

The Kentico E-commerce Solution contains two types of objects and settings:

- Site – objects and settings that are specific to a site and are available on that [site](#) only.
- Global – objects and settings that are shared across all sites running on one Kentico instance.

When you create and then use a website, you can combine both of the types. This approach gives you more flexibility and is highly effective in a multi-site environment, for example, when hosting several e-commerce sites with the same content or when creating microsites.

## E-commerce objects and settings according to their type

When objects and settings are both site and global, you can use some of them together and some of them either site or global depending on your choice. See the following table with e-commerce objects and settings grouped by their site/global availability:

Either only site or site+global together	Either only site or only global	Only site
<a href="#">Products</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Product options</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Manufacturers</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Suppliers</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Departments</a></li> </ul> <a href="#">Payment methods</a>	<a href="#">Product statuses</a> (both public and internal) <a href="#">Currencies</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Exchange rates</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Tax classes</a></li> </ul> <a href="#">Customer credit</a> (both site and global can be enabled but the customer can pay only with the one that is allowed on the specific website) <a href="#">Order statuses</a> <a href="#">Invoices</a> <a href="#">Settings</a>	<a href="#">Customers</a> (both anonymous and registered, see <a href="#">below</a> ) <a href="#">Orders</a> <a href="#">Product brands</a> <a href="#">Product collections</a> <a href="#">Shipping options</a> <a href="#">Discounts</a> and <a href="#">Product coupons</a> (all types, however <a href="#">discount rules</a> are always global)

Since settings are also site or global, you can enable or disable a specific setting of every site and a global object on every site. See more about configuring settings in [Configuring e-commerce settings for a specific site or globally](#).



### Global objects can only use data from other global objects

For example, you can place global products in global departments only, and they can have only global manufacturers, suppliers, etc. assigned. Also, the price of global products is set in a global store currency. You can choose even from global objects that are not allowed on the current site.

## Global and site customers

Anonymous customers are always site customers. Whether the customer makes an order in the store or a store manager creates their account in the administration interface, the system always assigns the current site to the anonymous customers. In the *COM\_Customer* database table, the customer's *CustomerUserID* column is *NULL* while the *CustomerSiteID* column contains the site's ID.

Registered customers are always global customers. Every registered customer is connected to a [user](#), which can be used on multiple sites running on the Kentico instance. In the *COM\_Customer* database table, the customer's *CustomerUserID* column contains the customer's user ID while the *CustomerSiteID* column is *NULL*.

## Choosing between site and global objects/settings

See the following usual scenarios to help you decide which settings you should choose:

### I run one store on one Kentico instance

In this case, we recommend that you use **site** objects and settings.

However, even if you choose to use global objects and settings, everything will work, only [the user interface will get a little bit more complicated](#).

### I run more stores with the same goods but with different design on one Kentico instance

When you provide the same products, shipping options, payment methods, etc. in all your stores, simply they are the same store only with different designs, we recommend that you use **global** objects and settings.

If there are some changes, for example, one of the stores provides a different set of currencies, you can use a mix of global and site objects and settings to achieve the easiest manageability.

### I run more stores with different contents on one Kentico instance

When you provide different stuff in each store, we recommend you to use **site** objects and settings.

If there are some similarities, for example, you provide the same payment methods in all your stores, you can use a mix of global and site objects and settings to achieve the easiest manageability.

### I run more stores with different store managers on one Kentico instance

Different store managers want likely settings which only they can change and products which are not available for other stores on the instance. In this case, we recommend you to use **site** objects and settings.



If your Kentico instance contains a mix of the described scenarios, you can also set the site/global settings globally and then specific sites can either inherit the global settings or use their own. This way you can achieve whichever combination you need.

If you decided to use at least some global objects or settings, you need to [enable these global objects/settings](#).