Sitecore E-Commerce Services
What's New in SES 2.1

An Overview of the New Functionalities in Sitecore E-commerce Services 2.1

New features

CMS 7 Compatibility

Sitecore E-Commerce Services version 2.1 is compatible with CMS 7 rev. 130424

Buckets

- You can now use buckets to store products and product repositories to:
    - Efficiently store more product items in the CMS.
    - Efficiently use the content editor and the new search functionality to search and manage products.
- In the Content Editor, you can use one the following to work with products:
    - Buckets with search and faceting
    - Creating typical tree-structures based on categories, as in standard SMS.

Limitations

There are the following limitations in SES 2.1 in connection with the new features in CMS 7.

Content Search

CMS 7 Specific implementation for SES search API `IsearchProvider` that is based on the new content search API is not developed yet. That means:

- Products can be indexed and searched using the new CMS 7 indexing and search functionality, but internally SES is still using its own search provider technology and hence it has no effect on SES functionality. That is the case when virtual products are assigned to Search Groups in SES.
- SES Product and Web indexes need to be configured and SES Search Providers must be used for SES functionality.

Index Strategies

- SES 2.1 cannot use the following new CMS7 index update strategies because the content search is not implemented yet:
    - `IntervalAsyncMaster`
    - `OnPublishEndAsync`
    - `rebuildAfterFullPublish`
    - `remoteRebuild`
    - `syncMaster`
- `CompositeSearchProvider` is still used

o `CompositeSearchProvider` is used as search backup. In search, when Lucene is re-indexing, `CompositeSearchProvider` is also used to avoid exceptions.

Virtual Products and Product Search Groups

- The `ProductCatalog` UI that is used for searching and assigning Virtual Product to webpages relies on SES Search Provider functionality and must be used to allow the virtual products functionality to work.

- Datasource queries cannot be used for the Virtual Products functionality. Linq statements are used to render datasource properties. This is because they do not work together with the SES Web Index that includes Virtual Products based on the way SES assigns products to web pages

Additional Features

Sitecore E-Commerce Services version 2.1 is a direct port of version 2.0 and there are no additional features added.

Issues Resolved

Lucene Dependencies

Dependencies on older versions of Lucene have been resolved. CMS 7 has been updated to work on Lucene 3+.