

Chapter 1

Overview

This chapter provides a general overview of the catalogCREATORsuite and what it can be used for. It also tells you the system requirements for working with the application as efficiently as possible.

Specific Information

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How can the catalogCREATORsuite support you?

The catalogCREATORsuite is an easy to handle complete solution for the creation of

- electronic product- and illustrated catalogs
- intelligent interactive service information systems
- technical documentation
- training material.

The catalogCREATORsuite is the efficient standard tool, which allows you to create, maintain and manage product data, such as article data, images, prices (also country-specific), formatted exploded drawings & parts lists (ISO- and SVG format), the integration of the powerPARTS links and structure, and other information, and assemble them to individual product catalogs in a convenient manner.

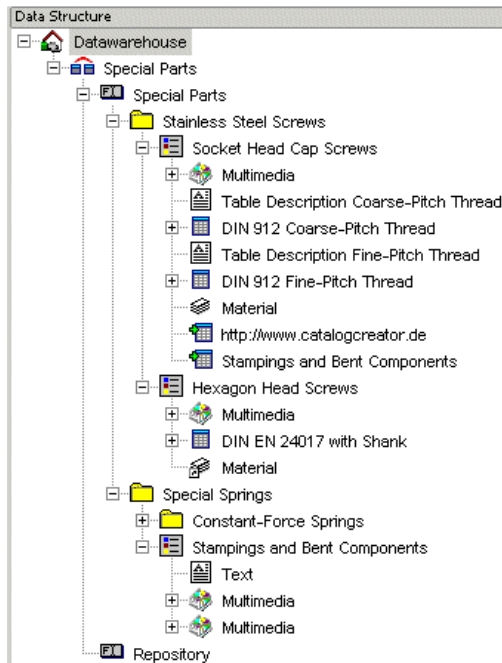
The system grows with your requirements, you can combine the individual modules and thereby adjust the efficiency of the system according to your wishes, as in a modular construction system.

How can the catalogCREATORsuite support you?

Use the created data:

- media neutral - through the storage of information in XML format, and ensure the reuse of already created information
- global – through multilingual creation of your publications with the support of professional translation tools
- client-specific and product-related - through interactive selection of the required information you make them available in the customer layout
- independent - create the necessary documents by yourself, without service providers and print shops
- in all media - you enable the creation of three media without great effort

The acquired data are displayed within a graphical data structure and improve the clarity, even for very large data sets.



There are virtually no restrictions in relation to the organization or presentation of your data, which can be compiled into groups and arranged as you wish.

The collection of data as well as editing the catalog is possible by drag & drop.

The media-independence of the data for the most part apply due to the strict separation of format (except in texts) and content.

You can change the catalog design at any time by applying the appropriate style sheets. You can use a single template, which is valid for the entire catalog, for the design of the product page layout, or you can use different templates for categories or products, which can be adjusted to your requirements with the help of a CSS assistant.

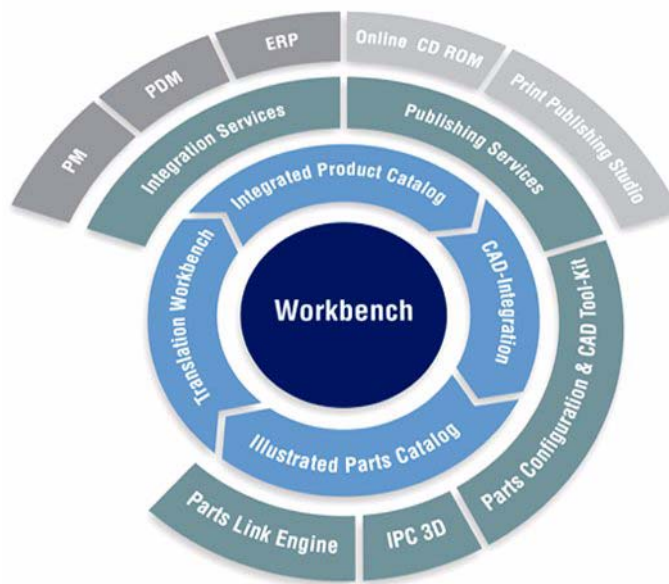
So, taking into account your Corporate Design principles, you can structure catalogs flexibly and make them available to your customers in a variety of formats online on CD or the Internet as well as on paper. Possible catalog export formats are XML or HTML and PDF.

Since the data and the references are stored centrally in a database and can be edited in multi-user operation, you can refresh or supplement the data quickly and easily at any time and it will be available again immediately.

Catalogs can also be created in several languages. The prices are converted accordingly. Additionally summary- and special catalogs can be created comfortably by using links with simultaneous consistency of the data (individually adjusted information).

Which Applications can be Purchased?

The catalogCREATORsuite can be compiled according to your requirements like in a modular construction system.



catalogCREATOR Workbench

With the catalogCREATOR Workbench you can create online catalogs in complex and multilingual structures.

The Workbench is the main item of the catalogCREATOR suite. The creation, maintenance and the publication of the documents is controlled from here.

With the Workbench you create publications for the use as print catalog, as online document in PDF- or in Html format and on CD-ROM. There are no restrictions in respect to the number of product categories and articles.

All business processes around the documentation are managed centrally in the Workbench:

- Adoption and/or creation of the catalog structure
- Structured adoption and /or acquisition of the data
- Definition and assignment of product attributes
- Definition of the base properties of the future documents

You operate all other purchased business applications of the catalogCREATORsuite, arrange the layout information to the data, and define the contents of the publications through the Workbench.

Your advantages when using the Workbench:

- Central operation of all elements of the catalogCREATORsuite - no alternation of the user interface for the user, that is simple intuitive operation
- Standard connectors are already integrated - You can immediately start with the setup of the catalog structure and the data collection, without programming
- Multilingual from the start – the catalogCREATORsuite already supports you at the creation of multilingual documents in the basic version
- Central management of customized documents - You determine the contents of the future documents in the Workbench.
- Provision of the documents for WEB, CD-ROM and PRINT!
- For the data exchange with business partners the export of catalog contents is possible by using a XML interface. By default the catalogCREATORsuite supports the export in BMEcat (formats 1.01 and 1.2) and in web2CAD-XML format. Other export formats can be integrated within the scope of project services personalized for the customer.

catalogCREATOR IPC

Beside the creation of product catalogs the IPC (Illustrated Parts Catalog) application gives the possibility for the creation of illustrated catalogs and technical documentations such as service manuals, operating- and maintenance instructions and manuals.

The use of SVG for the representation of the interactive spare part drawings results in the possibility to select the desired part directly in the illustration and to access the stored information (order information, instructions, and so on), paired with optimized access times at the use on the Web.

The great possibilities of the Illustrated Parts Catalog can be expanded even further by linking it with the IPC 3D parts catalog tool. Beside the customary isometric representation in technical documentations, additional information (installation- and dismantling instructions, among other things) can be made available in animated 3D representation.

Ranges of Application:

- Electronic Parts Catalog - interactive electronic catalog with integrated technical drawings for the fast visual selection of information
- Service Information Systems - expanded Web presence through the provision of intelligent service documents
- Mobile Operation - Provision of the created information on CD-ROM
- Training Support - Utilization of the interactive drawings for the presentation of training contents

Advantages when using the Illustrated Parts Catalog:

- Faultless identification of spare parts - lowering the false order rate
- Integration in the machine - availability on site, utilization without loss of time
- Utilization of existing data sets - no regeneration, thus short realization times
- Multilingualism from the start - Unicode compliant, also Asian languages
- Visual navigation - select the parts and associated documents by using the drawing

Translation Workbench

The request for the provision of multilingual documents becomes more frequent in times of globalization. In order to arrange all involved processes effectively, the catalogCREATORsuite offers an intelligent tool for the translation management with the Translation Workbench. This is realized through an interface to Trados, which enables the connection to a terminology management and a Translation Memory. There the user can decide if he wants to work in the catalogCREATOR Workbench environment, or if the information is to be exported in XML format and passed on to an external translator. Naturally only the information that has not yet been edited is offered for translation. As a rule the amortization of the investment could be recorded after three to six month.

Ranges of Application:

- Language management - multilingual management of the catalog contents

- Information management - check the contents of the documents for prohibited/locked contents with the Workbench
- Unification of the terminology

Your advantages when using the Translation Workbench

- Saving time and costs - multiple identical translations are no longer necessary and all terms within a catalog or company are clear, definite and consistent.
- High quality language contents.
- Automation of the data preparation - the utilization of existing multilingual documents makes the preparation of your publications even faster.

Parts Link Engine

The Parts Link Engine application creates a graphical navigation in complex technical documentation. Thus technical contents are linked logically.

Graphical navigation in the documentation of technical equipment or a machine structure requires hotspots, which often were created manually up to now. The necessary hyperlinks are created automatically with the Parts Link Engine.

To arrange the various functions effectively, individual functions are offered as tools, which are optimally managed by the superior toolbox.

You create the sensitive graphics, necessary for the electronic documentation, in automatic batch operation with the Parts Link Engine. In the process a vast number of working steps which substantially influence the quality of the results are executed.

The result is a hybrid graphic with integrated hotspots in SVG format or CGM4, as well as the link list file (XML).

Ranges of Application:

- Processing legacy data - documents that until now only were available on paper, are digitized and provided electronically.
- Direct take-over from the DMS/PLM - creation of documents for the technical documentation without discontinuity of media
- Reuse - integration of documents from the supplier into the own accompanying documents

Your advantages when using the Parts Link

- Full integration into the creation process of the electronic documentation
- Automatic linking of documents and document contents
- A great gain in time compared to manual processing
- Fast, easy update of the online documents
- Quality increase at the electronic documents
- Reuse of the prepared information through standards (CGM 4, SVG and XML)

Print Publishing Studio

The catalogCREATOR Print Publishing Studio application is the publishing solution for your high quality print documents.

The Print Publishing Studio consists of:

- A pre-processor, which takes-over the data from the catalogCREATOR database.
- The Professional Print Server, which determines the customer-specific layout together with the Print Designer Professional
- A DTP program as target system and the possibility for a further refinement of the automatically created data
- Templates, which make it possible to realize often changing and strongly varying layouts within a catalog

The excellent support at the table design and the high distribution has persuaded us to recommend Adobe® FrameMaker® as the target system for the creation of large structured catalogs.

Your advantages when using the Print Publishing Studio:

- Direct adoption of the data from the catalogCREATORsuite database, which can be maintained independent of the layout process
- Realization of changing layouts within a catalog
- Print generation optionally takes place in the catalogCREATOR Workbench or directly from FrameMaker
- Finishing is possible, for example for the integration of advertising space, for the exact placement of images or for the integration of separate product information

- Creation of partial catalogs with the layout of the customer

Typical Process of Creating a Catalog

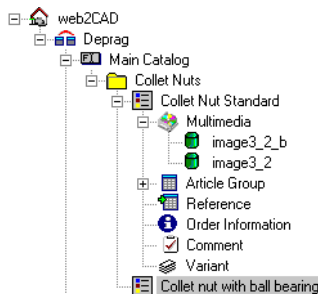
Only a few steps are required to create a professional product catalog with catalogCREATOR. Moreover, both the creation and export of data can be optimized by using a range of options.

Further Information

- ▶ [Setting Options for the Session \(page 51\)](#)
- ▶ [Preparing Export \(page 258\)](#)

Entering Catalog Data – Child's Play

Article descriptions, formatted exploded drawings & parts lists (SVG- and ISO formats), multimedia elements, comments or such - you enter all information on a product by using a graphical user interface and assign it to hierarchically structured categories or classification elements which you have created according to your needs.



Creating Catalog Data – in Multi-User Operation

In multi-user operation it is also possible that several people create and edit data in an Access- or Oracle database at the same time.

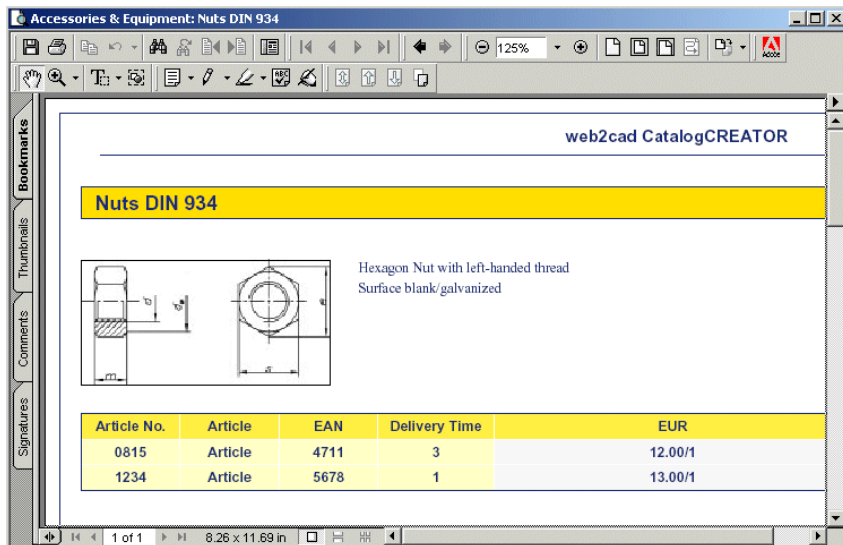
The corresponding branch (datawarehouse, organization, category, catalog, product), in which you maintain your data only has to be locked for the other users.

Exporting Catalog Data - In Any Desired Format

Whether you want to provide a catalog online, on CD-ROM or in a printed format – since the data are kept in a media-neutral format, you can produce the catalog in various export formats from a single source.

Depending on the export format you want, you can use different style sheets, which enable your data to be processed for export on paper or online and which give the catalog a uniform appearance. The catalogCREATORsuite comes with a number of standard style sheets, which you can customize yourself with the corresponding know how. But you can also request special style sheets tailored to your exact requirements in a customer project.

Before you export the catalog, you can view individual product pages in a preview. The following illustration shows an example for a print preview (PDF export).



System Architecture

All your company's product data is entered and managed centrally in the data structure of the catalogCREATORsuite. Several possibilities are available.

An integrated Access database from Microsoft can be used as a multi-user database, which is connected to the application through an ODBC interface. This database is directly accessed. If you should not have installed MS-Access, you can work with this database nevertheless, since the mdac_typ.exe file is available in the ../Support/Language (for example ../Support/gb) folder on the catalogCREATORsuite CD. After executing this file the corresponding ODBC drivers are installed automatically.

You can also access an Oracle database in multi-user operation.

Additionally a XML File is available as database, which has the fixed name **datawarehouse.xml**. At the input the data is buffered and stored at the end of the session.

The database only stores the actual product information or descriptive data, for example synonyms for searching, article characteristics, the assignment of specific style sheets and articles, comments, texts, and so on, as well as the basic structure of the catalog.

Images or multimedia files (video, music, PDF, Word, Excel, and so on) are not stored in the database, because in this case they cannot (easily) be processed with the appropriate applications. Instead they are kept locally on your hard disk or on a server to which you have access.

As well as exporting your data in online or print format, you can also process it for reading into other applications using the XML converter. The conversion is controlled through XSL templates and XSS templates.

System Requirements

To use the catalogCREATORsuite efficiently, your system must meet the following minimum requirements:

- PC with Pentium processor and CD-ROM drive
- Operating system: Windows 2000 or NT 4.0 (Service Pack 6), Windows XP
- RAM: at least 64 MB RAM
- Available hard-disk space: at least 200 MB + space for multimedia files + Adobe Acrobat Reader + Internet Explorer
- Database: MS-Access, Oracle (Oracle 8.1 or 9i), Microsoft SQL Server, in addition, a Web server such as for example IIS or Apache for the publication

- Browser: Internet Explorer 5.5 (the catalogCREATORsuite uses different functionality for the preview and conversion of XML; IE 5.5 is delivered)
- Trados Translation Solution (translation, alignment, terminology management) for the professional solution in connection with the Translation Workbench application
- SVG Viewer or ISOView in connection with the IPC application