



**The Guide to VP-ASP Shopping Cart Software  
For Version 6.50**

**Volume 1  
Sample Manual  
Selected Topics**

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# **The Guide to VP-ASP Shopping Cart Software**

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### **Other Volumes**

Volume 2 contains the VP-ASP add-ons: FedEx Real-time shipping, Recurring Billing, Points Rewards, Gift Registry.

Volume 3 contains the database structure and programming examples.

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Question or comments to [support@hkprog.com](mailto:support@hkprog.com)

**This is a sample selection from Volume 1.  
It is not the complete Guide and each section is not complete.**

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# 1 Shop Configuration

The Shop Configuration is the heart of the shopping Cart. If you do not understand how to use it, you will not get the most out of this software.

## What is the Shop Configuration?

It is a set of values that control how the shopping cart works. Most start with the character x. The values can either be Yes or No or a specific value such as your email address. For example:

xincludestates=Yes

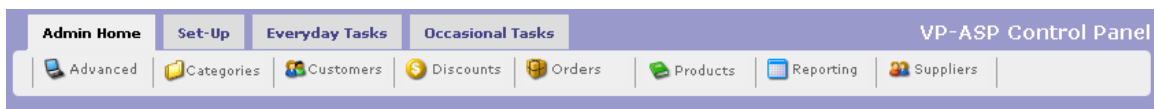
xemail=my@mysite.com

## What is the purpose of the Shop Configuration?

There are over 500 different options. The main purpose is to allow you to control how your shop works without the need for programming.

## How do I change a value?

Values are changed using your browser in the Control Panel. Logon to the Control panel and select Set-up from the tabs.



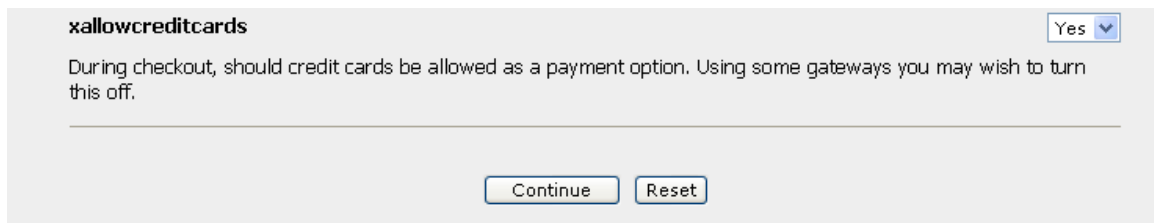
## What value do I set?

This book describes most of the options you can set and when to set them. Use When you see something like this in an answer, it means you need to update the shop configuration.

**xtaxincludedinprice=Yes**

### 1.1 Searching shop configuration

With over 500 different configuration values, the easiest way to find the one you want is to enter the name in the search box. Entering **xallowcreditcards** into the search box will result in:

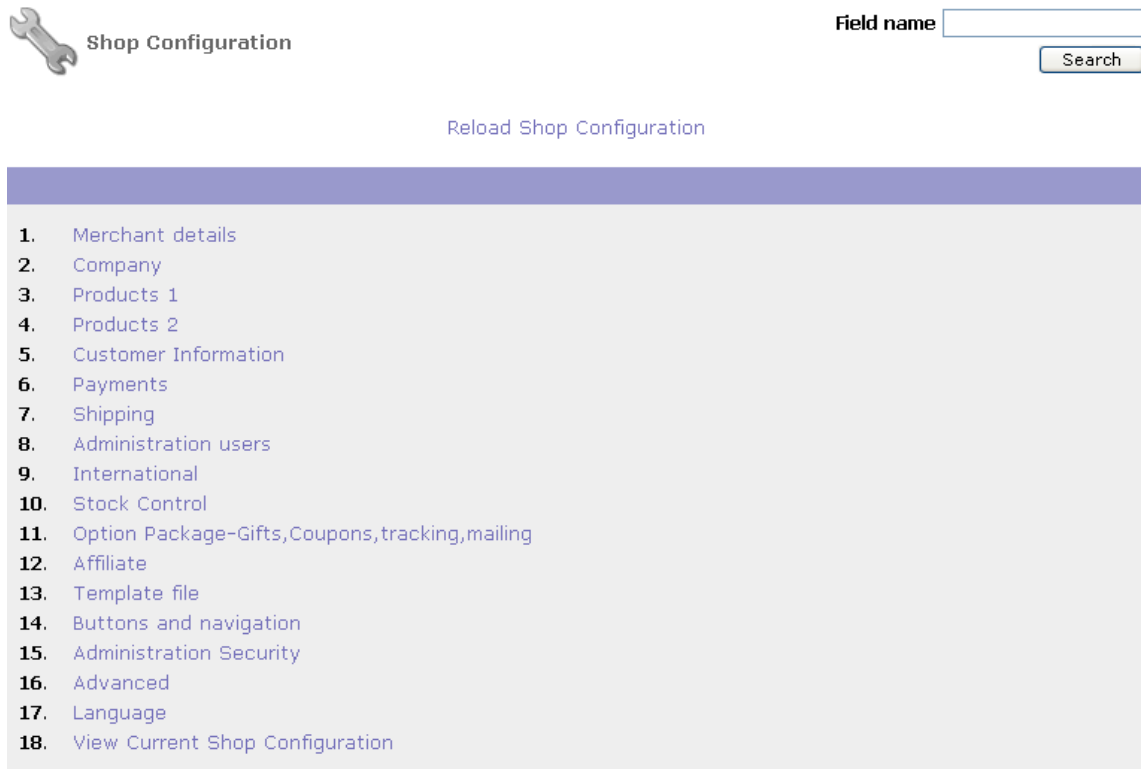


Change the value to Yes. After changing the value, click the CONTINUE button.

Two things have happened. The database configuration table has been changed permanently. The new value has been loaded into memory.

## 1.2 How do I change a Configuration Value

First, login to the Shop Administration. Then select **Set-up**. The following menu will be displayed.



The screenshot shows the 'Shop Configuration' interface. On the left, there is a wrench icon and the text 'Shop Configuration'. On the right, there is a search box labeled 'Field name' and a 'Search' button. Below the search box is a link that says 'Reload Shop Configuration'. The main content area is a list of 18 configuration categories, numbered 1 through 18:

1. Merchant details
2. Company
3. Products 1
4. Products 2
5. Customer Information
6. Payments
7. Shipping
8. Administration users
9. International
10. Stock Control
11. Option Package-Gifts,Coupons,tracking,mailing
12. Affiliate
13. Template file
14. Buttons and navigation
15. Administration Security
16. Advanced
17. Language
18. View Current Shop Configuration

## 1.3 Display

Sometimes you are unsure which configuration value you want to change. You can enter partial names such as STOCK into the search box.

The resulting display will show you all configuration values that have the word STOCK somewhere in their name.

Search: stock

**xcheckstocklevel** No ▾  
 Whether VP-ASP is to compare the stock level against the quantity ordered. VP-ASP will display a warning and not allow an order for more than is in stock.

---

**xoutofstocklimit**   
 Level at which out of stock message is displayed. For example 2. When stock reaches 2, the out of stock message is displayed. The message is defined in the language file Langoutofstock

---

**xstockcontrol** No ▾  
 Yes decrements stock on completion of each order

---

**xstocklow**   
 If null, then all products are displayed. If set to a number  
 xstocklow=5  
 then the stock level must be greater than this number for the product to be displayed. See also xoutofstocklimi for display out of stock messages.

---

**xstocklowemail** No ▾  
 If set to Yes, the merchant will receive an email when the stock levels for a product reach xstocklow (if set) or zero.

[Back to Config](#)

### 1.4 Viewing Current Configuration

In the Control Panel/Set-up click on View current configuration, you will see a list like this. Ignore the \_shop650aa. This is added automatically to prevent multiple shops from interfering with each order.

---

```

Init_shop650aa Yes
InitTime_shop650aa 3/1/2007 7:21:09 AM
affallowaffiliatesrevieworders_shop650aa Yes
affallowlinkreport_shop650aa Yes
  
```

---

#### Can I view the entire configuration another way?

Yes

In the search box enter %. This will display your entire configuration.

## 2 Set-up your shop

### What values must I change for my site?

One of the first things you should do in setting up a new site, is to change the Shop Configuration values to reflect your site. Select Set-up/Merchant Details.

Merchant details

**xemail**

After an order has been completed, who should be notified. This is the email address of that person.

---

**xemailname**

The name of your shop. Used on e-mails to the customer as the name of the sender.

---

**xemailsubject**

This is simply the subject when the customer gets an e-mail confirmation.

---

**xemailsystem**

This is the name of the mail service on your ISP. Your ISP will need to let you know what this is. It normally will start with mail... Or smtp.... There is no standard name. You must ask your Windows administrator or Web hosting company. If not set correctly , emails will not be sent. Not used with CDONTS or Unix.

---

**xemailtype**

The type of e-mail interface program to use. VP-ASP supports ASPMAIL, CDONTS, ASPEMAIL, OCXMAIL and JMAIL. VP-ASP does not write to your mail system directly. It needs an interface and these are the most common ones.

---

**xhome**

The URL to return to your main page. It can be a full URL such as http:... or just a file name such as default.htm.

---

**xtitle**

Default Title


[Back to Config](#)

Edit Table Name = mycompany

<b>xemail</b>	<b>The merchant's email address</b>
<b>xemailname</b>	<b>The name of your shop</b>
<b>Xemailsubject</b>	<b>The subject when the customer gets an e-mail confirmation.</b>
<b>xemailsystem</b>	<b>Mail system, which your ISP will receive emails going to the Internet. Your web host will give you this name</b>
<b>xemailtype</b>	<b>Mail system interface. The shopping cart does not write directly to the Internet. It uses a mail interface program. Every web host will have one or more. VP-ASP supports the most common ones.</b>
<b>Xhome</b>	<b>The location where VP-ASP returns after an error or after an order completes</b>
<b>Xtitle</b>	<b>Default title for all generated pages</b>

### What else should I change?

After you complete the details above, go back to the same form. At the bottom, you will see the following:



Continue   Reset

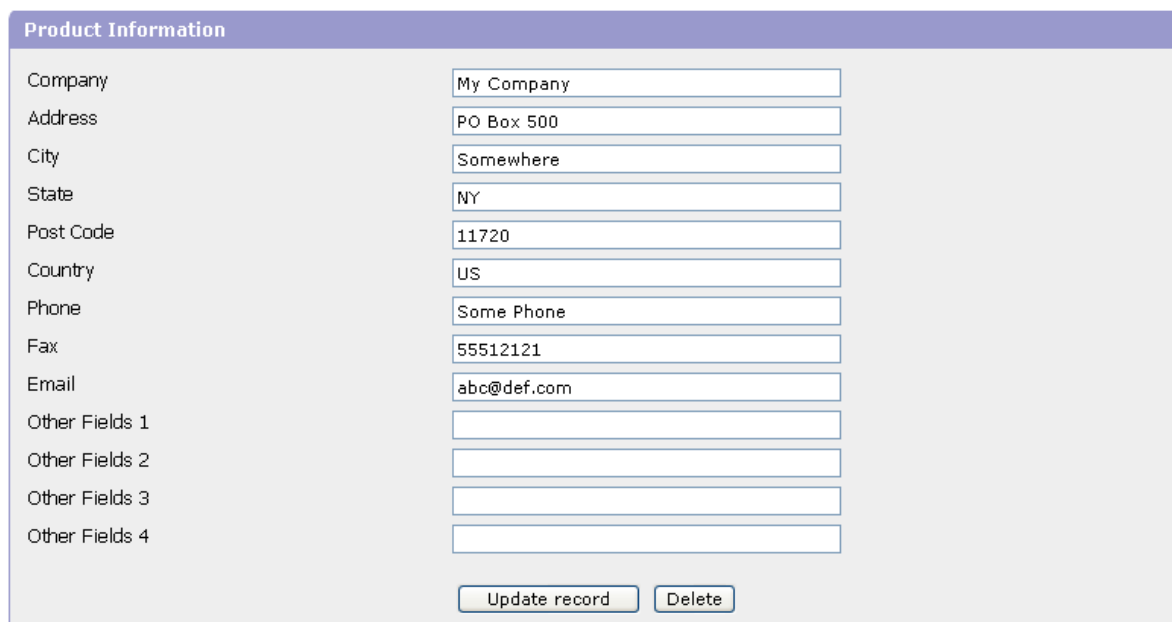
[Back to Config](#)

[Edit Table Name = mycompany](#)

A second set of merchant details are stored in a table called mycompany. Other merchant details that display on the printed invoice come from table **mycompany**. You should edit this table by clicking the link [Edit Table Name = Mycompany](#)

Company Details

   
[Advanced Edit Back To Config](#)



Product Information	
Company	<input type="text" value="My Company"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="PO Box 500"/>
City	<input type="text" value="Somewhere"/>
State	<input type="text" value="NY"/>
Post Code	<input type="text" value="11720"/>
Country	<input type="text" value="US"/>
Phone	<input type="text" value="Some Phone"/>
Fax	<input type="text" value="55512121"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="abc@def.com"/>
Other Fields 1	<input type="text"/>
Other Fields 2	<input type="text"/>
Other Fields 3	<input type="text"/>
Other Fields 4	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Update record"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>	

### 2.1 What else must I consider

There are many other aspects to your online shop:

- Entering your products and categories
- How am I paid?
- Do you want to collect shipping costs?
- Do you want to collect taxes?
- Do you want to offer discounts?

- Do you want your shop to use a language other than English?
- Do you want to receive emails when an order occurs?
- Do you want to add content such as “about us” or privacy statements?
- Do you want stock control?
- How do you want to handle each order?
- How do you want to handle returns or fraud?
- These are much more are part of any ecommerce venture.

## 3 Payments and Gateways

Being paid is normally one of the most important aspects of any shopping cart. The shopping cart supports just about every method.

- Credit cards
- No credit cards
- Paypal
- Other payments or no other payments
- Over 100 gateways
- Any combination of the above

### **How am I paid using a credit card?**

The most common method of accepting payment on the Internet is using a credit card. The shopping cart will simply store the credit card in the database. But in order for you to be paid, you need to have what is known as a merchant account with your bank. A merchant account allows you to take the credit card and order details to the bank and they will transfer the money into your bank account.

The disadvantages of this method from a merchant's point of view are time and paperwork. The merchant must use the bank's system to manually verify that the credit card is good and then to complete the bank's paperwork to be paid. It also involves storing credit card details, at least temporarily, on your web site database.

### **What is a gateway?**

An electronic gateway is a third party. This party validates the credit card in real time. If the credit card is validated, the gateway will eventually transfer money to your bank account.

The advantage of this method is that there is little or no manual intervention or paperwork. Normally credit card details are not stored on your site. However, gateway companies do charge a fee for this service. Each gateway company has their own fee structure. Some gateway companies require that you have your own merchant account with your own bank. Others will act both as a gateway company and as a merchant account.

### **What is an SSL certificate?**

This is a certificate, which is installed on your server. It is used to identify the merchant using it and to encrypt the credit card, and other sensitive as it is passed from your customer's PC to your web site. SSL certificates are purchased separately from companies such as Verisign or Thawte.

### **How many gateways does VP-ASP Support?**

Over 100. See their site for a current list and to download the specific ones you require.

### What is Paypal?

Paypal is a third party used by millions of user worldwide. To be paid by Paypal, you sign up with them for free at [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com). When a person pays you using Paypal, the money goes immediately into your Paypal account. It is up to you to manually transfer the money into your business bank account. No merchant account with your bank is required.

Paypal comes standard with all version of the shopping cart. To use Paypal along with your standard checkout code (shopcheckout.asp), set the following shop configuration value.

<b>Xpaypal</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Turns on Paypal gateway code</b>
<b>Xpaypalemail</b>		<b>The Paypal email address. This is the Paypal account that will be paid</b>

The result will be a new button on the top of the normal checkout form.

### Is Paypal IPN supported?

Yes. Paypal Instant Payment Notification is a variation of the Paypal interface. It is used to immediately send back status to your server. The Shopping cart supports this facility but the interface code must be downloaded from the VP-ASP main site. Paypal IPN is not supported on all Paypal accounts.

### Is Google Checkout supported?

Yes

### Can I collect Card Verification Number?

Yes

xcardcvn=Yes

### Can I make Card Verification Number Required?

Yes

xcardcvnrequired=Yes

### Can I collect Issue Number (UK only)

Yes

xacrdissuenummer=Yes

### Can I store the credit card encrypted?

Yes

Xencryptcreditcard=Yes

### Can I bypass payment completely?

Yes

Xcheckout=shopcheckoutdummy.asp

Xcheckout is in shop\$config.asp

### Can I allow people to browse my shop and not order anything?

Yes

Xproductcatalogonly=Yes

**Can I ensure security lock is on browser?**

Yes

Purchase and SSL certificate and have your web host install it for you.. Once installed you need to change only one line in your shop\$config.asp file.

Change the xssl value in shop\$config.asp  
xssl="https://www.mywebsite.com/shopping"

**Can I use my web hosts SSL certificate?**

Yes. See using Shared SSL in Volume 3.

**Can I get paid by Check or other non credit cards?**

Yes. Use the one credit card payment configuration options?

Xallowotherpayments=Yes  
Xotherpaymenttypes= Check,Cash,Phone order  
List of non credit card payments you accept.

**Does the software validate credit cards?**

Yes. Basic validation is done but no real time checks are carried out.

**How do I check the credit card in real time?**

You need to use a payment gateway.

**Can I get paid by Check or other non credit cards?**

Yes. Use the one credit card payment configuration options?

**Can I test without putting in real credit card numbers?**

Yes

Xallowinvalidcards=Yes  
Also you can use card number 42424242424242 as a test Visa card

**Can I display images of Visa, Mastercard etc on the payment form?**

Yes

Xcreditcardimages=images/vpasp\_visa.gif,images/vpasp\_mclogo.gif,images/vpasp\_amex.gif

**Can I use multiple payment methods**


Multiple different payment methods can be used at the same time. If you are using a gateway, you may wish to turn off the standard VP-ASP credit card and non credit card payment forms. This is done by setting the following in Shop configuration. You can also add Paypal and a gateway at the same time.

Xallowcreditcards	No	Stops normal checkout form from collect credit cards
Xallowotherpayments	No	Stops normal checkout form from collect non credit card

### 3.1 Standard VP-ASP credit card form

The standard VP-ASP credit card form is shown below. The information collected is stored in the database and can be viewed when you display the order in the shopping cart administration.

#### Payment Information



#### Credit Card Payment

Card Type


Card Number

Name on Card

Expiry Date mm/yy /

Card Holder Address

Card Verification Number



#### Other Payment Type

Payment Type

Comment:

### 3.2 Significant 6.50 Changes

A number of configuration values have moved from the configuration table into a specific file shop\$config.asp

---

```
const xcheckout = "shopcheckout.asp"
const xssl = ""
```

---

### 3.3 What is an SSL Certificate?

When you take credit cards directly on your site, customers will expect that the credit card details will be secure when sent over the Internet. This security is normally performed automatically if you have an SSL certificate. An SSL certificate is something you buy

from another company such as Verisign or Thawte and have your web host install for you on your server.

Users visiting your site will be able to submit credit card numbers or other personal information to your site, with assurance that they are really doing business with you (and not an impostor) and that the information that they are sending to you can not be intercepted or decrypted by anyone other than the intended recipient. SSL certificates cost anywhere from \$100-300.

**When don't I need SSL?**

If you are planning to use an electronic banking gateway that takes the customers credit card information at the gateway site, then you don't need SSL on your own web host. If you are planning to take credit card information using standard VP-ASP facilities then yes you probably do. Internet buyers will only trust their credit card if they know it is securely transmitted. But you may not need to buy a digital certificate. Many web hosting companies let you use their digital certificate free or for a small charge. Check with your web hosting company. Use of this shared SSL certificate is explained in Volume 3.

## 4 Products

Products are the heart of your shop. It is what you are selling. The shopping cart needs at least one product.

### **How Many products are allowed?**

Unlimited

### **Can product belong to more than one category?**

Yes. There is no limit

### **Can products belong to more than one category/subcategory?**

Yes there is no limit

### **Can I control the stock of my products?**

Yes

xstockcontrol=Yes

The product form is quite daunting. But only four fields are actually required:

- Product Name
- Short Description
- Product Price
- Product category

Everything else is optional.

### **Can a person purchase items not in the products table?**

Yes. There are times you may want a person to buy something that has not be defined as a product. This can be done with the following links.

shopaddtocartnodb.asp?productname=My+stuff&price=10">Buy this stuff  
shopaddtocartnodb.asp?productname=My+stuff&price=10&quantity=3&weight=2

<b>Productname</b>	The name to be added to the cart
<b>Price</b>	The price of the item
<b>Quantity</b>	Quantity (optional. Default is 1)
<b>Weight</b>	Weight of item (optional)

### **Can I use the cart to pay for services such as consulting?**

Yes See Service payments in this book

### **How do I add a list of current suppliers to the product form?**

Xaddsupplierdropdown=Yes

If you are have suppliers and wish to select them from the suppliers table, set the following value in VP-ASP Configuration.

### **Can I add my own fields to the products table?**

Yes

```
xproductotherfields=xxxx,yyyy
```

```
xproductothercaptions=captionxxxx, Captionyyyy
```

This display can also include your own non VP-ASP fields and captions. To add your own fields update these two lines in configuration.

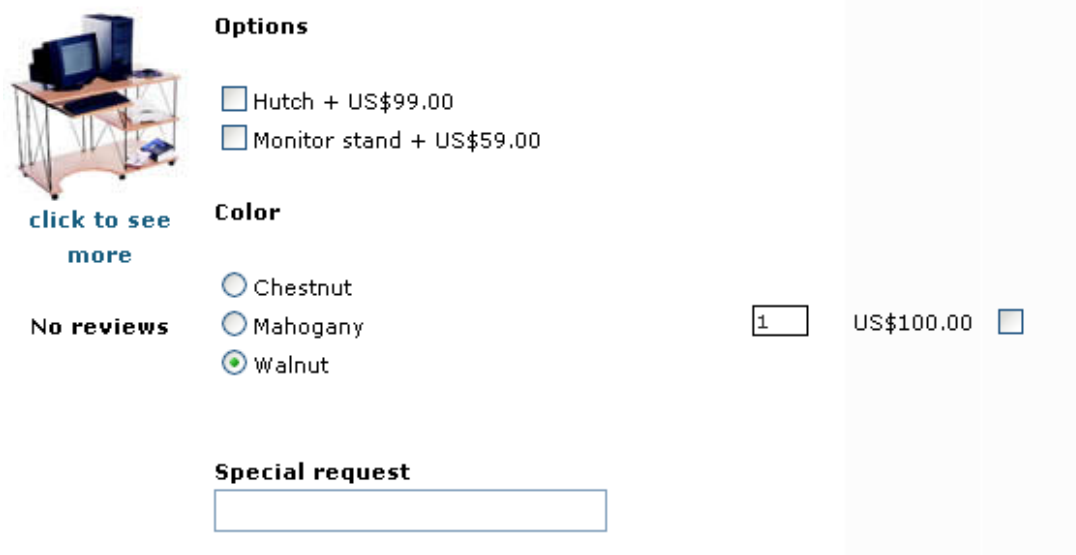
The first line is the field names as they are in the database. Fieldnames with spaces are not supported. The second line is the captions to appear in the display. Captions can have spaces.

The table editor also automatically notices any new fields and will display them with no configuration changes.

## 5 Product Features

Features a very powerful facility of the shopping cart. Features allow you to add items such as color, size, packaging or other “features” to a specific product or group of products.

In the product below there are three features. Options, Color, and special request. The color has a default value. Each option has an additional price.



The screenshot shows a product page for a desk. On the left is an image of a desk with a computer monitor and keyboard. Below the image is a link that says "click to see more" and a note that says "No reviews". To the right of the image is a section titled "Options" with two checkboxes: "Hutch + US\$99.00" and "Monitor stand + US\$59.00". Below that is a section titled "Color" with three radio buttons: "Chestnut", "Mahogany", and "Walnut", with "Walnut" selected. To the right of the color selection is a quantity input box containing the number "1", a price label "US\$100.00", and a small square button. At the bottom is a section titled "Special request" with an empty text input box.

### What is a product feature?

A feature is any attribute you want to be selected for a product. For example size or color?

### How do I create a feature?

Add one or more records to the prodfeatures table? Then assign the feature(s) to individual products.

How many features can a product have?

xmaxfeatures=10

You can change the number if a product has more than 10 features. Upping the number will slightly degrade performance since a check is made for the number of features,

### How do I assign a feature such as size to a product?

Each feature has a number called its feature number. In the product record, you list all the feature numbers you want to assign to a product. For example if feature number 4 is Size, and Feature number 7 is Logo Name, Then the product record will have these values in the feature field of the product record:

4,7

### Can different products have different features?

Yes. Each product can have any combination of features.

**How are features displayed to the customer>**

Drop Down Lists

Check Boxes

Radio buttons

User Supplied Text

User Supplied Prices

Quantities boxes

**Can I make specific features required?**

Yes. Set the required value when you create a feature.

**Can I make all features required?**

Yes

xfeaturerequired=Yes

**Can features have a price?**

Yes this is the prodfeatures record.

**Can features be a percentage of the product price?**

Yes this is in the prodfeatures record

**Can customers enter free form text with each product?**

Yes use usertext feature type.

**Can I display images such as colors with each feature?**

Yes put the image location in the prodfeatures record

**Can I control; my stock based on features?**

No. You need to use the inventory products facility to control stock based on product attributes?

**Examples of Radio and Drop Down List**

The customer can choose Hutch and/or Monitor stand. Each adds to the base code.

Choose between three colors. The default color is Walnut.

Add any special request by entering information in the text box



[click to see more](#)

No reviews

### Options

- Hutch + US\$99.00
- Monitor stand + US\$59.00

### Color

- Chestnut
- Mahogany
- Walnut

US\$100.00

### Special request

## How does this appear to merchant?

This is what appears in the shopping basket.

### Shopping Cart Items: 1

Remove	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Desk A great desk for your home office. Base price US\$100.00 Features/Options: <b>Options</b> Hutch Add US\$99.00 <b>Color</b> Chestnut <b>Special request</b> Please leave at back door	<input type="text" value="1"/>	US\$199.00	US\$199.00
			<b>Product Cost</b>	<b>US\$199.00</b>

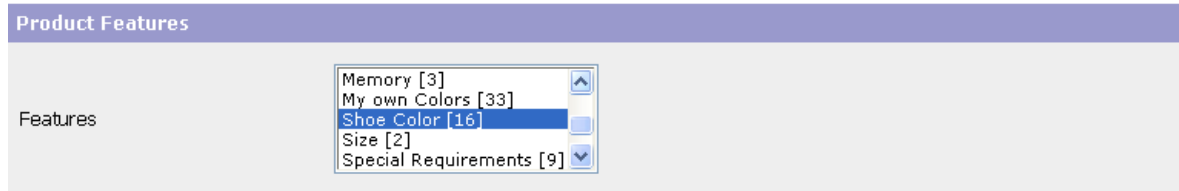
## 5.1 Using Features Facility

Products may or may not have features. Many products can have the same features. For example, clothing may have small, medium, large, x-large. Each feature needs a number called the feature number. The feature needs a caption that describes to the customer what it is. For example Color. A feature has a name such as Blue and may or may not have a price. Features are added and changed in the Administration System.

## 5.2 Assigning Features to a product

Once a feature has been created in the prodfeatures table, it now needs to be associated with a product. Say you create feature number 33. It has three records. They all have feature number 33 but will have individual feature names and possibly different feature prices.

Edit the product you want to assign the feature to and select feature 33 from the drop down list on the edit product page. Below is a fragment of the normal add product form. It shows new feature call My Own Colors [33].



### 5.3 Radio Buttons

A radio button allows the customer to select only one of the values within the feature. When editing the prodfeatures table use the following values:

---

Feature Type=Radio  
Feature Caption should be the same for all items with same featurenum  
Feature Name should be the individual different buttons  
Feature price optional price associated with feature  
Feature Default sets the specific feature as the default value

---

The feature will appear like this:

#### Color

- Chestnut
- Mahogany
- Walnut

### 5.4 Check Boxes

A checkbox always allows a customer to select multiple values. That is its major difference from a radio button

---

Feature Type=Checkbox  
Feature Caption should be the same for all items with same featurenum  
Feature Name should be the individual different buttons  
Feature price optional price associated with feature  
Multiple MUST be selected. Otherwise, checkbox will revert to radio button

---

#### Options

- Hutch + US\$99.00
- Monitor stand + US\$59.00

## 5.5 Drop Down List

A drop down list allows customer to select one value unless Multi is specified. In that case, the customer can choose multiple values.

---

FeatureType=DropDown

FeatureCaption should be the same for all items with same featurenum

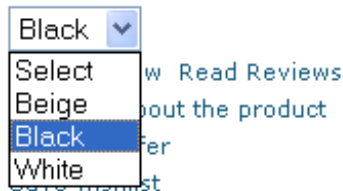
FeatureName should be the individual different buttons

Featureprice optional price associated with feature

FeatureMulti Optional. Use Yes to allow multiple selections

---

### Color



## 5.6 Selection List

Sometimes using features becomes too complex. This happens when a range of products has almost the same set of features but not exactly. For example if colors are unique to each shirt. SelectList is a field in the products table where you simply enter the colors (or whatever feature) into that field. For example, select lists always appear as a drop down list

---

Grey, Blue, Red

Feature type=SelectList

Feature Caption should be the value to be placed above the text box

---

### 5.6.1 Creating a Select List

To use SelectList as a feature, you must create one feature in the ProdFeatures table and assign this feature to the product. The FeatureCaption field will be used as the header for the dropdown list.

The next step is to create the list by editing the actual product record. In the **Selectlist** field in the product record, you create the values you want. To assign prices to any of the options using [price] for example

grey [2.00],red,blue [3.00]

grey has a 2 dollar price, red has no additional price and blue is 3 dollars additional. The select list can only be edited using the Advanced edit menu.

## 5.7 Additional Select Lists

If you need additional fields in the products table to be used to generate select lists, use the **featureother** field in the prodfeatures table. For example, create an additional select list using the pother3 field in the products table, set the following in the prodfeatures table.

---

Feature type=selectlist  
Feature caption=My Other sizes  
Feature other=pother3

---

VP-ASP will now look in field **pother3** and generate dropdown lists for anything in that field. It will have the same format described above. There are no limits to the number of select fields you can have. Select list cannot be multi selection. They generate a drop down list only and not radio buttons.

### 5.8 User Supplied Text

This feature allows a customer to enter text that will be stored with the product information.

There are two types of text fields.

---

Feature Caption is name to appear above text box  
FeatureType=UserText

---

It is possible to allow the customer to enter his or her own details. The caption for the feature is the Feature Caption field. The feature name field is unused.

**Special request**

If the feature type is a **Textarea**, then a multi line textarea is generated instead of a single textbox.

**Special Requirements**

### 5.9 UserPrice

UserPrice can be used where the merchant wants the customer to enter his or her own amount. This can be used for example in taking donations.

---

Feature Type=UserPrice  
Feature Caption should be the value to be placed above the text box

---

Please donate to this worthy cause.

**Donation**

### 5.10 QtyProduct

A quantity product type feature allows a customer to select x of one type and y of another. For each quantity selected an individual entry is made to the cart.

#### Type of Pizza

- Chicken and Onions + US\$10.00
- Deluxe + US\$11.00
- Meat and Potatoes + US\$13.00
- Vegetarian + US\$10.00

When added to the cart using qtyproduct, the cart will have three different items

Shopping Cart Items: 3				
Remove	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pizza Delicious and tempting hot pizza delivered to you door. <b>Type of Pizza</b> Chicken and Onions Add US\$10.00	<input type="text" value="1"/>	US\$10.00	US\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pizza Delicious and tempting hot pizza delivered to you door. <b>Type of Pizza</b> Meat and Potatoes Add US\$13.00	<input type="text" value="2"/>	US\$13.00	US\$26.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pizza Delicious and tempting hot pizza delivered to you door. <b>Type of Pizza</b> Vegetarian Add US\$10.00	<input type="text" value="1"/>	US\$10.00	US\$10.00
<b>Product Cost</b>				<b>US\$46.00</b>