

EasyPopulate 2.60

EasyPopulate (EP) lets you quickly populate and update thousands of products in many categories for an OSC store with data from an:

Excel spreadsheet

OpenOffice spreadsheet

Filemaker database

Access database

Any delimited text file (you can now set a config var for the separator character)

Other features:

Supports Froogle export format

Supports multiple languages

Creates Categories and Manufacturers on the fly

Unlimited levels of categories/subcategories are supported.

Products without pictures can be defaulted to a standard "no picture available" image.

Upload a file via browser or grab a file from the temp directory.

EasyPopulate is released under the terms of the General Public License. Please see the license.txt for more details.

EasyPopulate comes with no warranty. If it hoses your data, it's not my problem. You always test everything on your dev store first, right? (hint, hint!).

EP will support both pre and post Nov 1, 2002 2.2 snapshots

Credits

Thanks to these sponsors - their financial support made the 2.4 release possible!

Support for Froogle downloads

Sponsored by Ted Joffs

This module was derived by Tim Wasson from the Excel Import 1.51 by dynamok.

Elari has contributed much of the multi-language support - Thanks!

Donations

If you'd like to voluntarily donate to help keep improving this contrib, or just to express your undying gratitude, you can paypal me at wasson65@nc.rr.com, and I will return the undying gratitude! ;-)

Support

Free support for this contrib is available at forums.oscommerce.com. This is the preferred place to get support, since it is not dependent on me alone, and your posts help build the knowledge base for everyone. I do try to answer email requests, but don't guarantee that. Note that free email and forum support does not include me

doing your work on your site. If you want this type of help, you can contact me via email to discuss my rates.

Requirements

EasyPopulate requires an OSC 2.2 snapshot. It will not work with 2.1. If you're stuck on 2.1 and desperately need this to work, contact me about a quote for custom programming to do the backport, or feel free to do it, and I'll include it in the next release.

EP expects a directory to exist at catalog/temp, and it needs to have permissions set so that EP can read and write files there. To set the perms, you can ftp in and do a "chmod 777 temp".

If you have made database changes to the products, products_description, or other product or category related tables, you may have some issues running the stock EasyPopulate.

EasyPopulate requires the use of the product_model field (model number). It won't work without the model number. The model numbers you assign must be unique, i.e. you can't give all your products a product_model of "test".

EasyPopulate will import tab, comma, semi-colon, or any other user-defined-separator delimited files. The default separator is a tab. If you have tabs in your product descriptions, it's going to cause problems. If you save from Excel as a "csv" file, it won't work. If you want to change the separator, there is a variable in the configuration section of easypopulate.php. Whatever you change it to, test it! Remember that any of those separator characters anywhere in your data will cause EP to think that's another column of data!

Each EP file must have the header row in place. If you upload a file without the headers, EP will throw out your first row of data.

EP should work fine on shared servers, servers with safe_mode set, and servers with magic_quotes turned on or off.

If you set the quantity of an item to zero, EP will automatically make the item Inactive in the database. To change the behaviour, see the Configuration Variables section.

EP does NO formatting or conversion of date formats. It gives you exactly what came out of mysql, and it takes exactly the data you give EP and shoves it into mysql. If you use a format that is not the mysql default, you'll push bad data into your date fields in your database. Use this format and you'll avoid problems: YYYY-MM-DD.

Also, be aware that backslashes can confuse EP and the database because the backslash character is the escape character for strings in mysql.

Installation and Configuration Instructions

1. The files in the EasyPopulate contribution are:
 - easypopulate.php - the code
 - easypopulate_functions.php - some functions that Pre-Nov-01-2002 2.2 OSC snapshots will need
 - license.txt - the GPL license text that EasyPopulate (EP) is released under.
 - and the instruction manual in various formats.

2. Copy file easypopulate.php and easypopulate_functions into admin/.

3. For adding link to the Admin, edit file admin/includes/boxes/catalog.php by adding this line:

```
'<a href="" . tep_href_link('easypopulate.php', '', 'NONSSL') . ""  
class="menuBoxContentLink">Easy Populate</a><br>'.
```

After:

```
'<a href="" . tep_href_link(FILENAME_PRODUCTS_ATTRIBUTES, '', 'NONSSL') . ""  
class="menuBoxContentLink">' .  
BOX_CATALOG_CATEGORIES_PRODUCTS_ATTRIBUTES .  
'</a><br>' .
```

4. Make sure that you have a directory called catalog/temp, and that it's permissions are set to allow writes to that directory (while you're in the catalog directory, execute "chmod 777 temp").

If you have changed the directory structure of your OSC install (i.e. you don't have /catalog/temp/ in your document root anymore), then you'll need to go into easypopulate.php and change the setting of "\$tempdir".

5. **PLEASE DO THIS!!!!!!:** It's a good idea to go to easypopulate.php and read the section marked "Configuration Variables". It will allow you to adjust EP's operation for your store. I meant what I said, Please, Pretty please, do read the entire configuration stuff. Really. You'll be glad you did. You'll find all kinds of neat configurable stuff there.

Froogle configuration:

EasyPopulate supports the extended froogle format. You'll need to contact Google to set up your froogle account. You'll also need to rename the output file as required by google.

Froogle downloads will include the specials price if one is set and active and applies to today.

To support the froogle export format, you must configure two configuration variables:

`$froogle_product_info_path`

This should be set to the full address that an external person would have to type into their browser to go directly to your product info page. Simplest way to set this is to go look at a product in your store with your browser, then copy/paste the url, and chop off everything after 'product_info.php'.

`$froogle_image_path`

This should be set to the full address to your images directory, with the trailing slash.

See the default settings in the code, it should be fairly obvious.

Once you've set these, test by doing a froogle export, and copy/paste the product_info url into your browser. Do the same for the image. Troubleshoot until this works as expected.

For use with the Separate Price per Customer contrib:

Edit easypopulate.php. Find function ep_create_file_layout around line 655.

Uncomment all rows in that function that look like this:

```
#'v_customer_price_1'           => $iii++,  
#v_customer_group_id_1'         => $iii++,
```

Only uncomment the pairs of lines for as many prices as you are using. I.E. If you are using Retail and Wholesale, then only uncomment the lines that end in _1 and _2. If you have 3 levels of prices, uncomment the _1, _2, and _3 lines.

The comments in the code should help you locate these rows.

For use with Linda's Header Controller v2.0 contrib:

Edit easypopulate.php. Find function ep_create_file_layout around line 655.

Uncomment the rows in that function that look like:

```
#'v_products_head_title_tag_'.$l_id   => $iii++,  
#v_products_head_desc_tag_'.$l_id     => $iii++,  
#v_products_head_keywords_'.$l_id     => $iii++,
```

The comments in the code should help you locate these rows.

For use with the multiple image mods:

Search in the code for "bimage", and follow the directions about uncommenting lines.

The following configuration options are found in easypopulate.php in the configuration variables section of the code.

To include the taxes in your product prices:

Set the variable \$price_with_tax to true. Default is false (prices do not contain taxes).

Number of records in a file when it is split:

Set the variable \$maxrecs to the number of products to put in one split file. Default is 300.

Image Defaults:

Set the variables \$default_image_manufacturer, \$default_image_product, and \$default_image_category to the desired image names.

Longer product_model in database:

The stock OSC product_model field size is a paltry 12 chars, much too small. If you do increase the size in the database, you must also set the variable \$modelsz to match. EP is very picky about the length of this because bad length settings could cause data corruption. Default is 12.

Controlling replacement of the quotation marks in the descriptions:

If you want to turn off the conversion of single and double quotation marks in your descriptions, set the \$replace_quotes variable to false. Default is true.

To turn off the "zero qty products are made inactive automatically":

Change the setting of the \$zero_qty_inactive from true to false.

To create your own custom file layouts:

This is not hard, but is more than setting a few config vars. Look in the function ep_create_file_layout, and happy hacking!

There are more in the config section that are not discussed here. You did read the entire config section like I suggested, right? ;-)

Usage

1. Go to Admin -> Catalog -> Easy Populate
2. Click one of the links at the bottom of the box marked "Download a txt file to edit" and save the tab-delimited txt file to your local machine.
3. Edit the file in Excel or OpenOffice. I don't think KSpread supports tab delimited files right now. Windows users just right click and "Open with" -> Excel.
4. After you are done editing, save the file:
Excel users: as a "Text (tab delimited)" file from Excel
OpenOffice users: as a "Text" file, check the "edit MORE HERE MORE HERE"
5. If you have more than 300 items in your store, read the SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR LARGE STORES

5. Now go back to Admin -> Catalog -> Easy Populate and click the upper Browse button, find your file that you want to upload, then click Upload and Insert Into Database.

6. The file will be uploaded to your store. You should see a display that lists the items you are importing. If the last row appears blank, and complains that it can't import this record, all is fine, it's not unusual to get this error at the end of the file.

7. If you'd like to use FTP and upload the file, put it in the \$tempdir directory, and then put the filename in the box under "Upload from Temp dir" and click Insert Into Database. Remember the file must be readable by the username that the web server is running as. You might have to chmod 777 the uploaded file to let the script read it.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR LARGE STORES

If your store has over 300 products, you will likely run into PHP timeout issues. The maximum time that a script can run is set in the php.ini file. The default is 30 seconds, and it seems that most people can upload about 300 items within that time.

If your store is over 300 items, you must split the file before it can be uploaded. You can do this by hand, or you can use the file-splitting feature of EP. If you split by hand remember that EP expects the first row in every file to be the headers, and will throw this line out. So if you don't have headers, it's going to throw out the first row of data.

To split a file with EP:

Go to Admin -> Catalog -> Easy Populate

Click the lower browse button and get the file you want to split.

Click the button named "Upload and Split file".

The file will be split into sections, each with 300 products, the last one being shorter as needed.

These files will be located in the catalog/temp directory.

You can download these files using the file manager tool under Admin -> Tools -> File Manager, or you can use your ftp client to download them.

Upload each split file independently in the normal way described above.

These new files will be saved in the /catalog/temp directory, and will be named like this: EP_Split1.txt, EP_Split2.txt, etc.

If these files are still too large, edit easypopulate and change the configuration variable \$maxrecs to a smaller number. This controls how many records are put into a single file when you split it.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAC USERS

Because of the differences in the end-of-line characters used by Apple's operating systems, after editing and saving the tab-delimited file, you'll need to open the file in BBedit or equivalent and change the line endings to "Unix".

What does EP do with my data? (How it works):

When you upload a file, this is what EP does:

Breaks the file into lines based on the explicit field named "EOREOR". This word "EOREOR" must appear in the last field in each row of your data, or EP won't work.

Reads the first row to get the names of the fields you are importing. This is why you must have the header row in the file.

Checks to see if there is a valid product_model in the row, if it's not there, throw an error and go on to the next row

Checks to see that the product_model is not too long. Stock OSC comes with just 12 characters available for the product_model. If you need more than 12, change your database and edit easypopulate.php and change the configuration variable \$modelszize. If it is not the right size, the import stops right then.

If the product_model does not exist in the database, the product is created with the given information (price, weight, qty). If it does exist, then the given information is updated.

Checks to see if the category(ies) given exist in the database. If they do, it puts the product in to that category/subcategory. If they do not exist, it creates the category/subcategories as needed, and then puts the product into that category/subcategory.

Tab-delimited file format:

This describes the file layout for the "Complete" download.

1. fields are delimited with a single tab character
2. fields do not need to be enclosed in quotes

The names of all the fields in order are:

```
'v_products_model'  
'v_products_image'  
    'v_products_name_1'  
'v_products_description_1'  
....
```

... If you have multiple languages, there will be more pairs of name/description here

...
 'v_products_name_N'
 'v_products_description_N'

...
... If you have Linda's Header Controller v2.0 enabled, you will see these fields
 'v_products_head_title_tag_N'
 'v_products_head_desc_tag_N'
 'v_products_head_keywords_N'
... end of Header Controller fields

...
 'v_products_price'
 'v_products_weight'
 'v_date_avail'
 'v_products_quantity'

...
... If you have turned on support for the Multiple Prices per Product, you'll see these fields here:

 'v_customer_price_N'
 'v_customer_group_id_N'

... Note: these must appear in pairs!! You cannot logically have a price without an ID to apply it to.

... End of Multiple Prices per Product fields

...
 'v_manufacturers_name'
 'v_categories_name_1'
 'v_categories_name_2'
 'v_categories_name_3'
 'v_categories_name_4'
 'v_categories_name_5'
 'v_categories_name_6'
 'v_categories_name_7'
 'v_date_added'
 'v_date_avail'
 'v_tax_class_id'
 'v_status'
 'EOREOR'

'v_products_model'

The model number for the product

'v_products_image'

The name of the image file for the product. May contain subdirectories (i.w. mysubdir/mypic.gif). If left blank, it will default as set in the configuration section of easypopulate.php

'v_products_name_1'

'v_products_description_1'

For each language you have active in your store, you'll get a pair of name and description for the product

'v_products_price'

Price you want listed. Right now we don't handle anything except retail price

'v_products_weight'

Weight. Assumes you're using the default weight

'v_date_avail'

When the product will become available. Defaults to today if left blank.

'v_date_added'

When the product will be reported as being added to the database. Defaults to today if left blank.

'v_products_quantity'

Number of the products you have on hand. If left blank, it defaults to 1000

'v_manufacturers_name'

The name of the manufacturer. If not already in the database, it will be created

'v_categories_name_1'

'v_categories_name_2'

'v_categories_name_3'

'v_categories_name_4'

'v_categories_name_5'

'v_categories_name_6'

'v_categories_name_7'

The category hierarchy that this product should be listed under. Note that ..name_1 is the Highest level category.

An example:

If you are selling cars and you want to list a Pontiac Aztec, you'd have something like this:

Cars ->

General Motors ->

Pontiac

for categories, and the Aztec would be listed in the Pontiac subcategory. So your data would look like this:

v_categories_name_1 = Cars

v_categories_name_2 = General Motors

v_categories_name_3 = Pontiac

See, highest level category to lowest level category.

'v_tax_class_id'

The tax status you want to assign to this product

'v_status'

The status you want to set for this item. Defaults to Active. To make the product inactive, put the word Inactive in the field. Note: If you set a product with zero quantity active, and the \$zero_qty_inactive flag in the configuration variables section is set to true, it will be inactive in the database. If you want to use different words for Active/Inactive, you can change the configuration variables \$active and \$inactive in the configuration variables section of easypopulate.php

'EOREOR'

This is a REQUIRED FIELD! It gives an explicit end to the row of data. This must appear on every row of your data.

Troubleshooting tips:

These troubleshooting tips were culled from my experience and the forums at oscommerce.

My products aren't in the right categories!

Previous versions of EP required that the categories be listed from lowest to highest level categories. This has changed, and now the categories are from left to right in the file, highest to lowest level. So if you want your product to end up in:

Rocks ->

 Sedimentary Rocks ->

 Limestone Rocks->

Then your categories should be set like this in the file:

v_categories_name_1 = Rocks

v_categories_name_2 = Sedimentary Rocks

v_categories_name_3 = Limestone Rocks

It doesn't work!

First, look for really obvious problems with your file.

1. Did you download a file via EasyPopulate first? If not, do that now.
2. Compare the file you're trying to upload to the file you downloaded. Look for missing fields. Ignore the quotes, EP won't care about missing quotes. Open it in a text editor instead of excel. Look for odd characters that shouldn't be there.

Second, simplify

1. Try uploading the file you just downloaded. If this doesn't work, you've got basic problems, hit the forum and describe your errors. Please search for your error message first, if there is no fix, then post a very specific problem report. Don't just tell me "It's broken", or I'm likely to say, "Well, fix it!" 8-)
2. If you can upload the unmodified downloaded file, then try adding just one product to it, and upload that. Keep it simple, no fancy stuff in the descriptions or anything.

I try to split a file but it leaves it in one big file, and says zero records were found.

Check to be sure that your data includes the 'EOREOR' at the end of every row. EP starts reading the file and looks for this field in order to split it into rows. If this field is missing, EP will never find the end of the row of data.

When I try to upload, I get this error:

Fatal error: Call to undefined function: tep_get_uploaded_file() in /home/www/web19/html/catalog/admin/easypopulate.php on line 724

The function isn't being found. Did you copy the easypopulate_functions.php to the admin directory? This should never happen on post-Nov-1-2002 snapshots. Prior snapshots depend on the easypopulate_functions.php

I upload a file but it just goes right back to the easypopulate screen without doing anything.

Chances are your file is too large to import properly. Either split it, or if it's already split, then set \$maxrecs in easypopulate to something smaller and try again.

The prices in the store are not what I put in the spreadsheet.

Check the \$price_with_tax configuration variable in the configuration variables section. Change it to the opposite of what it is (i.e if it's false, set true, if true, set to false), and re-import. This variable tells EP that the price includes the tax rate or not.

When I try to upload a file, I get warnings like this:

Warning: Unable to create '/home/html/mati/html/catalog/temp/nuevo.txt': No such file or directory in /home/html/mati/html/tienda/admin/includes/functions/general.php on line 789

Warning: Unable to move '/tmp/phpz24pMf' to
'/home/html/mati/html/catalog/temp/nuevo.txt' in
/home/html/mati/html/tienda/admin/includes/functions/general.php on line 789

File uploaded.

Temporary filename: /tmp/phpz24pMf

User filename: nuevo.txt

Size: 98039

Warning: file("/home/html/mati/html/catalog/temp/nuevo.txt") - No such file or directory in
/home/html/mati/html/tienda/admin/easypopulate.php on line 469

Warning: Invalid argument supplied for foreach() in
/home/html/mati/html/tienda/admin/easypopulate.php on line 473

Upload complete

Answer:

EP can't find the file that you uploaded for some reason. Check to see that you actually have a temp directory at the location shown, and that it is chmod'd to 777 (chmod 777 temp) on a *nix box, and on windows that everyone has write permission to that directory. If you do have a temp directory but it's not under the catalog directory, then you must go into easypopulate.php and set the \$tempdir variables.

If you are doing the "Create txt in temp dir" option and you get errors like this:

Warning:

fopen("/usr/local/plesk/apache/vhosts/yourdomain.com/temp/EP1038000963.csv"
, "w+") - No such file or directory in
/usr/local/plesk/apache/vhosts/yourdomain/httpsdocs/admin/easypopulate.
php on line 273

You have one of two problems:

A)

The permissions are not set correctly for your temp dir.

Fix: ftp in and do a "chmod 777 temp"

Verify by using Tools->Files and go to the temp directory, the perms should read like this
"drwxrwxrwx"

Or

B)

The temp dir path is wrong.

First, check the path that you see in Tools->Files.

Now compare that to the path in the error message.

If they are not the same, edit the \$tempdir variable near the top so they will match.

Special characters should be handled OK by EasyPopulate, but it is recommended to use the special control characters as there are some parts of OSC that may not properly strip slashes from the data if you use the special character instead of the control codes.

Windows users:

If you have trouble downloading and opening the file, try downloading the file.

If you encounter errors here trying to dl the file, try using the "Create txt in temp dir" link. This will create a file in the /catalog/temp directory, which you can get to via the Tools/Files in the admin area, and download it there.

If you still have problems at that point, well, there's always ftp. I've beaten my head against this wall too much, and danged if I'm going to spend more time fussing with a busted browser on a busted 'operating system'. Bill Gates has stolen enough of my life as it is. Get Mozilla. It works.

It's possible this problem is related to sites that have their admin on the https side.
