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Variants

Starting with the 1st release in March 2015, Shopware Connect has support for variants on the staging system. This will most likely be added to production in the second half of March.

- The changes to the SDK and Shopware Connect platform have been designed in a backwards compatible way. There is no hurry to implement it or update your SDK.
- Variants are **an optional feature**, plugins don't have to implement it. Plugin authors can also decide to implement it just for export or import or for both.

To use variants you must have at least SDK version 1.6.0 (current is 1.6.4 in March 2015).

The big picture on variants is that for each variant of your variant-product you export one SDK Product. That means our data model considers every variant to be its own product in Shopware Connect. The variants are combined using a group identifier, much like the Google Product Merchant Feed uses the `item_group_id`.

The data model for a Shopware Connect Product was enriched with two new fields that are necessary to export variant products:

- A Variant Group ID (`groupId`) that must be an identifier that all variants share. This field is optional. You should only set it if your product really has variants.

Important: The `sourceId` field must be unique across *ALL* your exported products. If you violate this and have source ids unique to your variant group only, then products will override each other.

Example: T-Shirt Red and Blue have their own unique `sourceId` 1 and 2, however to be grouped as a single variant product in Shopware Connect, they share the same `groupId` = 10.

- An array for all the variant attributes (`variants`) with key value pairs using the name of the variant attribute and its value.

Adding multiple variant attributes allows to add multi-dimensional variant information.

Example: T-Shirt red has one variant attribute: `"color" => "red"`, T-Shirt Blue has the attribute `"color" => "blue"`.

- The `title` attribute should contain a human readable description of the variant, this makes it easier for others to import the product variants in their shops.

Exporting Variant Products

When exporting variant products you must add these values to the Shopware\Connect\Struct\Product like in the following example code:

```
<?php

$sdkProduct = new \Shopware\Connect\Struct\Product();

if ($shopProduct->isVariant()) {
    $sdkProduct->groupId = $shopProduct->getMasterProductId();

    foreach ($shopProduct->getVariantAttributes() as $attribute => $value) {
        $sdkProduct->variant[$attribute] = $value;
    }
}
```

Importing Variant Products

It is the responsibility of the plugin author to aggregate variant products that are sent through Shopware Connect to the plugin shop. When variants are ignored, your plugin will create one product for each variant.

You can decide to import the products using multiple dimensions or a single dimension. Either use the property `$product->variant` to automatically create the Variant data for your product or call the method `$product->getVariantString()` to get a combined single variant attribute for this product.