

Ignify, Inc.
Microsoft Commerce Server 2006
Overview

April 19, 2006

Microsoft Commerce Server 2006 provides the following capabilities and enhancements:

- **Upgrade from Commerce Server 2002**
- **Commerce Server Staging**
- **Microsoft BizTalk Server adapters**
- **New business user tools to replace Commerce Server Business Desk**
- **SQL Reporting Services**
- **Inventory integration**
- **Orders and Catalog System improvements**
- **Platform ready for ASP.NET 2.0**
- **ASP.NET 2.0 membership provider for the Profiles System**

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Business User Tools

- Commerce Server Marketing Manager
- Commerce Server Catalog Manager
- Commerce Server Catalog Schema Editor
- Commerce Server Customer and Orders Manager

Benefits of Business User Tools:

- Replace Commerce Server Business Desk
- Improve usability and accuracy of business user tasks
- Contribute to better performance and concurrent scalability of business user tools
- Help improve the extensibility of Commerce Server and the .NET developer experience
- All these applications are .NET Windows Forms-based applications

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Business User Tools are .NET Windows Forms-based applications that provide :

- Increased performance over Business Desk HTML applications
- A design model that is based on Microsoft Visual Studio .NET
- Data-driven dynamic controls with an extensible user interface through the Partner SDK
- Data exposure in the user interface
- User interfaces that include mechanisms to reveal relevant data on objects without requiring the business user to dive deeply into edit pages

Business User Tool Usability:

- Easier to use due to its Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office appearance and behavior.
- Inductive workflow model that leads the business user through complex tasks and commands.
- Simplified workflow with wizards to help you create complex objects.
- This makes task management easier.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Catalog System

- Extensible catalog database schema to create your own custom properties for product and category definitions.
- Perform bulk updates and deletes of properties for multiple products or categories by specifying an expression or a dataset.
- Create, edit, retrieve, and delete definitions for products and categories.
- New Windows Forms-based application to manage your catalogs.
- Create, edit, retrieve, and delete property metadata.
- Web service/agent support for exporting catalogs on business user desktops.
- Create catalogs easily with this new Catalog Wizard.
- Create categories easily with this new Category Wizard.
- Create inventory catalogs easily with this new Inventory Catalog Wizard.
- Create products easily with this new Product Wizard.
- Create virtual catalogs easily with this new Virtual Catalog Wizard.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Catalog System

- Export catalogs easily with the new Export a Catalog Wizard.
- Import catalogs easily with the new Import a Catalog Wizard.
- Full-text search enhancements exist that support inflectional, weighted, and proximity searches.
- Use Windows Authorization Manager scopes, roles, tasks, and operations in the Catalog System as a security option.
- You can rank root products and categories in base and virtual catalogs. You can rank products and sub categories within any category.
- Support for staging and other deployment scenarios exists when propagating catalogs with varying definitions (i.e. Catalogs where in the Schema is different).
- Web service/agent support for exporting catalogs on business user desktops.
- Windows Event Tracing support and performance counters exist. These aid you with troubleshooting.
- Makes virtual catalog operations faster and less CPU intensive.
- Perform parameterized import and export of catalog data.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Inventory System

- Uses the Agent Management API to create, update, delete, and retrieve inventory SKU and inventory catalog entities programmatically.
- Client Side Export allows export of inventory data to a remote system along with status tracking reports.
- Client Side Import allows import of inventory data from a remote system along with status tracking reports.
- Conversion between inventory XML data format and CSV data format.
- Windows Authorization Manager scopes, roles, tasks, and operations exist in the Inventory System as a security option.
- Inventory computations pipeline component calculates quantity in stock, back-ordered, or pre-ordered based on configurations.
- Supports Full text search and query integration with the Catalog System for Advance Search on the Retail site
- Supports Integration with Microsoft BizTalk Server
- Transactional updates for history of what was changed and when.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Marketing System

- Generate reports on integrated campaigns with new full discount functionality.
- Campaign item management API to manage discounts, direct mail items, and advertisements programmatically.
- Various API to create ad campaign items, campaign collections, direct mail campaign items, discount campaign items and lists to support direct mail campaign items etc.
- Data purging tool to delete inactive or expired campaign items.
- Reintroduces all integrated campaigns as shipped in Commerce Server 2002
- Uses Windows Forms-based application to manage campaigns, advertisements, and discounts for better usability.
- The new product display includes discount information. This means that you can have runtime discount filtering based on products or baskets.
- Multilingual enhancements and Several globalization enhancements exist, such as localized direct mail subject lines can be personalized in various languages.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Orders System

Commerce Server 2006 introduces an Orders System with a strongly typed object model that provides

- Customer and Orders Manager application is Windows Forms-based for easier usability
- The Orders System supports Windows Authorization Manager scopes, roles, tasks, and operations as a security option.
- Multiple baskets per customer, This makes scenarios such as multiple baskets per site, repeating orders, wish lists, and gift registries easier to implement.
- Orders edition and deletion can be done without recalculation. This provides order status columns that you can easily update throughout captured orders to provide order status information to the customer.
- Order Search APIs to search and retrieve orders. The Orders search feature lets you retrieve orders from the system for processing by an external ERP system. Additionally, it can locate orders for corrective actions.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Orders System

- Split tender allows multiple payment methods per order.
- Orders Mapping tool validates user-defined orders, schema mappings, and generates the SQL and XSD schemas. This can be used for Import or Export of Orders.
- Orders System extensibility allows you to programmatically extend the Orders System object model and add new properties and collections. This can be used to add new custom related fields to the order
- Orders XML serialization lets you represent orders as XML instead of a binary large object. This makes interoperability with other systems easier and helps in third party integrations
- Strongly-typed schemas you can store data in specific table columns instead of a binary large object and hence improving performance.
- Visible Orders System with a Web service architecture allows the Order System to be available to external systems via an enhanced Web Service.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Commerce Server Staging System

Commerce Server 2006 introduces Commerce Server Staging (CSS). CSS is a system that lets you deploy or "stage" your business data and Web site content from your development environment to your production environment. CSS offers the following benefits

- One tool for all staging in Commerce Server
- Commerce Server 2006 does not use Application Center for staging, therefore, there is no need for a separate license to stage your data
- Management of CSS through a scripting language, the command line, and the Microsoft Management Console (MMC)
- Optional parameters for data deployment, that is full text rebuilding after catalog data deployment
- Better error reporting and logging

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Commerce Server Staging System

Commerce Server Staging can stage the following:

- Web site content (Includes HTML, Flash etc)
- Business data
 - Site Terms with full data transfer that is non-transactional
 - Catalogs with full and incremental data transfer that is transactional or non-transactional
 - Marketing data, such as advertisements, discounts, and promotion codes, with full data transfer that is non-transactional
- Promotion codes with full and incremental data transfer that is transactional
- Orders System business data with full data transfer that is transactional
- Internet Information Services (IIS) metabase

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Data Warehouse and Analytics

Commerce Server 2006 introduces several Data Warehouse and Analytics System enhancements

- SQL Reporting Services replaces Commerce Server Business Desk, hence you do not need the Business Desk to view Commerce Server reports.
- SQL Reporting Services provides full life cycle management for all reports—this includes authoring, scheduling, versioning, taking data snapshots, access controls, and rendering, hence reports can be easily customized as per requirements.
- Redesigned reports can be migrated from Commerce Server 2002

Commerce Server 2006 Features

BizTalk Adapters

Feature	Description
BizTalk Adapter for Catalogs	Exchange catalog data with external systems.
BizTalk Adapter for Inventory	Exchange inventory data with external systems.
BizTalk Adapter for Orders	Exchange order data with external systems.
BizTalk Adapter for Profiles	Exchange profile data with external systems.
Connection and Configuration Wizard	Configuration for business users through a standard BizTalk Server user interface.
Export or Import message types	With these message types, you can export and import data with external systems.
Query message types	Use the query message types to query data.
Orders transactional capability	Commerce Server 2006 provides support for Distributed Transaction Coordinator (DTC) transactions between BizTalk Adapter for Orders and Orders Web service.
Stateful orchestration	Use stateful orchestrations to ensure data consistency in orchestrations.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Setup

Commerce Server 2006 introduces several Setup Enhancements

- Various Package Files (Blanck.pup, CSharp.pup, DW.pup, VBNet.pup) for creating various instances.
- Silent installation and Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS) packaging for business user interfaces that allows you to distribute the business user interfaces to business user desktops in an automated manner.
- Stand-alone installer for BizTalk Server adapters that allows you to install or un-install Microsoft BizTalk Server adapters independently from the Commerce Server 2006 Setup program.
- Stand-alone installer for Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM) pack that allows you to install or un-install the MOM pack independently from the Commerce Server 2006 Setup program.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Migration and Upgrade

Commerce Server 2006 Migration and Upgrade Enhancements

- Migrate data from Commerce Server 2000 resources to Commerce Server 2006.
- Migrate Data Warehouse and analytics data from Commerce Server 2000 to Commerce Server 2006.
- Unpack Commerce Server 2000 .pup files on a server that is running Commerce Server 2006.
- Backward compatibility with the Commerce Server 2002 class library APIs exists, except for the Orders System.
- Migrate data from Commerce Server 2002 resources to Commerce Server 2006.
- Migrate Data Warehouse and analytics data from Commerce Server 2002 to Commerce Server 2006.
- Unpack Commerce Server 2002 .pup files on a server that is running Commerce Server 2006.
- Orders System command line tools to migrate orders data from Commerce Server 2000 and Commerce Server 2002 to Commerce Server 2006.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

MOM 2005 Management Pack

Commerce Server 2006 introduces a Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM) management pack as a Web download package.

- Performance and event graphs present you with graphical representations of performance and event trending information.
- Performance counters and event triggers in Commerce Server that let you monitor your servers better.
- MOM introduces the concept of rules and groups that Commerce Server now supports.
- State monitoring provides Green/Yellow/Red status indicators based on interpretation of health data collected from your Commerce Server computer.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

User Profiles Management

Commerce Server 2006 user profile management enhancements.

- Profiles Web service lets you perform distributed management of the Profiles System, and it supports client connectivity.
- User profiles membership provider for ASP.NET 2.0 lets ASP.NET 2.0 application code use the Commerce Server user profile store as the membership store for ASP.NET 2.0. It also enables ASP.NET membership authentication for Commerce Server applications

Commerce Server 2006 Features

SDK and Tools

- Basket and order deleting tool for deleting old baskets and order data.
- The BizTalk catalog schema project and the BizTalk property schema project help make development easier.
- Circular reference checker tool to examine catalogs to identify circular references.
- Consistency checker tool to examine the consistency between catalogs and inventory catalogs.
- Data deleting tool for catalog and inventory based on the date criteria
- Marketing data deleting tools to delete obsolete and inactive campaign data.
- Order extractor tool to extract and compact orders into binary large objects.
- Sample orchestration to use line-of-business adapters in an end-to-end scenario.
- Tracing tool to enable or disable tracing and configure tracing levels for database optimization.
- XML pipeline tracer tool for XML tracing in pipeline components.
- XML to CSV converter and vice versa

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Starter Site

The Commerce Server 2006 Starter Site provides a framework for building a Commerce Server Web site and is a production-ready Web site that you can deploy with minimal modifications. This example Web site highlights the best practices for developing solutions with Commerce Server 2006 and ASP.NET 2.0.

Commerce Server 2006 Features

Platform

Commerce Server 2006 platform enhancements.

- Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 support for run time and development.
- Microsoft BizTalk Server 2006 support for BizTalk Server 2006 adapters.
- Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC) 2.9 support for component data access.
- Commerce Server supports SQL Server 2005 as its data store.