



Release Notes - Active Commerce 3.1

New Features

New Shopping Cart and Checkout UX

The user experience of the Active Commerce shopping cart and checkout have been entirely redesigned, based on experience and data from Active Commerce customers. The result is a more modern, user-friendly checkout experience. In addition, the new checkout features:

- A component-based Sitecore architecture which is more easily extended, and which allows for use of personalization and A/B testing within the checkout process.
- A client-side architecture built on AngularJS, a Javascript framework from Google for creating dynamic web applications.
- “Just in time” account creation during the checkout process to encourage user registration without impeding checkout.
- A slimmed header and footer to better funnel users to transaction completion.
- Google and Sitecore Analytics tracking for each step of the checkout.
- Asynchronous order confirmation emails, reducing perceived order processing time for your customers.
- Automatic application of transaction purchase value towards visit engagement value, providing an easy path to A/B testing and use of Executive Insights reporting.

Mobile-Optimized Components and CSS

The Active Commerce base skin now includes mobile-optimized CSS and components, providing you with an “out of the box” mobile store.

- The skinning system has been enhanced to deliver device-specific CSS, allowing for much of the existing Active Commerce front-end to be adapted for mobile via CSS alone.
- In some places, mobile-specific components have been introduced. These are included via conditional rendering or a mobile-specific layout definition.
- The new shopping cart and checkout were designed to be easily adapted for mobile use.

- Image and video sizes in the `ActiveCommerce.Skinning.config` can now also include device-specific size definitions.
- The meta “viewport” tag can be defined for each device as well from the device item in Sitecore.

Upgrading from Active Commerce 3.0

Active Commerce 3.1 can be installed over an existing 3.0 instance. The following steps should be taken in doing so:

- It is recommended that you upgrade to [Sitecore 7.1. Update-1](#).
- Always backup your filesystem and databases before upgrading.
- Ensure any configuration adjustments have been applied using configuration patches, rather than edits directly to Active Commerce provided configuration files.
- Before installing Active Commerce 3.1, you should delete the entire “skins” folder. Following installation, you can reinstall any custom skins to the folder.
- If you have an existing site structure created on 3.0, you should create a new Active Commerce website, and use the `<site>/Home/shop` item tree (display name *Active Commerce*) to replace the same within your existing site. The structure of the shopping cart and checkout pages has changed significantly. You will then need to adjust links on the following items:
 - `<site>/Site Settings/General`
 - `<site>/Home/shop/checkout/Components/Credit Card Payment`

Improvements

- [AC-466] - Active Commerce now supports Sitecore 7.1 Update-1 (rev. 140130). Given the number of bug fixes and other improvements in Update-1, this is the recommended Sitecore version for Active Commerce 3.1.
- [AC-358] - All Active Commerce business components now obtain Business Catalog and General Settings via injected or resolved *ShopContext*. Extension methods have been added for *ShopContext* to make it easier to get to settings values.
- [AC-398] - All JSON services now utilize a common URL prefix (`/ac/`).
- [AC-452] - It's now possible to change the product code / product name separator in product URLs from a double underscore (`__`) to other characters when registering *NameAndCodeAndVariantProductUrlProcessor* in Unity.
- [AC-453] - It's now possible to not require a product name match on product URLs. This provides better resiliency for product URLs should a product name change.
- [AC-354] - You can now utilize *ActiveCommerce.ShopContext.ShopContextSwitcher* to switch to a different site and shop context, including shop settings and any site-specific Unity registrations. This is useful for scheduled tasks and other automation.

- [AC-356] - You can now register template-specific product types in Unity, which will be automatically resolved during product construction. Utilize the template ID as the name of the type registration to enable this.
- [AC-444] - Active Commerce will no longer create actual Sitecore accounts for guest checkout customers.
- [AC-460] - JSON services added by Active Commerce will no longer appear as page hits in Sitecore Analytics.
- [AC-389] - "Add This" sublayouts and user controls have been renamed more generally to "Social Share."
- [AC-344] - Related Products and Upsell fields now utilize a *Multilist with Search* field type, allowing searching of item buckets.
- [AC-393] - Zoom functionality on product detail pages has been updated to optimize mobile experience, and improve experience on desktop as well.

Issues Resolved

- [AC-315] - News articles would display with a date/time rather than just a date.
- [AC-321] - "Product From Catalog" promo condition would fail for some parent categories.
- [AC-341] - AddThis asynchronous initialization would fail in some browsers.
- [AC-412] - Wishlist link in header did not work if already within My Account.
- [AC-450] - Some Sherpa demo product types would not be bucketed on creation. This issue has been reported to Sitecore, and a workaround is included with the Sherpa demo package.
- [AC-289] - Site search would fail when searching for multiple terms.
- [AC-336] - Installation package was missing required Discount Operator items for promo rules.
- [AC-357] - Search type on Home Page Featured Products was defaulting to "by query."
- [AC-377] - *SkinningHandler* would fail for resource requests in preview in some conditions.
- [AC-292] - Product URLs would 404 when they included indexing stop words.
- [AC-415] - Return customer GOGGLES promo in Sherpa demo was missing marketing campaign condition.