

X-FeatureComparison add-on module

for X-Cart 4.1.11

User Manual



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Thank you for choosing X-Cart software solutions!

1 General information

X-FeatureComparison is an X-Cart add-on module that enables your customers to use feature-based comparison service.

Unless a customer comes to your store with his mind set on a specific product, he is likely to browse and compare different products trying to determine which product will be right for him.

Feature-based comparison service facilitates the process of choosing the right thing by a customer: the user enters a desired combination of features, and the system then determines the product or products that provide that combination. For instance, if a customer is looking for a mobile phone, but is not yet sure as to its model, he can pick the desired mobile phone features (e.g., dual or triple band, light weight, replaceable covers, or programmable ringtones) and immediately buy the phone that matches the requirements. Visitors can also pick a product and compare it side by side with other products, so the customer can pick a product that he likes, and then compare other products against it to see if there are any better choices.

Using **X-FeatureComparison** module provides the store admin/provider users with the following abilities:

- to group products into product classes
- to define features specific to product classes
- to assign class-specific features to products
- to create multilingual names for product classes and class-specific features.
- to search for products by their product class

The customers get the ability:

- to search for products by features
- to compare products of the same class with one another

X- Feature Comparison is a reliable and up-to-date solution that makes your business competitive.

You can purchase it at www.x-cart.com.

2 Module Installation

To install the module you have to perform the following actions:

1. Download the module distributive (**x-fcomp-x.y.z.tgz**, where x,y,z are the numbers of the module version) from File Area.
2. Uncompress the **x-fcomp-x.y.z.tgz** file and copy the files to X-Cart directory.
3. Run in the browser the installation script http://www.yourhost.com/xcart_dir/install-xfcomp.php
4. Enter your authentication code, accept conditions of the License Agreement and click **Next**.

Note. The authentication code is issued on completion of X-Cart installation. It is used to prevent unauthorized re-installation of X-Cart and to install X-Cart modules (if you decide to purchase them). If you forgot the code, you may look it up at any time in include/install.php file.

5. Installation script will copy the files and make all the necessary changes in the database.
6. After module Installation is completed, you need to log in as Admin and
 - enable Feature Comparison from the Modules section
 - set the module options in General settings/Feature Comparison options.

X-Cart Gold and Pro module installations do not differ.

3 Setting up Feature Comparison options

To set up the options affecting the work of Feature Comparison module in your store:

1. Select General settings from the Administration menu.
2. Click the Feature Comparison options link in the section menu.
3. Set up the following options:
 - **The product class image width in the product classes list:** set the desired image width in pixels.
 - **Enable adding products to comparison lists for further comparing:** Select this check box if you want to enable your customers to add products they want to compare to a special list appearing in the 'Comparison list' box in the menu column. If you leave this check box unselected, the link '[Add to comparison list](#)' will not be displayed, so there will be no way for your customers to use the 'Comparison list' box.
 - **The maximum number of products in the comparison list in the menu column:** Specify the maximum number of products which a customer will be allowed to add to the Comparison list.
 - **Maximum number of products which can be shown on the feature-based comparisons page and on the Product details page in the form of a select box:** If the quantity of products for comparison exceeds the number specified here, product selection will be done in a popup window: Specify the maximum number of products for comparison that will be able to appear in a select box.
 - **Maximum number of products which can be compared:** Specify the maximum number of products that a customer will be allowed to compare at a time.
4. Click **Save** to apply the changes.

4 Administrative interface

The administrative part of X-FeatureComparison module is handled by the store administrators and providers. In X-Cart GOLD the store admin/provider fully controls the work of the module. In X-Cart PRO providers adjust their store sections to work with the module, while the store admin regulates the work of the module in general (by adjusting the Feature Comparison options) and carries out the function of supervision which in case of necessity enables him to interfere and edit the providers' settings pertaining to the module.

After X-FeatureComparison module has been installed and configured, you need to use the store admin/provider interface to do the following:

1. Define product classes (types of products which can be compared).
2. For each of the defined product classes set up product class options, or features (parameters on the ground of which the products belonging to the class will be compared).
3. Assign appropriate product classes and product class options to the products in your store.

Note: In X-Cart PRO each of the store providers defines his own product classes (and features) and assigns these classes to his own products. Unless 'Single mode' is turned on, PRO providers are not allowed to edit the product classes defined by the other providers. Admin account users, however, can edit any product class irrespective of the class owner.

4.1 Adding, updating and deleting product classes

Product classes can be defined in the 'Product classes' section of the store.

X-Cart PRO providers can access this section by clicking the Product classes link in the Products menu.



X-Cart PRO admin and X-Cart GOLD admin/provider can access the same section via the Product classes link in the Management menu.




In the 'Product classes' section existing product classes appear in the 'Product classes' form. Before any classes are defined, the 'Product classes' form is empty.



To create a new product class:

1. Click the '[Add product class](#)' link in the section menu. The 'Add product class' form will appear.



The screenshot shows the 'Add product class' form. At the top, there is an orange header with the text 'Add product class'. Below the header, the form contains the following elements:

- Image:** A placeholder image with the text 'No Image Available' in red. Below it is a 'Change image' button.
- Product class *:** A text input field.
- Enabled:** A dropdown menu with 'Yes' selected.
- OrderBy:** A text input field.
- Add:** A button at the bottom.

2. If necessary, add an icon for the product class being created (Icons associated with product classes appear on the 'What are you looking for?' page in the customer area along with the product class titles):
 - a. Click on the 'Change image' button below the default 'No Image Available' picture. Confirm you desire to change the default image.
 - b. Use the 'Image selection' window to select the image file which you want to use as the product class icon.
 - c. Click on **Apply**. The new image will appear in the 'Add product class' form, replacing the default 'No Image Available' image. (Please note that at this point the image is merely selected, not saved. It will be lost if you refresh the page.)

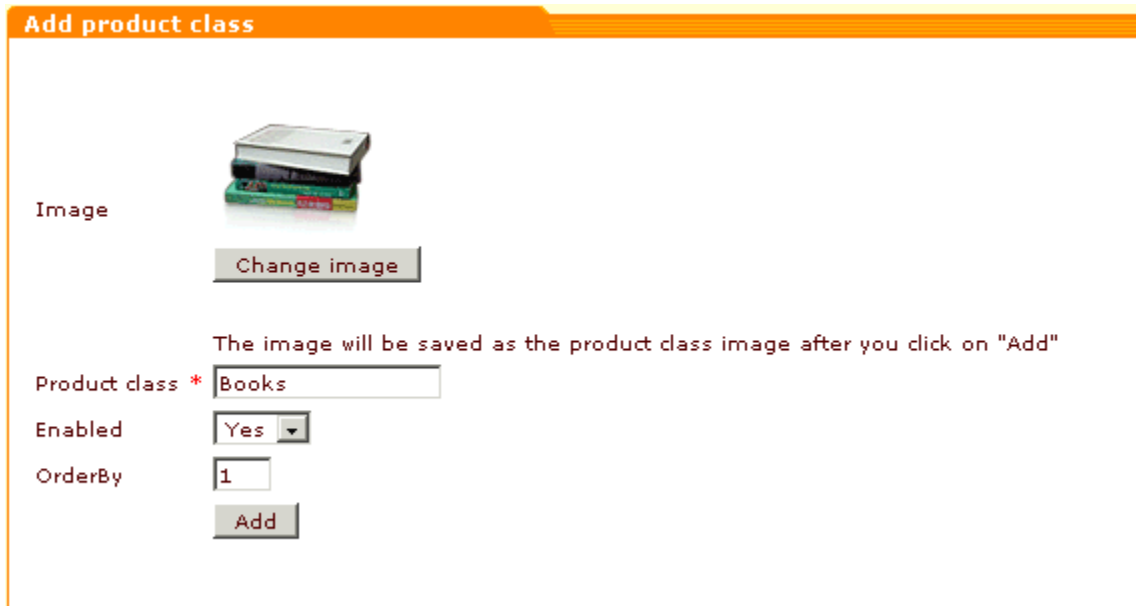


The screenshot shows the 'Add product class' form after an image has been selected. At the top, there is an orange header with the text 'Add product class'. Below the header, the form contains the following elements:


- Image:** A selected image of a device (possibly a power supply or similar hardware component). Below it is a 'Change image' button.
- Product class *:** A text input field.
- Enabled:** A dropdown menu with 'Yes' selected.
- OrderBy:** A text input field.
- Add:** A button at the bottom.

Below the 'Change image' button, there is a note: "The image will be saved as the product class image after you click on 'Add'"

3. Enter a title for the product class into the 'Product class' field.
4. Specify whether the class should be shown to the customers or not by selecting *Yes* or *No* from the 'Enabled' selectbox.
5. Specify the position number of the product class in the list of product classes ('OrderBy' field).



Add product class

Image 

The image will be saved as the product class image after you click on "Add"

Product class *

Enabled

OrderBy


6. Click on '**Add**'. As soon as the product class is created, you will be informed about it by a message in the 'Information' box.



After the creation of the new product class, you can see another form appearing in the place of the 'Add product class' form. This new form is titled 'Modify product class'.

Modify product class

Language English ▼

Image 

Change image

Product class * Books

Enabled Yes ▼

OrderBy 1

Save

Product class options

OPTION	OPTION TYPE / FORMAT	ENABLED	ORDERBY	VARIANTS
Options are not defined!				

Add new option

Text field

Yes

Add

This form allows you to modify the details of the product class you have just created (if necessary) and to define product class options (features) for it. You can turn to modifying the product class details (image, title, availability, or OrderBy position number) and defining product class options (features) at once, or put it off till later (The 'Modify product class' form can be accessed at any time by clicking on the title of the product class which you want to modify in the 'Product classes' form). To find out how to modify a product class, please refer to the 'Modifying product classes' section of this User guide.

To add more product classes, use the ['Add product class'](#) link in the section menu.

To return to the list of product classes ('Product classes' form), click the ['Product classes list'](#) link in the section menu. You will see the product classes you created in the form of a list in the 'Product classes' form.

Product classes

[Check all](#) / [Uncheck all](#)

	PRODUCT CLASS	ENABLED	ORDERBY
<input type="checkbox"/>	Books	Yes	1

The 'Product classes' form in X-Cart GOLD and in the Provider area of X-Cart PRO contains a 3-column table (PRODUCT CLASS / ENABLED / ORDERBY). In the Admin area of X-Cart PRO the table includes 4 columns (PRODUCT CLASS / ENABLED / ORDERBY / PROVIDER). The PROVIDER column allows the store admin to find out who created this or that product class.

Product classes

[Check all](#) / [Uncheck all](#)

	PRODUCT CLASS	ENABLED	ORDERBY	PROVIDER
<input type="checkbox"/>	Books	Yes	1	admin
<input type="checkbox"/>	CD disks	Yes	2	admin
<input type="checkbox"/>	T-Shirts	Yes	3	admin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mobile phones	Yes	4	provider
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cameras	Yes	5	provider

You can change the availability status of your product classes and the order in which they are displayed right in the 'Product classes' form. To do so, select Yes or No from the ENABLED selectbox, change the product class position number in the OrderBy field opposite the title of the appropriate product class and click on **Update**. The changes will be saved.

To delete a product class, select the check box next to the title of the product class you would like to delete and click on [Delete selected](#). The product class will be removed from the list. (You can use the [Check all](#) / [Uncheck all](#) links to select or unselect all the check boxes).

4.2 Modifying product classes

Modification of a product class is done immediately after its creation (when the 'Modify product class' form

is displayed automatically) or later (by calling on the 'Modify product class' form with a click on a product class title in the 'Product classes' list). In any case, the 'Modify product class' form can be used for editing the product class details defined at the time of the class creation and for defining product class options (features) characteristic of the class.

4.2.1 Modifying product class details

To modify the details of a product class:

1. Open the 'Modify product class' form.

Modify product class

Language English

Image

Change image Delete image

Product class * Books

Enabled Yes

OrderBy 1

Save

Product class options

OPTION	OPTION TYPE / FORMAT	ENABLED	ORDERBY	VARIANTS
Options are not defined!				

Add new option

Text field Yes

Add

2. If necessary, change or delete the class icon.

To change the icon, click on the '**Change image**' button, select the image with which you want to replace the old one and click on '**Apply**'. The new image will appear in the 'Modify product class' form. (Please note that at this point the image is merely selected, not saved. It will be lost if you refresh the

page.)

To delete the icon, click on the **'Delete image'** button.

3. If necessary, change the product class title, availability status and OrderBy position number.

4. Click on **'Save'**.

4.2.2 Managing product class options (features)

To define product class options (features):

1. Open the 'Modify product class' form. Scroll down to the 'Product class options' section of the form.

Product class options

OPTION	OPTION TYPE / FORMAT	ENABLED	ORDERBY	VARIANTS
Options are not defined!				

Add new option

2. Use the 'Add new option' subsection to add product class options:


- Enter a name for the new option (OPTION column).
- Use the selectbox in the OPTION TYPE /FORMAT column to select the option type (Please refer to the 'Notes on options types' section of this User guide to get information about the types of product class options).
- Select *Yes* or *No* from the selectbox in the ENABLED column to specify whether the feature should be displayed to customers or not.
- Enter a position number of the option in the list of product class options (ORDERBY column).
- If applicable, specify available variants for the option being created: enter the variant names in a column, each variant starting from a new line (VARIANTS column).
- Click on **'Add'**. The option will be created and added to the list of options in the 'Product class options' section of the form.
- If applicable, specify the format in which concrete values of the option should be displayed (OPTION

TYPE /FORMAT column, below the option type selectbox). Click on 'Update'.

h. Repeat steps a-h to add more product class options.

Modify product class

Language English ▾



Image

Change image
Delete image

Product class *

Enabled Yes ▾

OrderBy

Save

Product class options

	OPTION	OPTION TYPE / FORMAT	ENABLED	ORDERBY	VARIANTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Catalog idx	Text field Input box ▾	Yes ▾	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text" value="1"/>	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover type	Single option selector ▾	Yes ▾	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text" value="2"/>	Soft Hard Lux
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publisher	Text field Input box ▾	Yes ▾	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text" value="3"/>	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pages	Numeric field 1000000 ▾	Yes ▾	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text" value="4"/>	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	With CD	Boolean field -	Yes ▾	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text" value="5"/>	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Language	Multiple option selector ▾	Yes ▾	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text" value="6"/>	Russian English German French

Delete selected options
Update

Add new option

Text field

Yes

▾

Add

To delete product class options (features):

1. In the 'Product class options' section of the 'Modify product class' form select the check boxes next to the names of the product class options which you want to delete.
2. Click on '**Delete selected options**'.

To modify product class options (features):

1. In the 'Product class options' section of the 'Modify product class' form change the necessary product class options' settings.
2. Click on '**Update**'.

To modify the variants of a product class option:

1. In the 'Product class options' section of the 'Modify product class' form click on the option variants which you want to modify. The 'Variants setup' box will appear below.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pages	numeric field	Yes	1	
		1000000			
<input type="checkbox"/>	With CD	Boolean field	Yes	5	-
		-			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Language	Multiple option selector	Yes	6	Russian English German French
		-			

Variants setup ✖

Russian

English

German

French

Add variant

Add new option

<input type="text"/>	Text field	Yes	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	------------	-----	----------------------	----------------------

2. Use the 'Variants setup' box to modify the contents of the variants section:

- a. To rename one or more of the existing variants, change the names of the variants you want to rename and click on **'Update'**.
- b. To delete one or more of the existing variants, select the check boxes next to the names of the variants you want to delete and click on **'Delete selected variants'**.
- c. To add a new variant to the list, enter a name for the new variant in the 'Add variant' subsection and click on **'Add'**.

3. Click on the X ('Close' sign) in the top right corner of the 'Variants setup' box. The box will be closed.

In a multilingual store, names of product classes, product class options and option variants can be entered in different languages.

To enter multilingual names:

1. Select the necessary language from the Language selectbox in the top right corner of the 'Modify

product class' form. The page will be refreshed and the product class title, product class options and option variants fields will be emptied allowing place for you to enter new names in the selected language.

2. Enter the product class name into the 'Product class' field and click on '**Save**'.
3. Provide names for the product class options and click on '**Update**'.
4. Click on each of the option variants links, provide new names for the variants and click on '**Update**'.
5. If you need more languages, repeat steps 1-5.

4.2.3 Notes on option types

X-FeatureComparison module supports the following option types:

- Text field
- Single option selector
- Multiple option selector
- Numeric field
- Boolean field
- Date field

These types determine the way in which providers and customers will be able to input data into the fields corresponding to product class options.

Text field is a simple text field into which custom text can be entered. Any characters entered into a field of this type are regarded as text. This option type requires the option field format to be specified (Input box or Text area, depending on the amount of text that needs to be entered).

Single option selector is a field displaying a predefined set of values from which only one can be selected. This option type requires variants to be provided.

Multiple option selector is a field displaying a predefined set of values from which several values can be selected. This option type requires variants to be provided.

Numeric field is a field that allows users to enter numeric values so they are treated as numbers (which allows customers to search for products using number ranges). This option type requires the option field format to be specified.

Boolean field is a field from which only one of the two values can be chosen: Yes or No (signifies presence or absence of some feature).

Date field is a field that allows users to enter dates (customers can search for products using date ranges).

This option type requires the option field format to be specified.

4.3 Assigning product classes to products

After the necessary product classes have been defined, they need to be assigned to the products for which you want to allow comparison.

Note: It is not necessary that all the products in the store have a product class: assign product classes only to the products which can be compared.

To assign a product class to some product:

1. Find the product and open it for modification.
2. Click the 'Product class' link in the section menu.

The screenshot displays the X-Cart administration interface. On the left, there are three vertical navigation menus: 'Management' (Users, Categories, Manufacturers, Products, Orders, News management, Statistics, Taxing system, Edit ratings, Countries, States, Product classes, Returns, Gift certificates), 'Administration' (Summary, System snapshots, DB Backup/Restore, Membership Levels, Credit card types, Edit templates, Files, General settings, Images Location, Languages, Webmaster mode, Modules, Payment methods, Patch/Upgrade, HTML catalog, Static pages, Speed Bar), and 'Affiliates' (Affiliate class). The main content area is titled 'Product Management Javascript (Definitive Guide)'. It features a 'Main page :: Product Management :: Javascript (Definitive Guide)' breadcrumb and a 'Product class' link in the section menu. Below this, there are two columns: 'In this section:' and 'See also:'. The 'In this section:' column lists various product management options, with 'Product class' highlighted. The 'See also:' column lists related actions like 'Search for products', 'Add product', 'Categories', 'Manufacturers', and 'Orders'. On the right side, there are two status boxes: 'Users online' showing '1 administrator(s)' and 'Authentication' showing 'admin is logged in!' with a 'Log out Go' button. The main content area also shows a 'Product thumbnail' section with a thumbnail image of a rhinoceros and buttons for 'Change image' and 'Delete image'. Below this, there is a 'Product owner' section showing 'Provider: Mr. Provider Provider (provider)' and a 'Classification' section.

'Assign product class' form will appear. As the product has not been assigned to any product class yet, 'Undefined' appears in the 'Product class' selectbox.

The screenshot shows the 'Product Management Javascript (Definitive Guide)' administrative interface. On the left, there are two vertical navigation menus: 'Management' and 'Administration'. The 'Management' menu includes items like Users, Categories, Manufacturers, Products, Orders, News management, Statistics, Taxing system, Edit ratings, Countries, States, Product classes, Returns, and Gift certificates. The 'Administration' menu includes Summary, System snapshots, DB Backup/Restore, Membership Levels, Credit card types, Edit templates, Files, General settings, Images Location, Languages, Webmaster mode, Modules, Payment methods, and Patch/Upgrade. The main content area is titled 'Product Management Javascript (Definitive Guide)' and contains a breadcrumb trail: 'Main page :: Product Management :: Javascript (Definitive Guide)'. Below the title, there are two columns of links: 'In this section:' and 'See also:'. The 'In this section:' column lists links for Product details, International descriptions, Product options, Product variants, Product classification, Wholesale prices, Upselling links, Detailed images, Customer Reviews, Manufacturer, and Product class. The 'See also:' column lists links for Search for products, Add product, Categories, Manufacturers, and Orders. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a form titled 'Assign product class' with a dropdown menu for 'Product class' currently set to 'Undefined' and an 'Apply' button. On the right side of the interface, there are two boxes: 'Users online' showing '1 administrator(s)' and 'Authentication' showing 'admin is logged in !' with a 'Log out Go' button.

3. Use the selectbox to select the product class to which you want the product being modified to be assigned.

The close-up shows the 'Assign product class' form. It has a title bar 'Assign product class' in orange. Below the title bar, there is a label 'Product class:' followed by a dropdown menu showing 'Books' and a small downward arrow. Below the dropdown menu is an 'Apply' button.

4. Click on '**Apply**'. The product class will be assigned. The 'Product class options' form will appear below the 'Assign product class' form (The set of fields in the 'Product class options' form corresponds to the product class selected for the product).

Product class options

Catalog idx:

Cover type:

Publisher:

Pages:

With CD:

Language:
English
German
French

Hold 'Ctrl' key to select more than one entry.

5. Use the option fields in the 'Product class options' form to assign the necessary option values to the product being modified.

Product class options

Catalog idx:

Cover type:

Publisher:

Pages:

With CD:

Language:
English
German
French

Hold 'Ctrl' key to select more than one entry.

6. Click on '**Update**'. The changes will be applied.

4.4 Searching for products with defined product classes

The store administrator can search for products by product classes. When X-FeatureComparison module is installed and enabled and at least one product class has been created, the 'Advanced search options' section of the search form in the Admin area includes 'Product classes' field. This field is a selectbox from which you can select the product class to which the product being searched for belongs.

Advanced search options

Manufacturers:

SKU:

Product ID #:

Provider:

Price (\$): -

Quantity: -

Weight (lbs): -

Availability:

Product classes:

Additional options

Free shipping:
Global discounts:
Min order amount:
List price:

Shipping freight:
Tax exempt:
Low limit in stock:

4.5 Importing/Exporting data

Import/Export procedures in X-Cart

X-Cart 4.1.x features export and import of almost all X-Cart data types. Export and import procedures facilitate the updating of your store data and allow you to consistently transfer data when upgrading your

store or moving it to a new location.

Basic information is available in the Reference Manual for X-Cart shopping cart software, v. 4.1.11: on export procedures - section "Exporting Data", import procedures - in the section "Importing Data".

Detailed information on X-Cart import and export can be found in the Import/Export Guide for X-Cart v4.1.x (available for download from <http://www.x-cart.com/manuals.html>).

4.5.1 FeatureComparison: CSV Format

Classes of products are imported/exported through the section [PRODUCT_CLASSES].

Format

!FCLASSID - product class ID

!CLASS - product class name

!AVAIL - activeness indicator (Y - this class is active, empty value - inactive class)

!IMAGE - the path to the imported image for this class

!ORDERBY - product class number

Required fields

!CLASS

Classes international names are imported/exported through the section [MULTILANGUAGE_PRODUCT_CLASSES]

Format

!CLASS - product class name (conf. [PRODUCT_CLASSES])

!CODE - language code (for example: US)

!CLASS_NAME - class international name

Required fields

!CLASS

!CODE

!CLASS_NAME

Features specific to product classes are imported/exported through the section [PRODUCT_CLASS_OPTIONS]

Format

!CLASS - product class name (conf. [PRODUCT_CLASSES])

!OPTIONID - product class option unique ID

!OPTION - option name

!TYPE - option type ("T" - text field, "S" - select box, "N" - numeric, "B" - Boolean, "D" - date, "M" - multiple select box)

!FORMAT - option format (for example, a text field can have 2 formats: I - input field, T - text field).

!VARIANTS - possible value variants for the fields which suppose selecting a value

!AVAIL - activeness indicator

!ORDERBY - number

Required fields

!CLASS

!OPTION

Option international names are imported/exported through the section [MULTILANGUAGE_PRODUCT_CLASS_OPTIONS]

Format

!CLASS - product class name

!OPTION - product class option name

!CODE - language code (for example: US).

!OPTION_NAME - option international name

Required fields

!CLASS

!OPTION

!CODE

!OPTION_NAME

Products related to a product class are imported/exported through the section [PRODUCT_FEATURE_VALUES]

Format

!PRODUCTID - unique product ID

!PRODUCTCODE - product SKU number

!PRODUCT - product name

!CLASS - product class number

!OPTION - option name

!VALUE - option value for the given product

Required fields

!CLASS

!OPTION

5 Customer interface

5.1 Using feature-based search

Feature-based search allows your customers to find products within defined product classes by certain features specific to these products.

To use feature-based search, your customers need to click the Feature-based search link in the Special menu.



Clicking this link opens the 'What are you looking for?' page where your customers can select the type of products they are interested in (in fact, the customers select one of the product classes defined in the admin/provider interface). For example, if the classes are named 'Books', 'CD disks' and 'T-shirts', and the customer is looking for a book, he should select 'Books' by clicking on the appropriate link or icon.



After selecting the desired product class, the customer will be provided with a form in which he will be able to specify parameters for feature-based search (If the selected product class is 'Books', the form will be called 'Books features').

Books features

Note: It is not necessary to fill out all the fields. You can specify values only for the features relevant to you.

ISBN:

Cover type:

Publisher:

Pages: From:
To:

With CD:

Language:

Hold 'Ctrl' key to select more than one entry.

The set of fields in the form will vary from one product class to another, depending on the product class options (features) assigned to different classes in the admin interface. The customer only needs to provide values for the fields relevant to his search and to submit the form.

The products found by the search query will be displayed in the 'Products' list.

The screenshot displays the X-Cart e-commerce website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'SHOPPING CART', and 'CONTACT US' buttons. Below this, a search bar and a language selector are visible. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Categories:** Lists various product categories such as Books, CD - DVD - Video, Computer hardware, Electronics, Games and toys, Household, Men's clothes, Software, and Sport.
- Bestsellers:** A list of top-selling items, including 'Baldur's Gate II Add On', 'Lord of the Rings Board Game', 'New Masters of Flash', 'Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks', and 'Palm OS M125'.
- Manufacturers:** Lists 'ExampleBooks' and 'ExampleHousehold'.
- Special:** Lists 'Gift certificates' and 'Secret discounts'.
- Products:** The central section shows two products for comparison:
 - Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh (SKU: SKU10):** Market price: \$79.99, Our price: \$59.99 (€ 52.19), save 25%. Includes a 'Compare' checkbox and a 'Buy Now' button.
 - Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks (SKU: SKU12):** Market price: \$79.99, Our price: \$59.99 (€ 52.19), save 25%. Includes a 'Compare' checkbox and a 'Buy Now' button.
- Users online:** Shows '1 unregistered customer(s)'.
- Your cart:** Shows 'Cart is empty' with 'View cart' and 'Checkout' links.
- Authentication:** Includes fields for 'Username' (customer) and 'Password' (*****), with 'Log in', 'Register', and 'Recover password' options.

The found products can then be compared with one another.

5.2 Selecting products for comparison

In X-FeatureComparison module customers can compare products assigned to the same product class (In other words, customers can compare a photo camera with another photo camera, but they cannot compare a photo camera with a book).

Customers select the products they want to be compared and then the module juxtaposes the selected products in the form of a table (the so-called 'Product features chart'). The Product features chart allows your customers to compare products by separate features (the features by which products can be compared are defined by admin/provider for each product class individually).

The module offers three alternative ways in which a customer can go about adding products to the Product features chart:

1. The first of the three ways is as simple as selecting the 'Compare' check boxes next to the products which need to be compared and adding them directly to the Product features chart with one click on the 'Compare selected' link.

Printable version 

Categories

- Books
- CD - DVD - Video
- Computer hardware
- Electronics
- Games and toys
- Household
- Men's clothes
- Software
- Sport

Bestsellers

1. New Masters of Flash
2. Javascript (Definitive Guide)
3. Professional Java Server Programming
4. Designing Web Usability

Manufacturers

- ExampleBooks
- ExampleHousehold

Special

- Gift certificates
- Search for events
- Feature-based search

Help

- Contact us
- Privacy statement
- Terms & Conditions

Your Company Name :: [Books](#) :: [Internet](#)

Description again

Internet

Sort by: [SKU](#) [Product](#) [Price](#) [▲ Default](#)

Result pages: 1 2 ▶

Compare selected [Go](#) Add to comparison list [Go](#)



New Masters of Flash
SKU: SKU65

Learning by doing is always good, especially if you have good role model to follow. As part of the publisher's "Showing It" series, this book brings together 19 of the most innovative page designers who are working in motion graphics, and gives them lots of page room to talk about their work in general.

[See details](#)

[Compare](#)

Market price: ~~\$79.99~~
Our price: \$59.99 (€ 52.19), save 25%

Quantity

[Buy Now](#)



Professional Java Server Programming
SKU: SKU66

Wrox specializes in books written by programmers, for programmers. *Professional Java Server Programming*, a volume on developing Java-based Web applications, is no different. All the 12 authors are developers and consultants -- including some who've been part of Sun's own Java team.

[See details](#)

[Compare](#)

Market price: ~~\$63.99~~
Our price: \$47.99 (€ 41.75), save 25%

Users online

2 unregistered customer(s)

Your cart

 **Cart is empty**

[View cart](#)
[Checkout](#)

Authentication

Username

Password

[Log in](#) [Go](#)

[Register](#) [Go](#)


[Recover password](#)

If Javascript is disabled in your browser click [here](#)

Note: The maximum number of products which a customer is allowed to select for comparison is defined in the General settings/Feature Comparison options section of the administrative interface ('Maximum number of products which can be compared')

If the customer selects for comparison products which belong to different product classes, he will receive a warning message in the 'Product classes' form prompting him to select just one class with which he would like to continue working.

Product classes

 The products selected for comparison are of different classes and cannot be compared. Please select the product class within which you would like to compare products.

Books

Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom
Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh

Compare [Go](#)

CD disks

Bach's Goldberg Variations

Compare [Go](#)

To compare the products within this product class, the customer needs to click the 'Compare' link corresponding to it.

2. The second way involves using the so-called 'Comparison list'. While browsing the Products list, a customer selects the 'Compare' check boxes next to the products which need to be compared and, by clicking the 'Add to comparison list' link, adds them to the 'Comparison list' (A special box appearing in the menu column in which a list of products selected for comparison can be stored until the customer requests the operation of product comparison to be carried out. The empty 'Comparison list' is not displayed).

Categories

- Books
- CD - DVD - Video
- Computer hardware
- Electronics
- Games and toys
- Household
- Men's clothes
- Software
- Sport

Bestsellers

- New Masters of Flash
- Javascript (Definitive Guide)
- Professional Java Server Programming
- Designing Web Usability

Manufacturers

- ExampleBooks
- ExampleHousehold

Special

- Gift certificates
- Search for events
- Feature-based search

Help

- Contact us
- Privacy statement
- Terms & Conditions

Your Company Name :: Books :: Internet


Description again

Internet

Sort by: [SKU](#) [Product](#) [Price](#) [Default](#)

Result pages: 1 | 2 | ▶

Compare selected [Go](#) Add to comparison list [Go](#)



New Masters of Flash
SKU: SKU65


Learning by doing is always good, especially if you have good role modelsto follow. As part of the publisher's "Showing It" series, this bookbrings together 19 of the most innovative designers who are working inmotion graphics, and gives them lots of page room to talk about theirwork in general.

[Compare](#)

Market price: ~~\$79.00~~
Our price: \$59.99 (€ 52.19), save 25%

Quantity

[Buy Now](#)



Professional Java Server Programming
SKU: SKU66

Wrox specializes in books written by programmers, for programmers. *Professional Java Server Programming*, a volume on developing Java-based Web applications, is no different. All the 12 authors are developers and consultants -- including some who've been part of Sun's own Java team.

[Compare](#)

Market price: ~~\$63.00~~
Our price: \$47.99 (€ 41.75), save 25%

Quantity

Comparison list

Books

- New Masters of Flash X

Compare [Go](#)

Clear list [Go](#)

Users online

2 unregistered customer(s)

Your cart

[Cart is empty](#)

[View cart](#)
[Checkout](#)

Authentication

Username

Password

[Log in](#) [Go](#)

[Register](#) [Go](#)

[Recover password](#)

If Javascript is disabled in your browser click here

Another way a customer can add a product to the 'Comparison list' is by going to the product details page of some product and clicking on the 'Add to comparison list' link there.

Categories

- Books
- CD - DVD - Video
- Computer hardware
- Electronics
- Games and toys
- Household
- Men's clothes
- Software
- Sport

Bestsellers

- New Masters of Flash
- Javascript (Definitive Guide)
- Professional Java Server Programming
- Designing Web Usability

Manufacturers

- ExampleBooks
- ExampleHousehold

Special

- Gift certificates
- Search for events
- Feature-based search

Your Company Name :: Books :: Internet :: New Masters of Flash

New Masters of Flash #65



Learning by doing is always good, especially if you have good role modelsto follow. As part of the publisher's "Showing It" series, this bookbrings together 19 of the most innovative designers who are working inmotion graphics, and gives them lots of page room to talk about theirwork in general.

Details

Quantity	94 item(s) available
Weight	1.00 lbs
ISBN	654321654
Cover type	Soft
Publisher	Pitler Press
Pages	250
With CD	No
Language	English
Price:	\$59.99 (€ 52.19)

Options

Choose cover type

Quantity

[Add to cart](#)

[Product comparison](#) [Go](#)

[Add to comparison list](#) [Go](#)



Comparison list

Books

- New Masters of Flash X

Compare [Go](#)

Clear list [Go](#)

Users online

1 unregistered customer(s)

Your cart

[Cart is empty](#)

[View cart](#)
[Checkout](#)

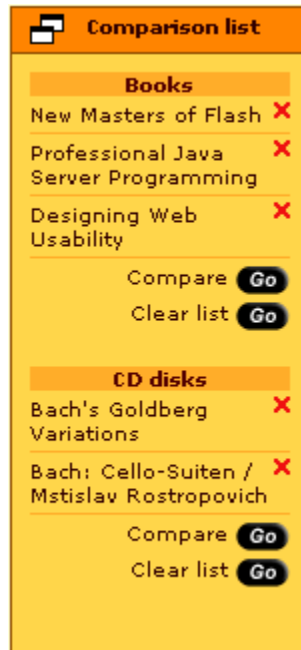
Authentication

Username

Password

[Log in](#) [Go](#)

If the products selected for comparison belong to different product classes, the Comparison list will be divided into sections, so each of the involved product classes has its separate comparison list.



The Comparison list is completely editable, so your customers are allowed not only to add products to the list, but to remove some or all of the products from the list. To remove a specific product from the Comparison list, a customer needs to click on the red X sign next to the name of the product in the list. To remove all the products from the Comparison list (or from a section of the Comparison list), a customer needs to click the '**Clear list**' link at the bottom of the list (or below the corresponding section of the Comparison list).

To compare the products contained in the Comparison list (or in a section of the Comparison list), a customer needs to click the '**Compare**' link at the bottom of the list (or below the corresponding section of the Comparison list). The products will be transferred to the Product features chart where the customer will be able to compare them.

Note: If you want to enable the Comparison list for your customers, please select the '*Display the list of products to be compared in the menu column*' option in the General settings/Feature Comparison options section of the administrative interface. Do not forget to set the Comparison list capacity ('*The maximum number of products in the comparison list in the menu column*' option).

3. The third way allows adding pairs of products to the Product features chart: a customer can go to the product details page of some product and request comparing this product with some other product of the

same product class. The product with which the initially chosen product will be compared is selected from a selectbox on the product details page. Both the products (the one whose product details are displayed and the one selected from the list in the select box) are added to the Product features chart when the customer clicks the **'Product comparison'** link next to the select box.

The screenshot displays a product details page for 'New Masters of Flash #65'. The page is divided into several sections:

- Categories:** Books, CD - DVD - Video, Computer hardware, Electronics, Games and toys, Household, Men's clothes, Software, Sport.
- Bestsellers:** 1. New Masters of Flash, 2. Javascript (Definitive Guide), 3. Professional Java Server Programming, 4. Designing Web Usability.
- Manufacturers:** ExampleBooks, ExampleHousehold.
- Special:** Gift certificates, Search for events, Feature-based search.
- Product Details:**
 - Title:** New Masters of Flash #65
 - Description:** Learning by doing is always good, especially if you have good role models to follow. As part of the publisher's "Showing It" series, this book brings together 19 of the most innovative designers who are working in motion graphics, and gives them lots of page room to talk about their work in general.
 - Details:**
 - Quantity: 94 item(s) available
 - Weight: 1.00 lbs
 - ISBN: 654321654
 - Cover type: Soft
 - Publisher: Piter Press
 - Pages: 250
 - With CD: No
 - Language: English
 - Price:** \$59.99 (€ 52.19)
 - Options:**
 - Choose cover type:
 - Quantity:
 - Add to cart**
 - Flash 5 for Windows and Macint: **Product comparison**
 - Add to comparison list**
- Comparison list:**
 - Books**
 - New Masters of Flash
 - Compare
 - Clear list
- Users online:** 1 unregistered customer(s)
- Your cart:**
 - Cart is empty**
 - View cart
 - Checkout
- Authentication:**
 - Username:
 - Password:
 - Log in

Note: More products of the same product class can then be added one by one to the Product features chart using the select box below the Product features chart.

Note: The maximum number of products which can appear in selectboxes can be defined in the General settings/Feature Comparison options section of the administrative interface ('Maximum number of products which can be shown on the feature-based comparisons page and on the Product details page in the form of a select box. If the quantity of products for comparison exceeds the number specified here, product selection will be done in a popup window').

5.3 Comparing products

No matter what method was used for selecting the products for comparison, they finally appear in the Product features chart.

Product features chart

Product features	Products		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh	<input type="checkbox"/> New Masters of Flash
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	654321987	321654987	654321654
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	Hard	Soft	Soft
<input type="checkbox"/> Publisher	Dialectics	Dialectics	Piter Press
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	460	318	250
<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	✓	✗	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Language	German	English German	English
Remove selected features	Remove selected products		

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tri **Add product**

The 'Product features' column displays a list of features by which the selected products are compared. The 'Products' section displays the products which are compared. According to the default chart layout, product features are displayed vertically and products are displayed horizontally.

If the customer believes some feature is not essential for the comparison, he can remove this feature from the chart. To remove a feature, the customer needs to select the check box next to it and to click the 'Remove selected features' link at the bottom of the 'Product features' column.

Product features chart

Product features	Products		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh	<input type="checkbox"/> New Masters of Flash
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	654321987	321654987	654321654
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	Hard	Soft	Soft
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publisher	Dialectics	Dialectics	Piter Press
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	460	318	250
<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	✓	✗	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Language	German	English German	English
Remove selected features	Remove selected products		

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tri | **Add product**

The removed features are excluded from the chart, however, they appear above the chart in the form of links from which they can be restored. The customer can restore any of the removed features at any time by clicking the 'Removed features' links corresponding to these features.

Product features chart

Removed features: [Publisher](#)

Product features	Products		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh	<input type="checkbox"/> New Masters of Flash
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	654321987	321654987	654321654
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	Hard	Soft	Soft
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	460	318	250
<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	✓	✗	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Language	German	English German	English
Remove selected features	Remove selected products		

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tri

If needed, the customer can exclude one or more products from the chart. To remove a product, the customer needs to select the check box next to the name of the product and to click the 'Remove selected products' link at the bottom of the 'Products' section of the chart.

Product features chart

Removed features: Publisher

Product features	Products		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Masters of Flash
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	654321987	321654987	654321654
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	Hard	Soft	Soft
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	460	318	250
<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	✓	✗	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Language	German	English German	English
Remove selected features	<u>Remove selected products</u>		

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tri

The removed product is excluded from the chart, however, it is added to the list of products in the selectbox below the chart and it can be restored from the selectbox at any time.

Product features chart

Removed features: Publisher

Product features	Products	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	654321987	321654987
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	Hard	Soft
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	460	318
<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	✓	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Language	German	English German
Remove selected features	Remove selected products	

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks **Add product**

- Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks
- Microsoft FrontPage 2000
- New Masters of Flash
- Professional Java Server Programming
- Designing Web Usability
- HTML 4 for the World Wide Web
- Dreamweaver 3 Bible : Gold Edition
- Javascript (Definitive Guide)

To restore a removed product from the selectbox or to add a new product to the chart, select the necessary product from the selectbox and click on the 'Add product' button.

Product features chart

Removed features: Publisher

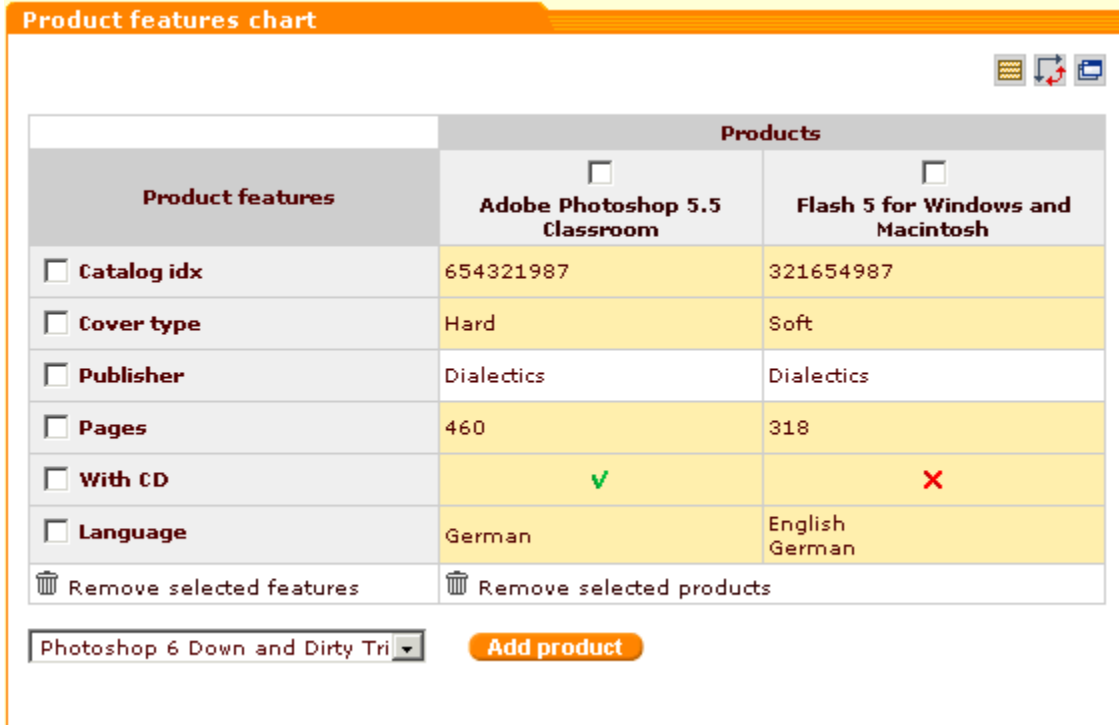
Product features	Products	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	654321987	321654987
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	Hard	Soft
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	460	318
<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	✓	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Language	German	English German
Remove selected features	Remove selected products	

New Masters of Flash

Note: The maximum number of products which can appear in the selectbox can be defined in the General settings/Feature Comparison options section of the administrative interface ('Maximum number of products which can be shown on the feature-based comparisons page and on the Product details page in the form of a select box. If the quantity of products for comparison exceeds the number specified here, product selection will be done in a popup window').




When some feature is common for all the products displayed in the chart (for example, all the books have the same publisher), this feature is displayed against a lighter background, so the whole line is highlighted, which makes the similarity more conspicuous.

Product features chart

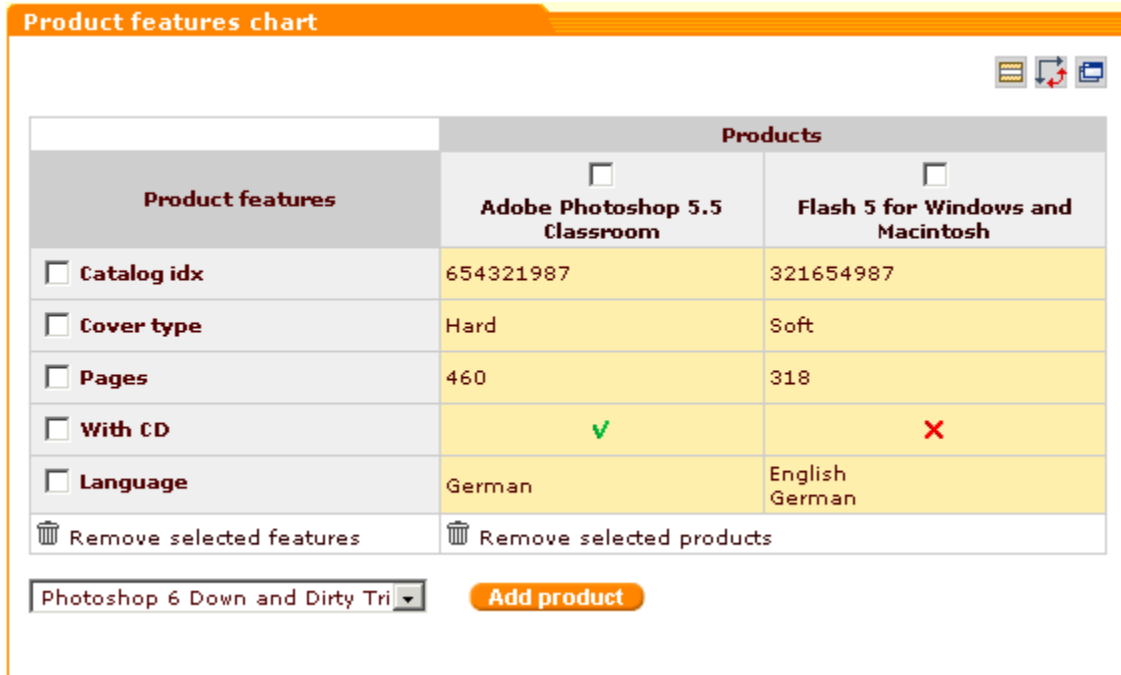


Product features	Products	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	654321987	321654987
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	Hard	Soft
<input type="checkbox"/> Publisher	Dialectics	Dialectics
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	460	318
<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	✓	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Language	German	English German
Remove selected features	Remove selected products	

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tri


For convenience the customer can hide the features common for all the products in the chart, so that only the differences are shown. To conceal all the similarities, the customer needs to click on the  icon. The lines with the 'common' features will be removed from the chart. The look of the icon will also be changed: . Clicking the  icon, the customer can restore the lines showing similarities in the chart.

Product features chart

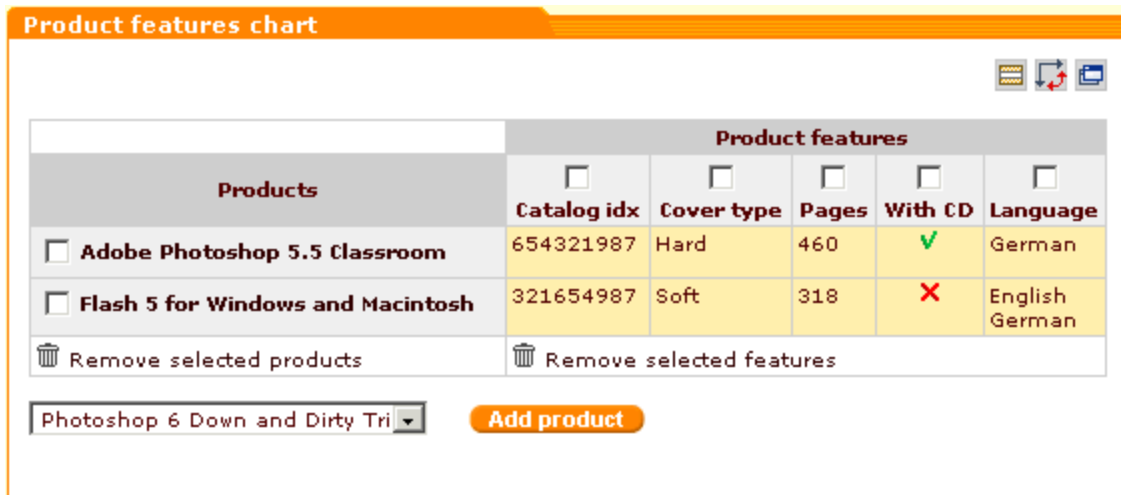


Product features	Products	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	654321987	321654987
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	Hard	Soft
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	460	318
<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	✓	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Language	German	English German
Remove selected features	Remove selected products	

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tri

Sometimes it may be convenient to rearrange the Product features chart so that the product names are displayed vertically (in a column), and the product features are displayed horizontally next to them (in other words, to flip the coordinate vectors of the chart). This functionality turns out especially helpful if the number of products being compared is much greater than the number of involved features (Great numbers of products make the chart too wide to fit into the screen. Arranging the products vertically can help the customer to deal with the problem). To flip the coordinate vectors, the customer needs to click the  icon.


Product features chart

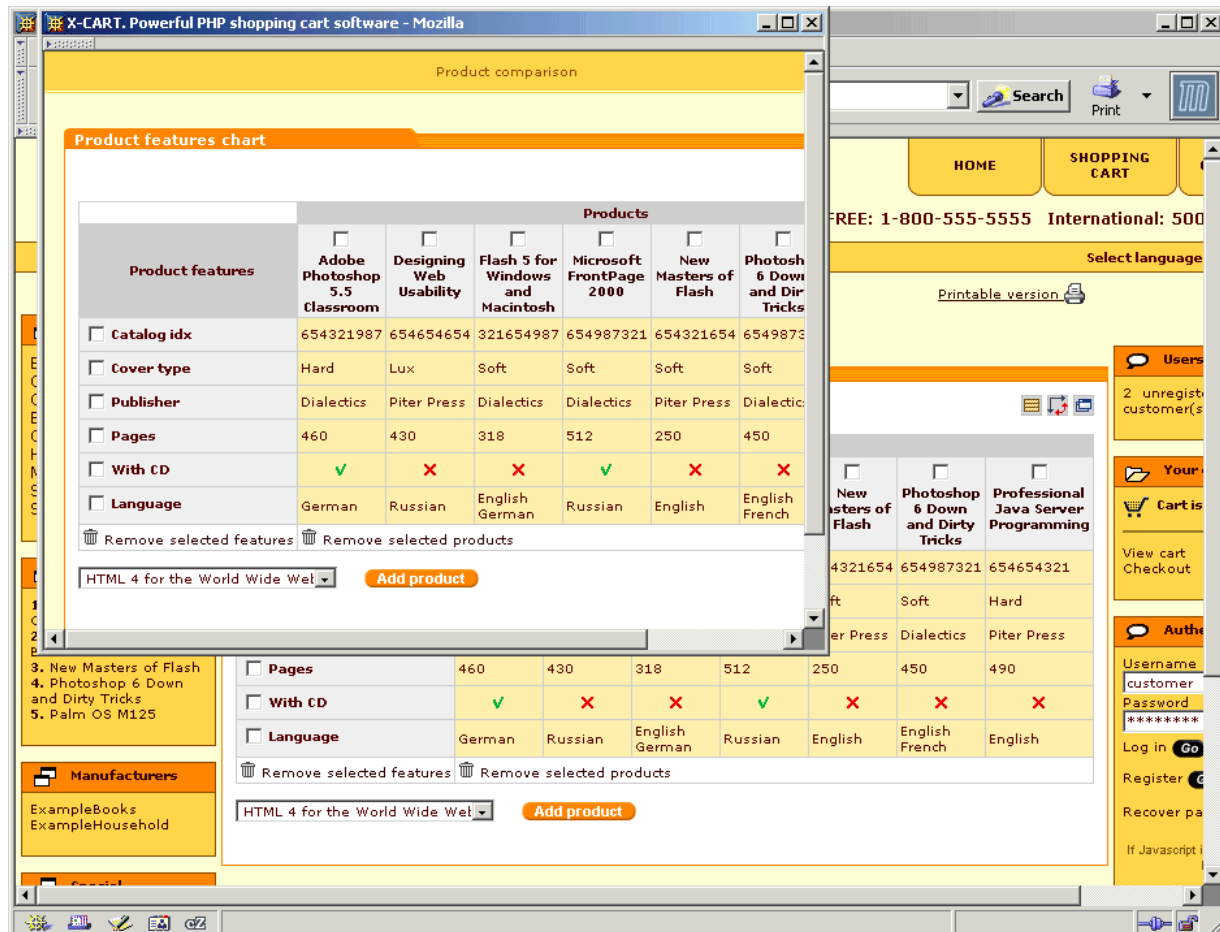


Products	Product features				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	<input type="checkbox"/> Language
<input type="checkbox"/> Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	654321987	Hard	460	✓	German
<input type="checkbox"/> Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh	321654987	Soft	318	✗	English German
Remove selected products	Remove selected features				

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tri

Clicking the same icon once again reverts the chart to its original state.

If flipping the chart vectors still does not help to make the process of working with the chart any better, the customer can resort to getting the module to display the whole chart in a separate window, so that the chart can be scrolled separately without having to scroll the whole store page. To get the chart to be displayed in a separate window, the customer needs to click on the  icon.



The screenshot shows a Mozilla browser window titled "X-CART. Powerful PHP shopping cart software - Mozilla". The main content area displays a "Product comparison" section with a "Product features chart". The chart compares several products across various features. The products listed are Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom, Designing Web Usability, Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh, Microsoft FrontPage 2000, New Masters of Flash, and Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks. The features being compared are Catalog idx, Cover type, Publisher, Pages, With CD, and Language. The chart uses green checkmarks and red X's to indicate the presence or absence of a feature in a product. Below the chart, there is a section for "HTML 4 for the World Wide Web" with an "Add product" button. The right side of the browser window shows the main navigation and user interface, including a search bar, home and shopping cart buttons, a phone number (FREE: 1-800-555-5555), a language selection dropdown, a printable version link, and a user registration/login section.

Product features	Adobe Photoshop 5.5 Classroom	Designing Web Usability	Flash 5 for Windows and Macintosh	Microsoft FrontPage 2000	New Masters of Flash	Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog idx	654321987	654654654	321654987	654987321	654321654	654987321
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover type	Hard	Lux	Soft	Soft	Soft	Soft
<input type="checkbox"/> Publisher	Dialectics	Piter Press	Dialectics	Dialectics	Piter Press	Dialectics
<input type="checkbox"/> Pages	460	430	318	512	250	450
<input type="checkbox"/> With CD	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Language	German	Russian	English German	Russian	English	English French

6 Appendix

Here is a list of files included into the module.

INSTALL.X-FCOMP

```
install-xfcomp.php  
choosing.php  
comparison.php  
comparison_list.php  
feature_image.php  
popup_fc_products.php
```

admin/...

```
classes.php
```

provider/...

```
classes.php
```

modules/Feature_Comparison/...

```
choosing.php  
classes.php  
comparison.php  
comparison_list.php  
config.php  
func.php  
html_catalog.php  
product.php  
product_class.php  
search_define.php
```

skin1/modules/Feature_Comparison/...

```
add_comparison_list.tpl  
admin_menu.tpl  
choosing.tpl  
classes.tpl  
compare_checkbox.tpl  
compare_selected_button.tpl  
comparison.tpl  
customer_menu.tpl
```

```
feature_image.tpl  
popup_product.tpl  
product.tpl  
product_buttons.tpl  
product_class.tpl  
product_list.tpl  
product_selector.tpl  
products_check_js.tpl
```

skin1/images/...

```
yes.gif  
no.gif  
popup.gif  
change.gif  
filtr.gif  
compare1.gif  
compare2.gif  
compare3.gif  
nofiltr.gif  
compare_mark.gif  
delete_record.gif
```

X-FeatureComparison add-on module for X-Cart 4.1.11. User manual.

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