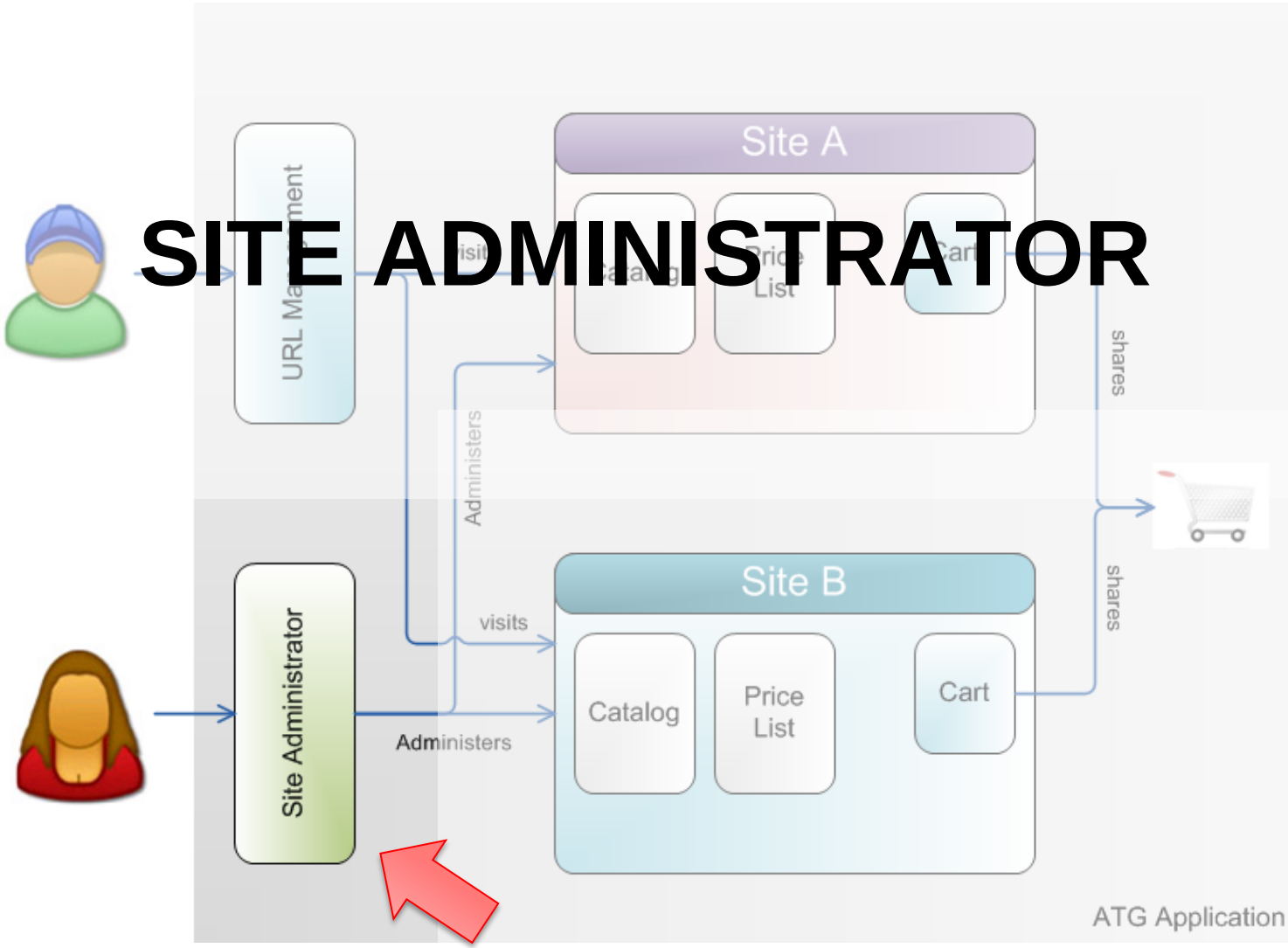
SITE ADMINISTRATOR



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Site Administration

- Site administrator registers and administers sites in a multisite environment.
- It is available through the ATG Business Control Center, and is designed for business users.
- It enables business users to configure new sites, adjust the settings of existing sites, and disable sites that are no longer needed.
- Site administration provides a simple user interface:
  - To create a new site, you select a site category and fill in the values of the site configuration properties.
  - To create a site group, you specify the sites in the group and the resources that the sites share.

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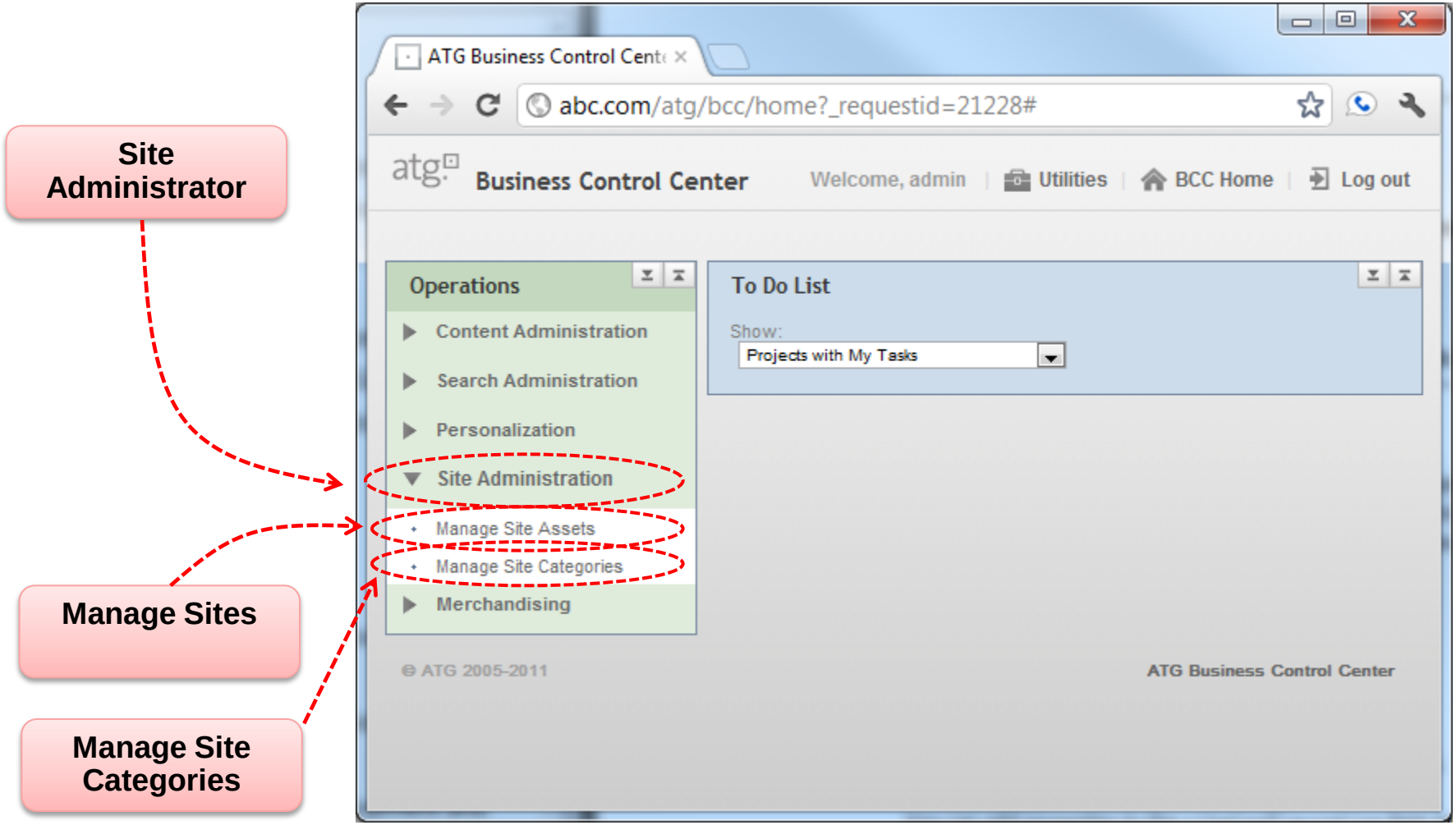
Accessing Site Administrator



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Site Categories

- Merchandisers need to select the **site category** for the site when creating a new site.
- These are created by system administrators.
- To create a site category, the system administrator creates a site template item in the site repository.
- The item mapping name should be unique for each site category and specified as SiteCategory:category name.
- Since it is an internal CA construct, there is no project necessary to create a site category.
- The view mappings can specify non-default editors for certain properties or suppress their display altogether.
- Site categories view mappings use the ATG View Mapping System.

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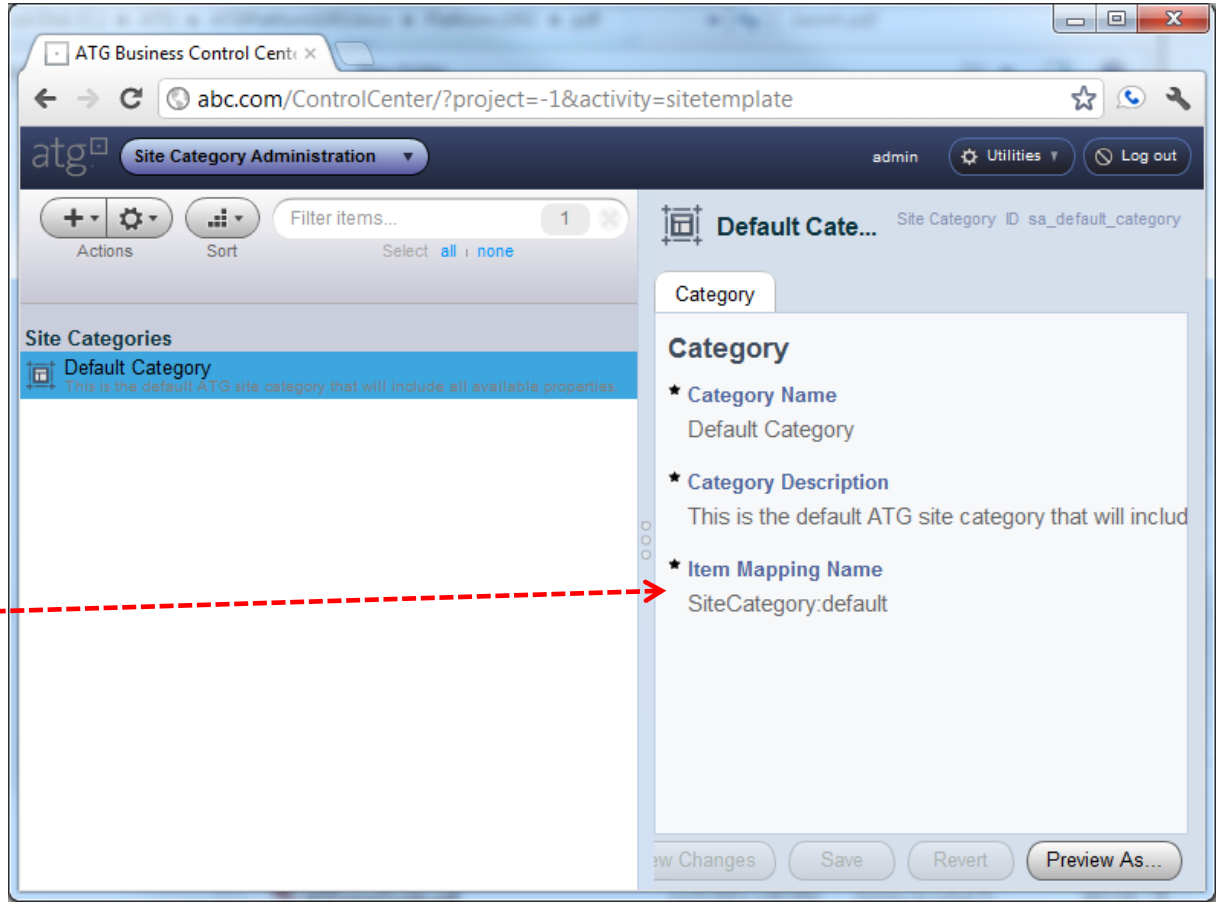
Site Categories

Site Categories

View Mappings



- View Mappings are defined outside and mapped here in the BCC.

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Managing Sites (1)

- Managing sites involves adding, removing, or deactivating sites in the multisite environment.
- It is a merchandiser activity.
- All site management happens in the context of a project.
- The create a project UI appears when you click on the ‘Manage Site Assets’ link under the site administrator.
- Here you can add, remove, or adjust site properties and/or site groups.
- Properties can be and typically are added to the **Site Configuration** repository item.
- These custom properties can be referred to in your nucleus components.

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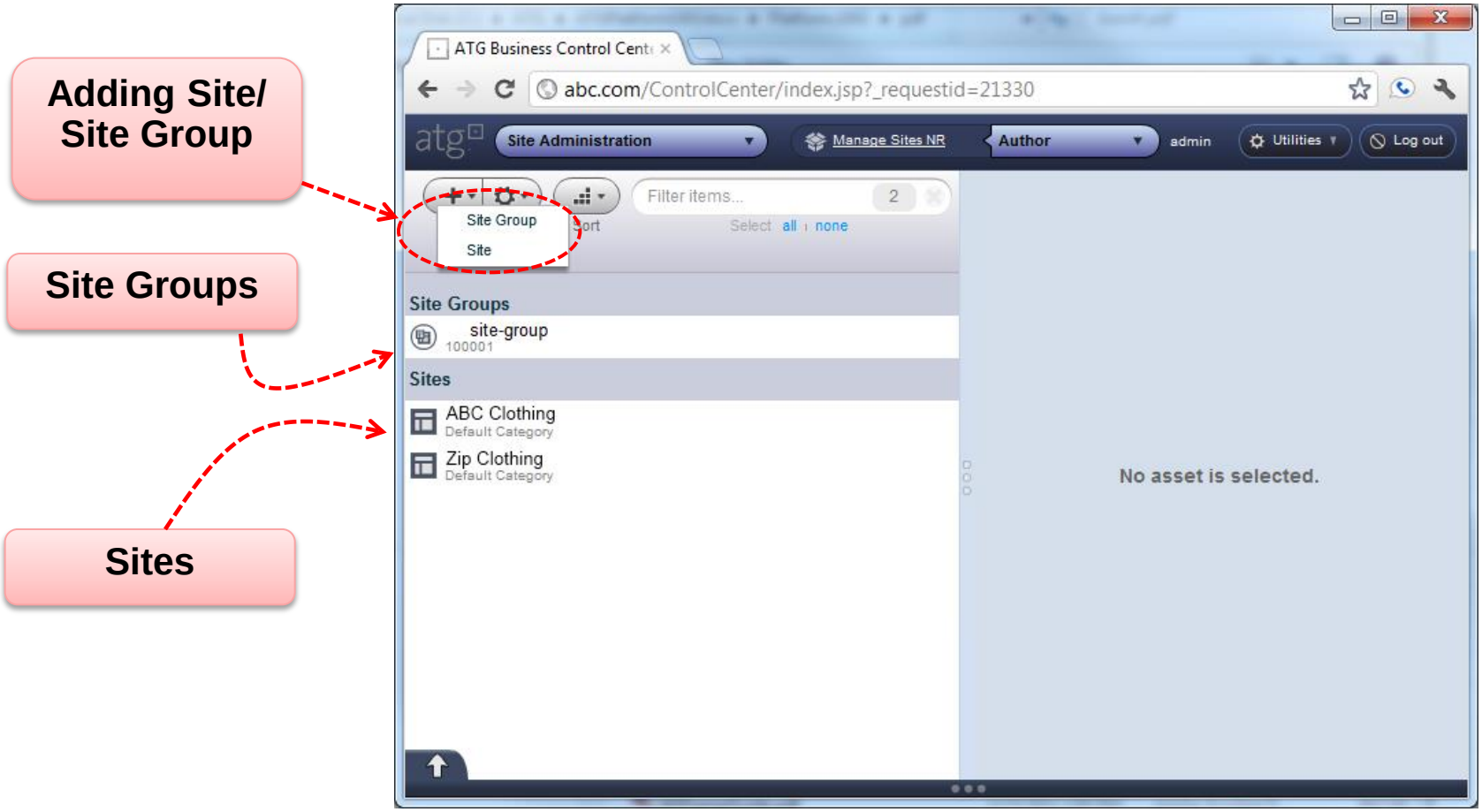
Managing Sites (2)



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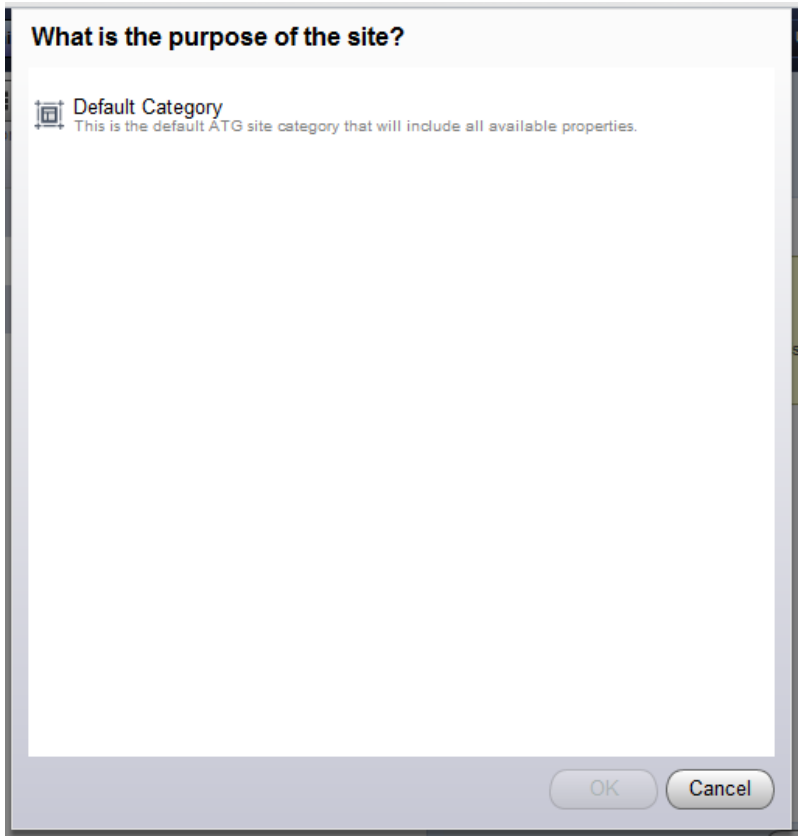
Adding a Site (1)



- Choose Site Category. This defines the view mappings and what you see in the site page.

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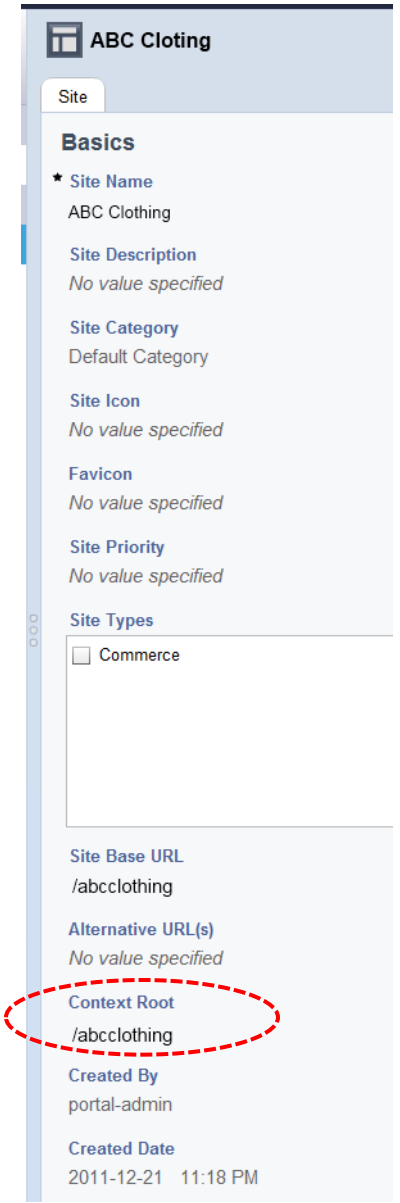
Adding a Site (2)

The following are the main sections:

- **Basic**
  - Site Name,
  - Site Description,
  - Site Category: Associate site with a view mapping,
  - Site Type:
    - Choose Commerce, Self-Service, etc
  - Site Base URL, Alternate URL, etc.: URL Management.
- The context root defines the actual *war* that will be served.
- The Site Base URL can point to a **virtual context root.**



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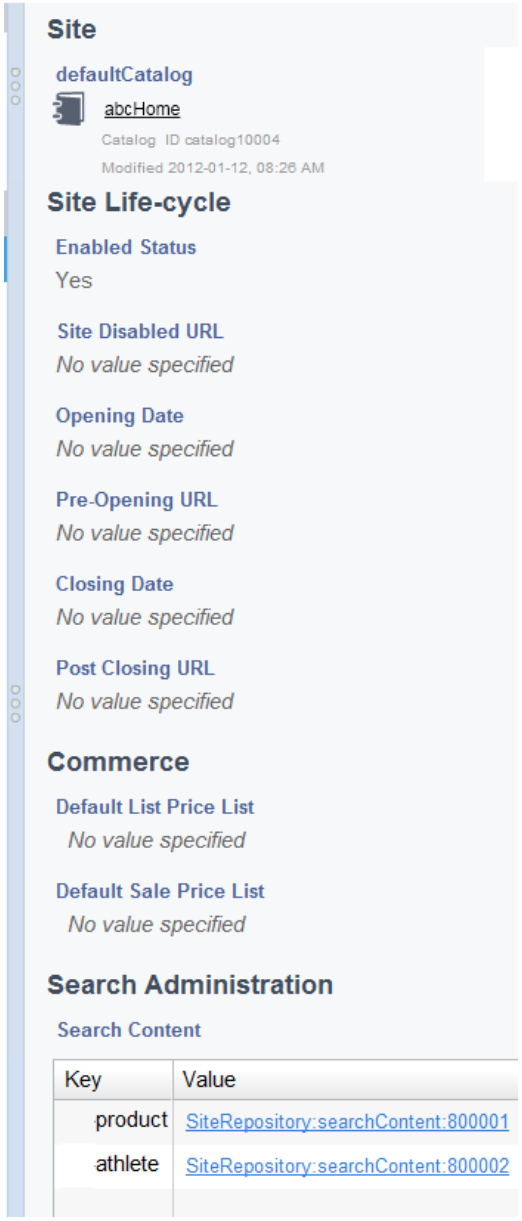
Adding a Site (3)

- Site
  - defaultCatalog: Used to assign a catalog to the user of this site.
- Commerce
  - Default List and Sale Price Lists: Used to assign list and sale price to users.
- Search Administration
  - Manage search content to the site.
- Site Life-Cycle
  - If enabled, site goes to *war*.
  - If before opening Date, pre-opening URL is used.
  - If after closing Date, post closing URL is used.



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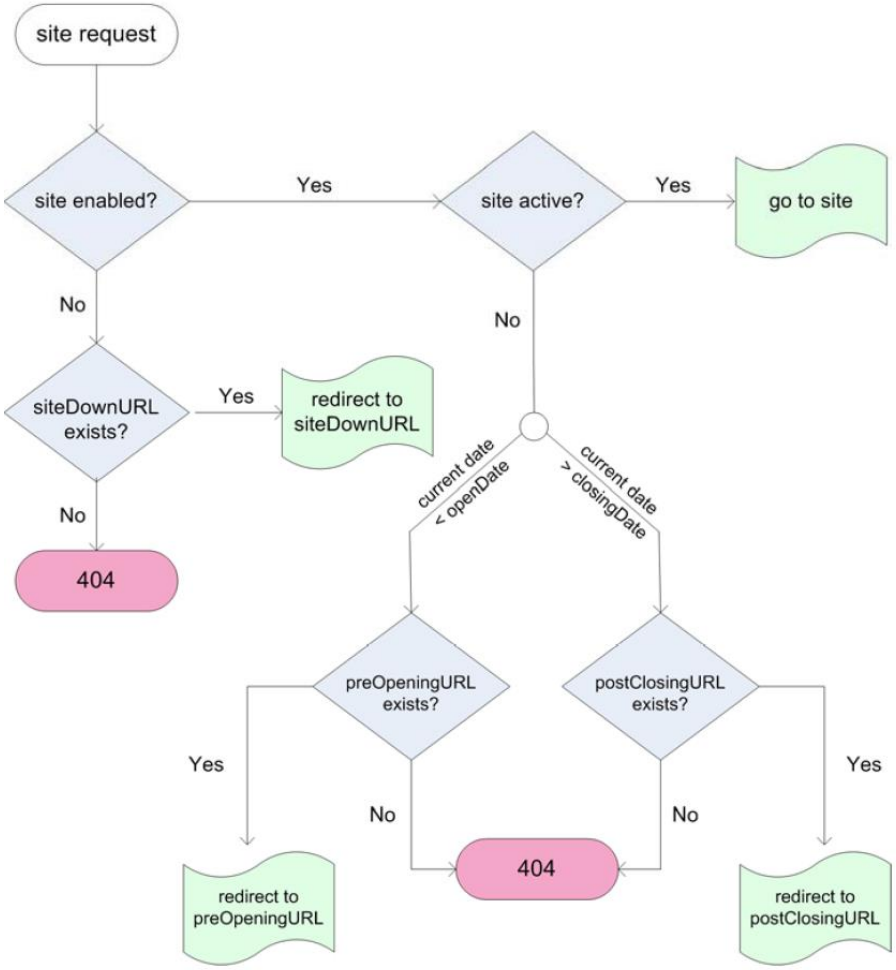
Configuring Site URLs

- The flow chart below shows the behavior of the site life cycle settings.
- Note that if site is active, users are sent to the site without regard to opening and closing dates.
- ATG highly recommends configuring the URLs to avoid 404 errors on web sites.



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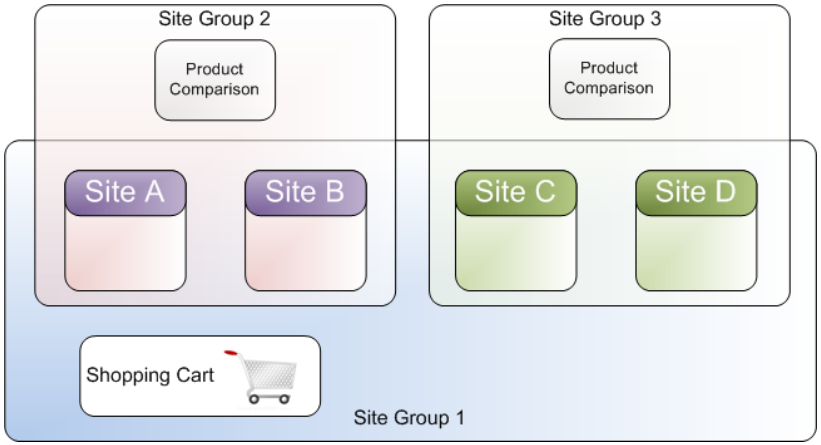
Configuring Site Groups (1)

- Site groups are created and configured in the Site Administration UI.
- A site group comprises a subset of the sites in a multisite environment.
- Site groups provide a way to logically group sites to manage data sharing between those sites.
- A sharing group consists of a site group and the data the sites share.



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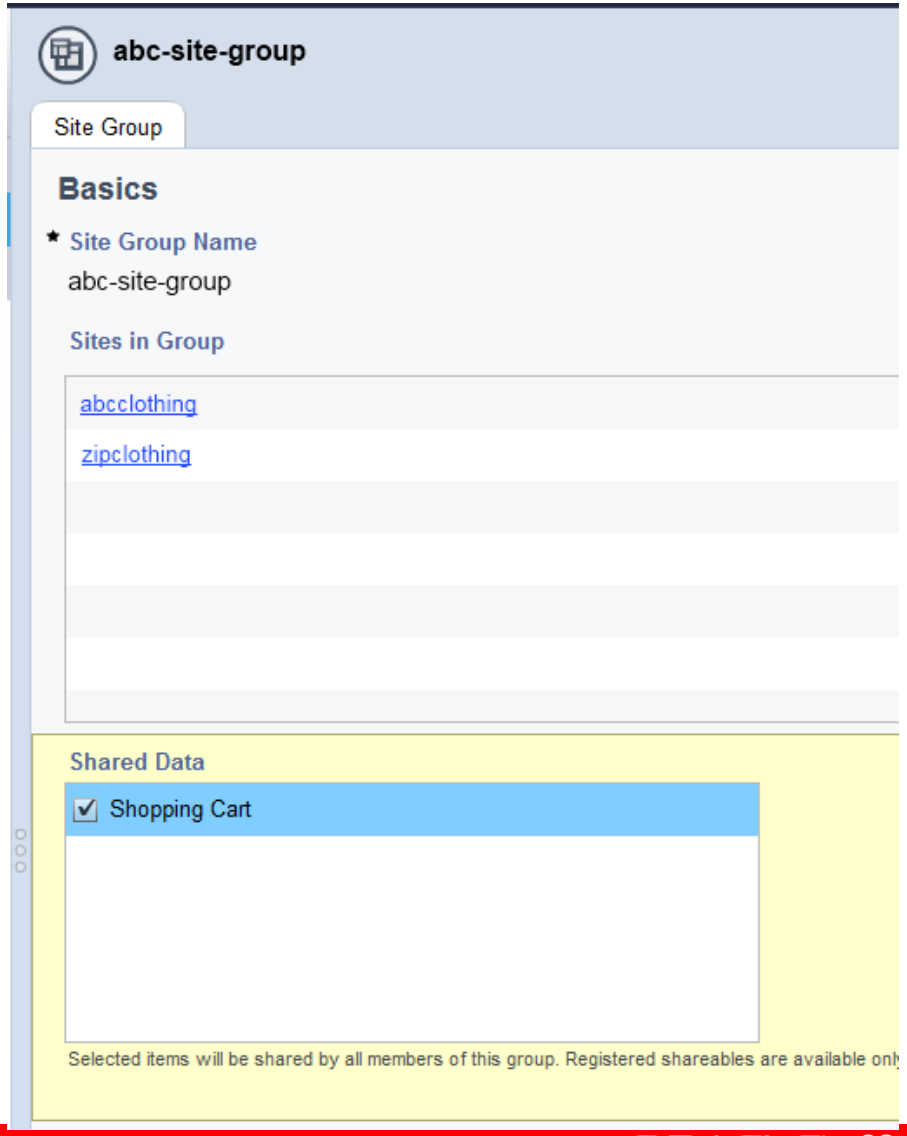
Configuring Site Groups (2)

The following are the properties that need to be specified:

- Basics
  - Site Group Name,
  - List of sites in group,
  - Shared Data (select from list).
- The list shows ShareableType Nucleus components exposed by the application.



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Section 2
Check Your Understanding

How is the Site Administration utility accessed?

Answer:

In the BCC.

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Section 2
Check Your Understanding

Who configures site categories for use by a site?

Answer:

Site administrators. This is not a merchandiser activity.

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Section 2
Check Your Understanding

Where are the view mappings defined in a site category?

Answer:

They are defined by developers in the EAR Archive (outside the BCC).

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Section 2
Check Your Understanding

What activities can the merchandiser perform in the Site Administrator UI?

Answer:

Add, remove, deactivate sites. Set up sharing through site groups. Change properties of sites.

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Section 2 ✔
Check Your Understanding

If you want to add a new property that appears in the site tab of BCC, which repository will you extend?

Answer:

The site configuration item descriptor in the site repository.

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Summary

- Site administrator in the BCC registers and administers sites in a multisite environment.
- Merchandisers need to select an administrator configured site category for the site when creating a new site. This defines the editing environment.
- Managing sites involves adding, removing, or deactivating sites in the multisite environment.
- Administrators can specify basic site properties, the URL that visitors will use, the context root of the *war*, and the site down URLs.
- A site group comprises a subset of the sites in a multisite environment. They provide a way to logically group sites to manage data sharing between those sites.

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Q&A

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