Prestools Suite for Prestashop manual

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1 A quick start

Before investing time in this long manual you will want to know whether it is worthwhile. So this manual starts with a quick introduction to product-edit –the most popular part of Prestools.

To start you are invited to watch the video at http://www.prestools.com/tripleedit.avi

It is a video from 2015 when Prestools still was called Triple Edit. The interface has changed considerably and the quality of the video isn't very high. But you should get the main points. Summarized they amount to the following:

- At the top of the page you find the search block. There is an enormous diversity of options. You can search on almost any product field.
- You can select which fields you want to see. There are more than 50 product fields.
- In the Hide-Show-Edit section you can hide fields and you can make them editable.
- When you start no fields are editable. You have to explicitly make a field editable.
- Changes become only implemented after you submit. This can be done with either the "Submit all" button or with a row submit button at the end of each line.
- When a field is editable you can also do a mass update like increasing the prices of the products on the page with 10% or changing a word in all the descriptions.
- The fact that changes are only implemented after submit means that you are free to experiment with mass edit. It is recommended to check the results of mass edit before submitting.

2 Keeping it safe

Making an error with one product is a small problem. Making an error with 500 products is a big problem. There are a couple of things you can do to make things safer:

- Make regularly backups of the database. Do that also just before you are going to make big changes. Except for the image cleanup Prestools is a database only script so you don't need to bother about the files.
- Have a copy of your shop on your local computer. This is the place where you can experiment – not only with Prestools but also with new modules that you want to add and code changes you want to make. This is recommended for every shop.
- Try small changes. If you are going to change 500 records you can start with 1 or 2 and look whether everything goes as desired.
- If you don't understand something don't do it in a live shop.
- Most people just use Prestools for product editing.
- If you have employees you may want to limit what they can do. In the advanced topics there is some discussion on how you can limit them.

3 Introduction

Prestools Suite offers a set of powerful tools for maintaining your Prestashop. The tools focus on mass editing features and maintenance. For safety and consistency a few general principles are implemented:

- Prestools Suite is about modifying and having an overview, not about creating or deleting. You cannot delete or insert products or categories.

- Making the changes and implementing them are separated: only clicking on "Submit all" or on the hook at the end of each line that takes care of a row submit implements your changes into the database. This gives you a considerable freedom to experiment.

 Always check the outcome of mass updates before you submit – specially when you are new to Prestools. It is easy to make a mistake with a mass edit command but it is hard to undo changes in hundreds of records.

The suite can be downloaded in the Prestashop forum, the Thirty Bees forum or the Prestools website homepage. For the suite plugins are available that can be bought at the webshop at www.Prestools.com.

Prestools can be used with Prestashop 1.5.0 and newer and with the Prestashop fork Thirty Bees. There is a separate version for Prestashop 1.4.x that is no longer updated.

Prestools Suite is regularly updated – over the past years the average is about once every 10 days. This manual is less regularly updated and may be outdated at some points.

This manual starts with a Getting Started chapter. The rest of the chapters covers the different functions of the menu in the order in which they are mentioned in that menu. They are discussed in the order in which they appear in the menu. At the end there is an Advanced Topics chapter.

If you want to use this manual as a tutorial after you have installed the script you are advised to start with the chapter on Category Edit as that contains the basics that you will also find in the other Edit functions.

Prestools Suite is built by an experienced shop administrator to make his own job as easy as possible. It is meant for other shop administrators who have some experience using Prestashop. To be as efficient and powerful as possible it puts a lot of information on a page and it doesn't devote much screen space to explaining things.

Everything in Prestools is optimized for maintainability, power and speed. Graphics is kept simple. Code is compact and kept simple. And if something might go wrong you will usually get a clear error message that – when reported – can lead to a quick fix. Prestools has a zero-bug policy: whenever a bug is found and reported it is fixed as soon as possible – usually within a day.

Unlike Prestashop Prestools is running its PHP with a high error reporting level. That way bugs will be found earlier. However, not all warnings you see will be the fault of Prestools. They can also be caused by irregularities in your database. You can run the Integrity Check function to find them.

Prestools is deliberately "close to the metal". Its terminology and logic closely follow the structure of the Prestashop database.

For some people it may take some time to get used to the unusual interface. But once you understand it you will see that everything is optimized for performance – giving you at much overview and power as possible on limited screen space.

Many Prestools screen pages contain some explanatory text in their header. Read those. They may be more up-to-date than this manual.

Prestools is developed under Chrome. Firefox uses bigger characters so when you use Firefox fields may seem too small and you will not be able to read their content without scrolling.

With a few exceptions – extras like modifying labels of pictures, setting meta keywords, copying attribute combinations, adding shops to products and automatically transferring your quantities to a warehouse – you can do everything that you can do with this script also with Prestashop. You are encouraged to look at those options in the PS backoffice and in the Prestashop documentation.

This file has a problem with the third menu level (like 13.1.2) that is not rendered correctly but as a bunch of pictures. If anyone knows how to fix this in an MS Word file I would be happy.

Thirty Bees is a clone of Prestashop 1.6 that aims to continue that version. As Prestashop 1.6 cannot be run under PHP versions higher than 7.1 it is used as a refuge by many people who don't like PS 1.7's stability problems or its use of Symfony. Thirty Bees is slowly developing but it can still run with most PS 1.6 modules and themes. In this manual whenever Prestashop is mentioned things apply also to Thirty Bees.

Be careful with non-Western scripts. Prestools doesn't fully support them.

If you have problems with the software or you want to help to improve it you can contact me at the Prestashop forum or the Thirty Bees forum. You can also mail me directly at info@prestools.com.

4 Getting started

4.1 Installation

Prestools Suite is a script – not a module. So installing it as a module will not work.

Instead you should copy the files into a directory under your admin directory. This location was chosen because Prestashop protects this location from scanning by search engines. You are free to choose the name of this directory and as a matter of safety a creative name is encouraged. Just like the name of your admin directory you should keep this name secret for security reasons.

Once you have copy the files you can start working. The default login data are username "*demo@demo.com*" and password "*opensecret*". However, you are strongly advised to change these data in the file **settings1.php**. There is an option to encrypt the password that is explained in the that file. For further security you can specify there from which ip addresses the script can be used. The program shows what ip address currently is being used so you don't need to search for it. Note that you can use wildcards in the ip addresses. So you can use this feature even when your address regularly changes.

As long as you haven't changed the username and password and set a limit to the ip addresses you will see regularly a popup reminding you.

You can start with any of the program files. Most people start with product-edit. It is started by typing an url like "*www.myshop.com/admin123/myprestools/product-edit.php*". Do NOT start with calling the root like "*www.myshop.com/admin123/myprestools/*": it will likely not work.

In the menu and at the bottom of each page you will find links to the other scripts.

In post #1 on the forum where you downloaded Prestools Suite there is a link to a "getting started" video available.

4.2 *Problem solving*

Prestools has deliberately been made so that you see all PHP warnings. For experts: the eror_reporting level has been set to E_ALL|E_STRICT. As a result you will see much more error messages than in Prestashop. That way problems are discovered quickly and can be repaired quickly.

Be aware that you are the most likely source of problems yourself. Many shops degrade over time – causing all kind of database inconsistencies. Very often it is these inconsistencies that cause problems. The Prestools function "Integrity Checks" helps you to find and solve such inconsistencies. So when you find a problem the sequence is:

- Download the latest version of both the free and the paid for software (you don't want to waste time on problems that already have been solved)
- Run Integrity Checks and repair the problems that you find. Feel free to ignore issues that you don't understand or to ask for clarifications.
- Report the problem if it still persists. I will be happy to repair the bugs you find and other users will be happy that there is one bug less.

At the end of this manual you will find in the chapter "Advanced Topics" a section "Known issues and common problems" where you can find solutions to many problems. That chapter has also a section on debugging and writing error reports.

Three potential problems deserve an extra mentioning here:
- sometimes when you submit a page with many products not all will be processed. This can be due to a timeout of your server or due to the MAX_INPUT_VARS setting in your PHP.INI.
- Some servers contain aggressive anti-malware software that makes some Prestools files invisible.
- Newer Prestashop 1.7 versions generate image formats on demand. As a consequence you will see no images in Prestools when you open it on a freshly created shop or product. Those image only are created when you look at the front page of the shop that contains those formats.
- Prestashop is designed to give the user a smooth interface no matter how ugly the underlying data. In contrast missing or distorted data can easily produce error messages in Prestools. So when you see an error message: try the Integrity Checks.

4.3   The mini-module

You can integrate Prestools with your backoffice with a mini-module called prestoolssuite-module.zip that you will find among the files. When you install this module Prestools will be added to the Catalog menu – as shown on the picture below:
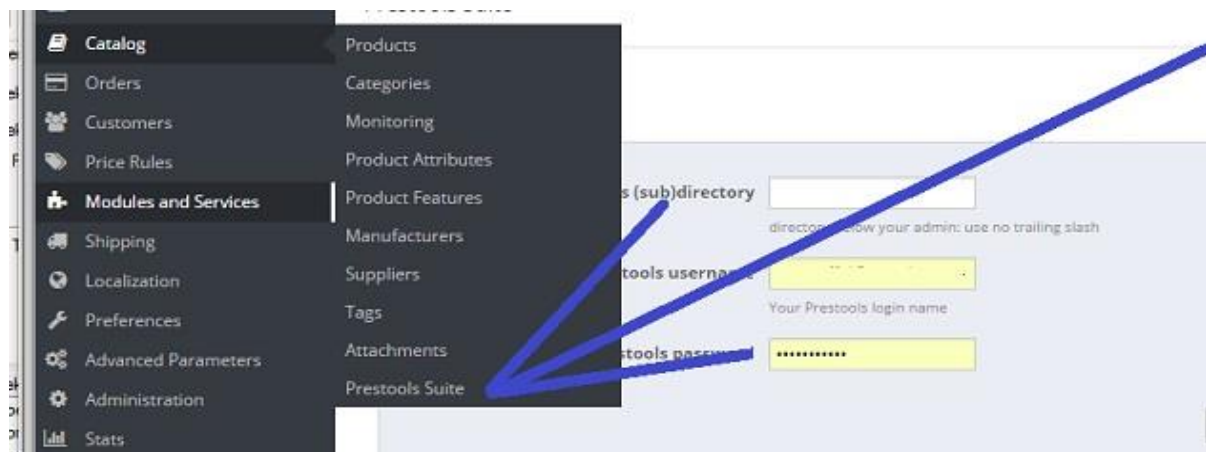
The module provides a setup menu where you can provide three values: the subdirectory of your admin directory where Prestools is installed and the username and password. Only the directory is obligatory: if you don't provide it the link in the Prestashop menu won't work. If you have copied the Prestools files to /admin123/prestoolz you should fill here in the value "prestoolz".

For username and password you can fill in the same values as in Settings1.php. If username and password are incorrect you will still be redirected to Prestools but when you weren't already logged in you will face the login screen.

4.4   The basics: common elements in the scripts

Except for order-edit all the edit scripts have many things in common. These common aspects will be discussed in this chapter. If you didn't find the scripts self-explaining enough you should be able to get started after reading this chapter.

The examples here come from the product-edit page as that is the most complex. Other edit pages use similar techniques that you should be able to understand easily once you understand product-edit.

On the product and category page you start with selecting the products you want to edit or see. That is done in the Searchblock, that you can see above. This is a modified version of what is shown on the product-edit page. It starts with a Find field with which you can find a product on a keyword. You can choose which fields to look in, but the default option is "main fields" and looks at some 5 different fields.

There are three search fields. When you choose an id field you can insert comma separated id's. In the case of category id's you can add an "s" after the id to indicate that all subcategories should be included.

Then follows "Sort by" with which you can specify how the products should be displayed. If you sort by position and have more than one category the products will be grouped by category.

Then follow the categories. You can specify one category. When you click the subcats checkbox you will also see the products from all subcategories of this category. Next to the category selectbox there is a small field where you will see id of the category. If type a number there the category with that id will automatically be selected. If you type characters the category that begins with those will be shown. When you have more than one category with the same name the category id is appended to those names in the menu.

Start record and number of records should be clear. As data for shops and languages can differ you need also to specify a specific language and shop. Below that you see a list of fields that you can check. Usually you will want to select no more fields than you can see without scrolling sidewards. Click on Search to start your search.

Next follows the Mass update block that allows you to exert an operation on all the rows from field. In the example above we have chosen the field "price" and we have chosen the operation "set". That way we could for example set all the prices in a category to "1.95" with one click. The field that you want to set should have been set to editable. Don't forget to submit afterwards.

Products need to be indexed to be visible for the shop's search engine . For this Prestashop and Prestools apply indexation after every change of certain fields. This is a very time consuming operation. For that is the next section.

☐ Skip indexation (much faster, but you need to re-index later as the products will be marked unindexed and not longer be visible for search in your shop)

You can delay this by checking the checkbox shown above. This is mainly useful when you are updating a large number of products and you are making more than one change to them. It will allow you to continue working without long delays and then you can re-index when you go for a cup of coffee. The number shown on the button (here 0) is the number of products that at the moment is marked for re-indexation. Note that products that are marked for re-indexation are not shown by the search engine of your shop.

Next you will find these radio buttons. Each column controls one column in the main block. If you click "Hide" that column will disappear from view and if you click "Show" it becomes visible again. Hiding columns is useful when you have too many columns and some that you want to see or edit are too far to the right to be visible. When you click "Edit" that column will become editable. Once a column is editable it can't go back to "Show" or "Hide". Except for when you refresh the page of course.

On multishop pages you will see next a block that makes that your changes are saved to shops than only the one that you selected in the searchblock. You can set a default for this function in the settings file.

You have more than one shop. Do you want to apply your changes to other shops too?
◉ No   ○ Yes, to the shop group   ○ Yes, to all shops
(some stock related fields cannot be shared this way)

Then follows the main block with the data that is modified. This example has less rows and columns than you usually see but it shows the things that we want to discuss here:

-	Above every column you see the name of that column. When you click that name the block is sorted on that column. Clicking again reverses the order. In most cases sorting starts in ascending order. However, some fields are initially sorted on descending order when that is more logical. Sorting is case sensitive!

	–	The double arrow next to the names puts the page upside down. Note that these sortings happen on the records that are shown. So if your page contains the first 100 of a category of 400 products you will still see the same 100 records – only in a different order.

	–	In front of each row you see a button with an "X". If you press that button the row disappears and you can't get it back unless you refresh the page. Being no longer on the page that row can no longer be changed. You may click on this button if you have messed up your changes and want to prevent yourself from submitting those changes. Another use is to keep

the page compact and see only the rows that you want to work with. A final use is mass update when you update one field for all rows. If you don't want that to happen to certain items you can click them away.

– At the end of each row you see a hook. If you click that that row is submitted. Elsewhere on the page is a rectangle window where you can see the result. Both when you change a row and when you submit it its background color is changed. Those colors allow you to keep track which rows were changed and which changed rows still need to be submitted.

– When you click the ID on products a new window will open (product-solo.php) that offers you the opportunity to edit many different fields of this product. This allows you to quickly fix issues in other fields than the one you are mass editing. With cat-edit.php the link goes to the category page of your shop.

– On products the product name is also clickable. It links to the product page in the front side of your shop.

When you have made a field editable you will see the three radio-buttons disappear. Instead you will see the word "Edit" appear. On a few fields you can resize the field.

When you make the name field in the above example editable it will look like this. There are different types of field that will become editable in different ways. For descriptions, for example, you will get textarea's of several lines high. For the active field you get a simple checkbox that can be checked and unchecked. And for some other fields you get select boxes where you can choose from a number of values.

Next to the Hide-Show-edit block you will usually find the Submit All button. With this button you submit all rows at once. Usually you see a short flicker and then your page is shown again with the changes implemented. What happens during this flicker is that the process page is called

(for product-edit.php this is product-proc.php) and once this is finished it guides you back to the edit page. If you check the "verbose" checkbox you stay on the process page and you will see there all the mysql calls that the script makes. This can be useful when you suspect that the script is doing something wrong or is generating an error message.
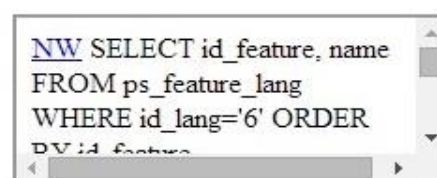
The pictures above show the result window on the right top of many pages where you can the results of a row submit. Usually you will see something like the image to the left. When you had checked you will see something like the image to the right. Of course it would be very difficult to read all those queries in such a small window. That is what the "NW" link is for. "NW" stands for "new window"

and when you click it you will see the contents of this small window displayed in its own browserpage.

With mass changes come mass risks. For that reason Prestools is very careful regarding bugs. PHP has been set to the highest error detection level so that you see all errors. Instead of Ajax iframes like you saw in the previous paragraph are used because they show you what happens. And if an error happens in the iframe usually its background color will change so that you wil immediately notice it. If you find a problem you are strongly encouraged to report it. Prestools has a zero tolerance policy regarding bugs. Every bug is immediately addressed – even when it is harmless.

4.5   Validity checks

Prestools Suite is less strict with checking your data than Prestashop. In the newer versions there are some increased checks, but still the general rule applies that while inserting normal data shouldn't give problems you should be knowing what you are doing when you enter html and special characters.

Sometimes you may see the message: "The following characters are not allowed: <>;=#{}". When you click OK all the offending characters will be removed from the text.

If you enter unbalanced html – for example a <div> that was not matched with a closing </div> - into fields like description that error is automatically repaired, so that it cannot spoil your web page.

Prestashop's bans on javascript and (optional) iframe are enforced. As we don't want to disturb the saving of what may be a whole page with hundreds of records, the banned texts are instead replaced with something innocent like the text "scriptsarenotallowed";

4.6   Resizing fields
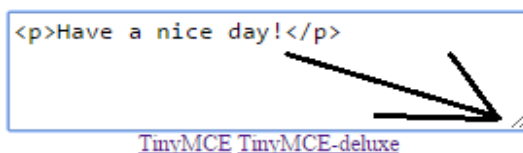
At the bottom right of textareas you can draw them out with your mouse to enlarge them. This is a function of your browser and the functionality may not be for every browser the same.

For some fields Prestools Suite offers the possibility to resize them all. With the "W" you can resize the width. With the "H" you resize the height. Click on the "-" to make the dimension smaller. Click on the "+" to make it larger.

4.7   Upgrading Prestools Suite

Prestools is regularly updated and you are encouraged to occasional upgrading too.

Upgrading is very simple: you just copy the new files over the old ones. After that you should update the file settings1.php that contains you login data and other settings. You cannot simply keep the old version as occasionally new fields are added to this file and other changes are made.

The same applies to the paid version. Occasionally small improvements are made to those files and you are encouraged to download now and then a new version and copy its files over the old ones.

You can find the files in your account by selecting your order there. The paid version has a perpetual free upgrades policy.

When you have paid plugins you are advised to upgrade the free and the paid files simultaneously. It can happen that changes have been made that affect both of them.

5 Product-edit

Product-edit is the most used and also the most complicated of the scripts. Most of its header was already discussed in the previous paragraph. Here we will make a few additions.

The product-edit page also contains separate functions such as CSV generation and List products. These will be discussed in the later sections of this chapter.

5.1 The Search Block

The product search block has three Find fields. The search criteria of the fields apply. For example, if you enter "aaa" in the first field and "bbb" in the second this will be processed with Mysql as "search product table where field A like '%aaa%' and field B like '%bbb%'

When you leave the text field empty in most cases the field will be ignored. However, in a few cases an "empty search" will select all products having that property when such a field is selected in the search block. This concerns at the moment of writing: discounts, virtualproduct, carrier and combinations. In the case of discount and virtualproducts field this happens always: search terms are ignored.

At the bottom of the field names you will find field names that start with "a-" and with "f-". These are the attributes resp. features defined in your shop. Note that if you leave the text field empty when selecting one of those your search will look for all products that possess that attribute or feature. With "!=" or "!in" and an empty text field you will get all the products that do NOT contain such a field.

A number of field names end with " id". These id fields have the advantage that you can fill in a comma separated list of entries. It may not work everywhere yet but the goal is to have each of these fields to recognize values like "2,5,7-15,17" and also to accept spaces instead of comma's. A special case is the category id where you also can put an "s" behind the number – signaling "with subcategories".

For category ids there is a difference between "!=" and "!in". The first will select all products that have one category that is unlike the selected one. The second will exclude all products that have the selected category – no matter how many other categories they belong to.

Some of the field names deserve some explanation:

- **id** is id_product

- **indexed** can be 1 or 0 and flags whether the product has been indexed (included into the search) for the selected shop

- **indexes** is about search terms. So any term that would find the product at the front side will work here too.

 You can also select categories directly in this dropdown select menu. Here too there is an option "with subcategories". The white square shows the category id of the selected category. You can also type here a category id. There are three modes of display for this category list that you can select in the settings file. The default is an alphabetical list. There are two alternatives. One is a tree – where the categories are shown in the order shown in the shop and where deeper levels are signaled by more indentation. The other shows the parent category too. This is specially useful with trademarks. You might for example see "Civic <- Honda".

If you have more than one language you will see the "Extra languages" followed by some language names and checkboxes. If you select a language there all the text fields will also be shown for that language. To discern them they will have the language name as a suffix like in "description_fr". Having two language versions of a field next to each other can be useful for copying and translations.

 At the end you will find the Search button with which you can start the search. Above it you will find the option: New Window that allows you to open the result of your search in a new window. That comes in handy when you want to keep the information in the present window.

When you select only the image field or the image and the active field you come in image only mode that shows the images next to each other. With mouseover you can see their name and by clicking on them you open a product-solo.php window where you can edit much of the information of that product. The compactness of the image list allows you to have a quick and huge overview. This mode is meant for quick inventory taking.

5.2 The fields (sorted by fieldname)

Product Edit has over 50 fields. Below you will find most of them discussed. They are ordered alphabetically:

Among the fields, two deserve special attention. These are the last two: features and statistics. Each of these will open an extra row of fields.

In display mode the **accessories** field offers a comma-separated list of the product id's that have been added to this product as accessories. If you move the mouse over the numbers you see the name of the products. Despite having the blue color these id's are not clickable.

In edit mode accessories are a free text input field where you should enter the accessory products as comma-separated numbers. After you submit the record the product id's are checked. Numbers that are not valid product id's are dropped.

Some fields, like **active** and **onsale**, offer only two options: yes or no. In display mode this is shown with a "1" and a "0". In edit mode this becomes a checkbox that can either be checked or unchecked.

Prestashop offers you a possibility to define shipping costs per product. That is the **aShipCost** field here.

Attachmnts gives you a list of attachments defined for this product – and the possibility to download them. You typically use this fields for documentation for your products.

Av_now and **Av_later** stand for "Available Now" and "Available Later". They can contain messages what should be displayed in those cases. Typical content is resp. "On stock" and "Delivered within 5 days".

AvailDate stands for Available Date.

AvailOrdr offers the options Available, Show Price Only and Not Available. This field combines two Prestashop fields: available_for_order and show_price.

A product can have more than one **Carrier**. In display mode they are displayed below each other. In edit mode the carrier field looks a lot like the categories field with on the right the assigned carriers and on the left the unassigned carriers for this product. To save this field you need a paid plugin. Standard products don't have carriers assigned to them. In that case the default carriers apply.

When in display mode the **category** field looks like you see on the right. This product is present in three categories and its default (underlined) category is category 21. If you move your mouse over a category number you see its name. In this case you see that category 50 is named "Sport". Clicking a category number brings you to the category page on the front side.

In editing mode categories look as you see to the left. The right box contains the categories to which the product belongs and the left box the categories to which it doesn't belong. When you select a category name you can move it with the arrow buttons to the other side. There must always stay at least one category on the right side as a product can not be without a category.

One of the category names on the right side has a reddish background color. This is the default category of the product. You can make another category default by selecting that category and clicking on the red 5-pointed star at the right side.

Between the two arrows there is a text field. Just like in the Search Block it shows the category id and you can use it to select a category in the left column.

Combinations will provide you with a number in a colored square. The number is the number of combinations that the product has. If you click the square you are forwarded to the combi-edit script for this product.

Custflds shows the customer fields that are defined for this product and their type.

Date_add is the date on which this product was added. In contrast to Prestashop it is allowed to change its value. This can be of use for manipulating the "new" tag on products.

Date_upd is the date on which this product was last updated. Just like in the Prestashop backoffice changing this is not allowed.

The **description** and the **short description** fields show in editing mode a textarea. Standard you see the raw html as Prestashop stores it. If you want you can click on "TinyMCE" or "TinyMCE -deluxe" to get a more userfriendly interface. This is the same editor that you use in the Prestashop backoffice. In the bottom right of the textarea there is a small triangle with which you can enlarge the area.

Discounts are now called **Specific Prices** by Prestashop. These are complicated fields. At the picture you see discounts for three products. The first product has 4 discount rules. The second two.

As you see there is about a dozen different fields. The first six are restrictors – they limit the application of the discount to a shop, product attribute, currency, country, customer group or individual customer. When these fields are empty of zero that restriction doesn't apply.

Next follows the display price – also called the "from price" as it is the price from which the discount is calculated if it is filled. Then follows the minimum quantity for which the discount applies. This value has a colored background for orientation purposes. Next comes the actual discount. Then the reduction type: a percentage or an amount. The final two fields determine the period for which the discount applies. Note that dates are formatted as yyyy-mm-dd.

So if we take the last product we see that it applies a discount of 23% for an undetermined period and for all quantities.

In edit mode we see this. The fields are shown in the same order but now editable, except for the shop number and the product attribute. If you move you mouse over the editable fields you will see the field name.

The last two field are calculated fields: the resulting price excl and incl VAT if this discount is applied. You can also fill in numbers in these fields. In that case the discount is calculated – respecting the mode (amount or percentage).

If you press the pencil at the left of the table you get a popup window that offers a more user friendly way to enter the data (see the image to the right).

The round "X" button the right allows you to delete a discount rule.

At the bottom you can click on "Add a discount rule". This creates an extra set of discount fields. In contrast to existing rules you can in those new fields set the shop and the attribute too.

You can have as much discounts on a product as you want. However, only one will apply. Which one can be set with a priority list that you can find on the product prices page in the Prestashop backoffice. You cannot set that with Prestools.

However, there are some restrictions that forbid you to introduce discounts that are too similar. If that applies in your case you will an error message pop up that tells you that this is not allowed and that asks you to make changes.

In the backoffice you can set catalogue rules, for example that the products in a certain category get a discount of 20%. This results in the ps_specific_price table in an entry for each of the products of that category. However, they get a special flag that prevents you from changing them individually. You are not able to edit them in Prestools either.

FeatureEdit will only show the clickable letters "FE". Clicking it will bring you on the feature-edit page for this product.

Features will open a new row (or more than one) with the features that you have defined in your shop. You can select there which features you want to see.

Features are user defined variables. Depending on whether they have predefined values they can appear in two different ways – each of which you can see to the left.

When you have no predefined values you get the right-most version: a simple input field. Note that this field is language specific: Prestools Suite applies its modifications to all your languages. If you want different values for different languages the script won't help you.

In the case that you have predefined values they are shown in a dropdown select box. However, in that case you still have the option to choose your own value and put it in the input field. This variety is shown in the leftmost image.

In Prestashop the maximum size for input in feature text fields is 255 characters. This is a property of the "value" field in the table "ps_feature_value_lang".

From version 1.7.3 Prestashop supports multi-feature. Now a product can have more than one value for the same feature. This means that the interface in Prestools becomes different and looks more like that for product categories. The picture above is for the old versions.
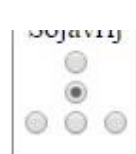
In the hide-show-edit block you will see three options for features. The left-most option will give you only the predefined values. If there are no pre-defined values this option is omitted. The middle button gives you both the predefined value and an input field for userdefined values. The right one will give you the same, but instead of an input field of one line it will give you a textarea with space for several lines of input.
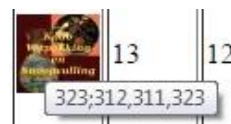
When in display mode you move your mouse over an **image** you will see a row of figures. The first figure is the image id of the default picture of this product. Then follows a semi-colon and after that you see a comma separated list of the image id's of all the images that belong to this product.

In edit mode you see something like this. The cross at the top right of each image allows you to delete it. The immediate result will be that the image is greyed out. As actual deletion only happens when you submit you can undo the deletion by clicking this field again.

The field right below is the default image. A product has one default image that is shown on the product pages.

At the bottom of each image you see the legend – the text belonging to the image. You can enlarge the field by dragging the bottom right tip. You can also enlarge it for all image with the buttons in the hide-show-edit block.

Mass update offers some nice options to update the legends of your images. You can copy values from other fields – Prestashop always copies the name field. You can determine whether the new

value should be applied to all images or only the cover image. And you can set that only those fields will be changed that are empty – an easy way to fill In the blanks.

With drags and drop you can change the order of the images.

Adding images can happen either by clicking the blue Add button or by drag and drop from your computer's file system. Images are uploaded to a temporary directory. They will only be moved in the tree below the Prestashop img directory when you submit. If you often use the function you should occasionally empty the temp directory below Prestools. With normal use no images will be left there. But if you leave some page while you have added but not submitted images they will stay there orphaned forever. There is a maximum upload size. This by default is 4MB. You can change it in Settings1.php where it is the variable $maxprodimgsize. No image generation takes place. So you will need to run Prestools or Prestashop's image regeneration to get all the derived images like 123-small_default.jpg.

This option is a paid option. And changes will only be implemented when you submit.

Indexed shows you either a 0 or a 1. It tells you whether a product is indexed. If not it won't be visible in your shop's search system.

Indexes shows you a clickable number. This is the number of search terms for which this product can be found by searching in the shop. Clicking the number will bring you on a page where you see those keywords.

Link_rewrite contains the basis for the file name of the product. It is derived from the product name – with some symbols replaced for clarity and to conform to web standards. On the Settings-Products page of the backoffice at the bottom of the first block there is a setting whether the link_rewrite field should automatically be changed when the product name is changed. Prestools conforms to this setting.

In editing mode **manufacturer** becomes a similar dropdown menu as VAT

Metadescription becomes in edit mode a textarea. However, only flat text is allowed – no html.

Metakeywords are ignored by Google. However, some other search engines use them. Prestashop has years ago dropped its support for them in the backoffice. However, they are still in the database and they are still inserted from the database into the web pages.

PackStoType (pack_stock_type) tells how to handle the stock when product packs are sold. The options are Decrement pack only, Decrement products in pack only, Decrement both and Default. This is the only aspect of packs that is supported by Prestools.

priceVAT is price including VAT. This is a calculated value: Prestashop stores only the price without VAT. Product-edit allows you to change this price for convenience as most shops publish prices including VAT. This price is then used to calculate the price without VAT and that is stored.

Qty is quantity

Prestashop has two kinds of weight. One, that is used for calculating your shipping rates, is displayed here as **Shipweight**. The other is part of your product features. Something similar applies to **Shipdepth, Shipwidth** and **Shipheight**.

Shopz contains the list of shops that the product belongs to. It allows you the option to increase or remove shops. The writing with a "z" was chosen to make anything related to this subject easily discernible (and searchable) from other shop related text.

ShortDesc is short description; See Description.

Statistics will open a row with statistics fields. Note that statistics are slightly different here from those in product-sort if you have a multi-shop environment. In product-sort you get statistics for all shops together. In product-edit you get statistics for the selected shop only. In the search block you can sort products by the statistics values: that is an easy way to identify your bestsellers.

- In the **Period** field you can define the period over which the statistics should be shown. If you don't provide dates all sales are considered.

- Prestashop has different ways to keep track of your visitors. **Visitz** and **Visits** are two statistics that give you counts of the number of visitors for this product.

- **Sold** provides the number of products that you have sold of this product.

- **Revenue** tells you how much they paid for it in total. The revenue field is clickable and results in a window like the one above. It shows you the individual orders for the product in the specified period. Amounts are corrected for currency. Refunds are not taken into account.

- **Orders** tells you in how many different orders this product was sold.

- **Buyers** tells you have many customers bought this product.

- **Refunds** tells you how much money was refunded to customers for ths product.

Stockflags allows you to switch from manual setting quantities to warehousing. It combines the two flags that Prestashop ("depends on stock" and "advanced stock management") that Prestashop uses for that purpose. A limitation is that Prestools Suite doesn't allow you to do this for product packs. An unique feature of Prestools is that it allows you to transfer you quantities automatically to a warehouse. However, some care should be taken using this feature as it automates some aspects that you may want to set yourself. It picks it own employee, sets negative quantities to zero and it tries to pick your inventory prices from either the product_supplier or the product_shop table as

Prestashop doesn't allow zero inventory prices here. You can't transfer your quantities a second time.

Both Prestashop and Prestools Suite allow you to switch back to manual stock keeping. It is not recommender to use that option. If you switch to manual, change the stock and go back to ASM you will find that Prestashop keeps the new number – that no longer corresponds to what is in the warehouses. In the "Instant Stock Status" page you will then see a difference between Usable quantity and Real quantity.

The **Supplier** field is one of the more complex fields as it can show data for more than one supplier for a product. Also if a product has combinations each combination can have different supplier prices and references.

Giganta		4400
Levara	sixtinia	12.45

Bandita	
Levara	

Supplier has four fields (optional)the combination, the supplier name, the supplier reference and the supplier price.

At the side you see the display of the supplier field for three different products:

Dropmix	Levara		
Dropmix	Bandita		
Dropmix	Giganta	dropmax	9.95
Engelse drop	Levara		
Engelse drop	Bandita		

- – The middle product shows the bare minimum: only supplier names are provided.

- – The upper product shows all three fields filled. The middle field contains the supplier reference for the product and the rightmost field his price.

- – The bottom product shows the display for products with combinations. The first field contains the attribute(s) and the other fields contain the supplier name, reference and price.

In editing mode supplier fields look like you see to the left. At the top you can add or remove suppliers. There is a default supplier that you can select the same way as default categories. Below that you can fill in the supplier references and prices. If the products has combinations you can do that for each combination.

Bandita		0.000000
Levara	sixtinia	12.450000

This is a paid plugin.

In display mode **tags** are a vertical list of tag words.

Gold
Silver
Electronics
Gadgets

In edit mode they become a textarea where the tag keywords are listed in a comma separated string. The assignments that in the Prestashop back office happen real-time happen in Prestools Suite after submission.

Gold,Silver,Electronics,Ga
dgets

At the side here you see how the **VAT** field looks like when you are in editing mode: as a select box. Above you see how the select box looks when it is expanded and below how it looks when it is folded. When you are not in editing mode you see only the VAT rate (like "21").

Sometimes people delete entries in one of the tax tables when the VAT rate changes. In that case you may see here a zero. When you make the field editable you may still see an entry. Also searching for a zero may not work and you should search for an empty space instead.

Visible (visibility) offers the options Both, Catalog, Search and None. The normal setting is Both.

VirtualP lists the virtual products and allows you to download them. This field is read only. You can use it to check that all downloadable products are there and in the right version.

Warehouse (Warehousing) is a read-only field that shows you in which warehouses how much of a product is stored.

In **Wholesale** you can access your wholesale prices.

carrier, **supplier, features, tags** and **discounts** (=specific prices) are the for-pay sections of the script. However, you can make those fields editable and do everything with them that you can with the paid plugin. The only difference is that you can't save your results.

5.3   Clickable fields

The first two fields of the product list are clickable. When you click the product number a new window is opened where you can edit one single product. This is meant for situations where you find that some of the data is wrong and you don't want to scroll to the top to make that field editable. At the time of writing this "product solo" feature was still rudimentary.

The product name is red and also clickable. It brings you to the product page as the customer sees it.

5.4   Mass Update

Mass Update is the most powerful part of Prestools Suite. As mentioned on the page you should first make the field editable, then you should apply the mass edit and then you should submit. This allows you to have a look at the modification and to experiment. In the case of complicated edits like adding a discount you can – after applying the mass edit – make a row submit first to look whether the mod gives the desired result. If that is so you can apply a "submit all".

Sometimes – for example with discounts – you can select on subfields. Note that these are often taken literally and not logically. So when you select "shop 1" for shops you will not see the discounts that have "all shops" as their setting.

Under "select an action" you will find 14 different actions. Most apply only to a few field types:

− **set**: this sets the fields to the value you specified.

− **insert before**: This inserts a text before the existing content. It is often used when you want to add a new paragraph before your existing description.

− **insert after**: This works similar to insert before.

− **replace**: this replaces an existing text in a field with the new specified text. Often used to improve standard texts in descriptions. By leaving the specified text empty you can also delete parts. Replace offers the option regexp. This means that in the source field you can use the regular expression syntax. If you would for example type "h.t" text fragments like "hat" and "hot" will be replaced as a dot in the regexp syntax means any character. By default Replace will only replace one occurrence of the targeted text. When regexp is enabled, however, it will replace all occurrences.

− i**ncrease%**: This is used to increase or (if you use negative values) to decrease prices.

− **regenerate**: this is only used for the link_rewrite field and allows you to regenerate your pretty urls. Very useful if you have changed names or used duplication of products.

− **add**: this is used in fields where more than one value is allowed, like tags, categories and discounts.

− **remove**: is the logical counterpart of add

− **copy from other lang**: this one only appears in a multi-language setup. In older versions it is called "copy from default lang". It allows you to copy things like name and description from another language. This can be useful when dealing with duplicated products or products where later descriptions were added. When you move your cursor over the product number when another language than the default is selected you will see the name of the product in your default language appear in your cursor's tooltip.

− **copy from field**: this allows you to copy one field to another. The most common operation is probably from short description to description. If you copy towards the meta-description the html tags are stripped. Note that the field that you copy from should not be in editable mode.

− **replace from field:** this variation on "copy from field" allows you to replace a text in the field with the content of another field. You might for example sell cars and have given all the descriptions the content "The productname is a beautiful car". Then you can use this function to replace the string "productname" with the actual product name.

− **set as default**: this allows to set a category as default

- **TinyMCE** and **TinyMCE DeLuxe** do not really update fields. They just make fields like description editable with TinyMCE – just as you can do with the links below the individual fields.

- **add fixed target discount:** this function is specific for discounts. It will give all affected products a discount so that they all end up on the same price. So if you provide as target 10 and your product price is 12 than a discount of 2 is generated. Products with a price lower than the discount are not handled.

- **touch** marks all rows on the page as changed – as can be seen by the changed background color. Saving fields that haven't been changed can in some cases have benefits as the fields will be processed. One application is cleaning up description fields where some other program has inserted unbalanced html (like a DIV without a closing /DIV). Another is in multishop when saving for all shops may overwrite different values there.

5.5   Indexation

Prestashop indexes the words in your shop so that your customers (and you) can search the shop. Every time you change something text related on a product Prestashop reads all the fields and renews the list of indexed words. This process uses lots of time and processor resources – more than all other back office processes together.

Note that Prestashop uses "indexed" flags to indicate for which products the index needs to be renewed.

Indexing can be very time-intensive. This applies even more so on your local Windows machine – probably due to antivirus software.

So in order to keep editing with Prestools Suite pleasant some measures have been taken:

- if you submit changes with product edit one batch of at most 40 un-indexed products is taken. Another batch will only be taken if a predetermined of time (standard 4 seconds) has not passed.

- Prestools has a few optimizations to reduce the need for indexations

- You can select to skip indexation if you find that it delays your work. You can then in the end do all the indexation at once.

- There is a button to re-index the products that need it. In the example above that concerns 2 products. Of course you can also use the function in the SEO page in Prestashop's backoffice for the same purpose.

When you have more than 10 unindexed active products you will get the warning that you see here on almost every page in Prestools. It will pressure you to reindex. The limit of 10 was chosen because Prestashop sometimes contains fantom products that produce the warning yet cannot be indexed.

5.6 CSV generation

To the left of the Mass Update block you will a find a button "csv". When you click it it will generate a CSV file. Above it you can choose the separator. You can choose between ";", what is the default in Prestashop product import, and ",", what is the default for import into spreadsheets.

CSV generation will use the setting so as you have them at that moment filled in. So you will standard get 100 records and 8 different fields. You are suggested to set the number of records very high so that all are submitted to the CSV file. On the other hand for many applications you can do with less fields.

This tool has two advantages over the standard Prestashop csv export: you have more flexibility in choosing which products to export and you get more fields. Specially interesting is the export of images that produces a link to the image as it is now in your shop.

Csv export will not provide the same content as the edit function for complex fields like "discount" and "supplier". Only one discount will be shown and only when there is an active discount. And many of its conditions won't be shown. Of the suppliers only the default supplier will be shown.

5.7 List Products

List Products was developed to get a printed list of products for inventory taking. So the purpose is to get as much relevant information on one page as possible.

By default it uses just like CSV generation the selection of products and fields that you specified in the Search Box. However, the selection of fields can be overridden in several ways. The most common way is checking the "default" checkbox. That results in something like the right picture: for every product you get name, product id, price, part of the description and a picture. Note that only active products are shown

The fields Cols, Lines/page and separationlines have to do with the fact that there is no certain way to know when you are at the bottom of a page when printing. Also, the size you need for one product depends on how much information you want to show. So you need to specify the number of columns (3 in the default setting) and lines per page (21 in the default setting). With Separationlines you specify the number of empty lines you have at the end of each page as a kind of form feed.

With Categories you can specify more than one category. The idea is that when you have many small categories you can print them all at once. You need to enter the category id's here. So the entry "25,27,67" will show the products from those three categories. When a product is present in more than one category it will still be shown only once. As a further refinement you can use the "s" suffix for subcategories. So "28,64s" will show the products from the 28 and 64 categories and from all the subcategories of the category with id 64.

5.8 Product-sales

Product Sales is not in the menu. It can be reached by selecting and clicking the "revenue" field in Product-edit or Product-sort. It provides a list of the orders and customers to which a specific product was sold in the selected time period.

6 Product-sort

6.1 Basic sorting

Changing the order of the products inside a category is rather straightforward. Yet there are a lot of options in this page in the searchblock. They provide you with information on the best way to sort and they offer sortable columns (by clicking on their header).

Note that product-sort does not offer row submit but only Submit All. This is because changing the location of one product in the order automatically affects the position of one or more others.

For sorting you have three buttons and the position field.

Most important is the position field. This field determines which position the product will get after the submit. Moving a product to position 1 is as simple as typing "1" in its position field and moving the cursor to another field.

The default mode of operation of the sort page is autosort. That makes that the display always shows the present order. When you disable autosort the final layout will only be calculated when you pressed the Sort or the Submit All button

The three buttons have the following functions:

- "Sort" puts the rows in the order that they will be displayed after a submit. If you had filled the position of the product in the second row with a "2" and that of the position field of the third row with a "1" you will find after a sort that they have changed place. Sort will also – just as submit – correct errors in the order. So if you want to move a product to the end you

can just give it a very high position number and click on sort to see the result (you still need to submit...). This button is only used when autosort is disabled.

- – "Number" gives the product as they are displayed the numbers in rising order. After having sorted the page by clicking on the head of some column you typically click on this button to implement the new order (you still need to submit...). This button is only used when autosort is disabled.

- – "Randomize" gives the products of the page a random order.

At the end of each row you find Up and Down buttons with which you can move a product one row up or down. The black square between them allows you to use drag and drop to move a row several positions.

6.2   Advanced sorting

When you press the "Advanced" button a few new fields and option will appear. These options have been hidden behind a button because it is desirable that you first understand the basic functionality. The advanced options won't occur very often and might otherwise distract you from the basic functionality.

One of the options of Advanced is to select rows and to move those. The second line always shows which rows have been selected so that you don't need to scroll down to check.

The example to the right shows what happens when you have two products selected and you move them 1 up.

When you have selected products sorting by clicking on the column headers will work differently too. The selected products will NOT move. The other products will move as expected, but around those selected.

7 Product Visual sort

Visual sort is meant for designing your home page – and also other category pages if you have chosen a template for them with more than one product on a row. By giving a wysiwyg representation of the page you will get a good impression of how you page will look. Of course the layout will change when later on disable products.

We are sorting the display of a category. So appropriately your options start with selecting a category.

Next you select the number of items on a row. The standard Prestashop homepage has 3 items but here we offer the options from 2 to 7.

With Number of rows on a page you determine how many rows will be shown on the page. Here you need to provide your setting in your Prestashop theme. Vissort will display all active articles so that you can move them but it will display those those invisible in the shop with a different background color.

Prestashop is so designed that in a multi-shop environment a category will have the same order for all shops. However, you can disable products in one shop and enable them in another. So you need to indicate for which shop you are designing.

Although you won't notice them immediately the screen does contain product names. So you need to specify in which language you want to display them.

You can choose all of the image sizes that are defined in your shop to see in this tool. Some will be small, some bigger and some too big. Experiment to see which size gives you enough of the picture to get the right impression yet leaves you with enough space to keep the overview.
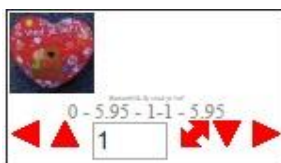
Now we have a look at the actual sorting. You see here the smallest possible picture size. Below that you see the product name in a very small font. Below that you see some statistics and below that you see some arrows with which you can move the product.

The product name is here only for the purpose of text search so that you can easily find your product amidst of a large number of other products. If you want to see the product name you can move your mouse over the picture.

The left button moves your product to the left. It moves as much positions as you specify in the input field. If the product is at the leftmost position and you move it to the left it will go the rightmost position of the preceding row. However, it won't move beyond position zero.

Moving one product to the left will push others to the right. If for example you move the product on position 6 two position to the left it will arrive at position 4, the product that was at position 4 will be moved to position 5 and the product that was at position 5 will be moved to position 6.

Similarly the up button moves your product upwards - as much positions as you specify in the input field. When the product moves up the other products in the column will move one position downwards. The product won't move beyond the first row and will stay in its column.

For the right and down button something similar applies.

Finally there is the button with the two arrows next to the input field. This is the exchange button. If for example a product is at position 5 and you type 8 in the input field and press this button then the product will move to position 8 while the product that was at position 8 will move to position 5. All other products will stay at the same position.

In the statistics row you saw the following figures: 0 - 5.95 - 1-1 – 5.95. They are related to a piece of the menu a bit higher

The first figure is the position number. It starts with zero.

Statistics: Period (yyyy-mm-dd): _____ till _____
The figures show: nr - total sales - nr of orders - nr of buyers - price

The last number is the price – including VAT.

The three numbers in between give you information about your sales of this product. It is for these statistics that you could enter a starting and end date.

In Prestashop inactive products have a position too. Visual Sort will push them below the active products.

If a product is on sale (that is: the sale flag is set) you will see a tag like on the image to the left. You can switch the display of those tags off In the options.

8 Feature Edit

In version 1.7.3 and later this will look like:

In versions before PS 1.7.3 where a product can have only one value for a feature this will look like this:

Note that both all active and all changed features have a grey background.

9 Feature List

This read-only function gives you an overview of which features are used and by how many products. You can also click through to a product-edit of all products with those attributes.

10 Tag List

This read-only function gives you an overview of which tags are used and by how many products. You can also click through to a product-edit of the products with those tags.

11 Keyword List

This function gives you an overview of the search keywords in your system and which products use them.

Standard you see only the first 5 columns. When you click on the keyword text (in the picture "bielzen") you see in the Products column the products that have this keyword.

12 Combination-edit

Combination-edit is used in combination with Image-edit. Once you assign legends to images with Image-edit you can easily assign images to your combinations with Combination-edit.

| 4 | You can reach Combination-edit for a product by making the combinations field editable. You see then a colored square with the number of combinations for this product that can be clicked to reach the Combination-edit page. |

As it is possible in Prestashop to assign more than one image to a combination two edit modes are offered for images. In the simple version you can only assign one image. In the more complex one as much as you like. There are also many other fields that you can edit here.

13 Prodcombi

Prodcombi allows you to edit attribute fields for more than one product at once. So if you have for example a clothing shop and you want to raise the prices for all XXL trousers this is the place to be.

All fields from product-edit are still there if you want to see them. Just press the blue "Show Fields" button. Of course they are read-only here.

You can provide both the number of products and the number of combinations. The number of products is meant to be the main constraint. The purpose of the number of combinations is to serve as a safety valve to prevent the page from being flooded by more combinations than it can handle. You see this also in the summary that looks like "Showing 50 of 616 products and 130 combinations in shop 1". Missing is the total of combinations. That isn't particularly relevant and would require too much extra processing time. Of course you can always see it by increasing the product number. Note that the initial total of products shown here is the number of products with combinations.

The Search block is divided in two parts. With the upper part you search for a product. By default all combinations of that product will be shown. That applies even when you searched here for an attribute. If the product has a combination with that attribute then all its combinations will be shown – including those without that attribute.

The bottom part of the Search block allows you to determine which combinations you want to see.

The "ids" field contains the id's of the individual attributes. So if the product_attribute_combination is red and big then you will see here two comma separated values, one the attribute id for red and the other the attribute id for big.

Mass Update works the same as on other pages.

14 Combination copy and delete

14.1 Combination copy

Combination Copy allows you to copy the attribute combinations of one product to other products.

With the "source" product id you define the product that will serve as a template. All or part of its combinations will be copied to all the specified targets.

Once you fill in the product id the filter and combinations fields are filled.

The filter is meant for the case when this is a product with many (hundreds or more) combinations. In that case you can determine here that you want only to see the combinations with a specific value for one attribute. The startrec and number of recs function (right of the source product id) have the same function.

With the Combinations option you can select that you only want to copy specific combinations.

Once you have selected the combinations that you want to copy you start to define the targets. In the free version you can only copy to one product at a time. So you should leave the Target type at "product(s)" and fill just one product id in the Target id(s) field.

In the paid version there are more options. Instead one you can fill in several – comma separated - product ids. And instead of individual products the Target type field gives you also the option to get all the products of a category or a manufacturer. In the Target id field you enter then the id(s) of one or more categories or manufacturers.

At the bottom of Product-Edit there is a button "gather product id's". This collects all the products that are at that moment visible on the product-edit page. This can be a time saver when you need to copy to dozens of products and they aren't conveniently stored in one category.

When you copy a combination most of its fields – including the price – will be copied from the source product. The only two exceptions are the quantity and the reference that you can specify in the following fields.

It may happen that a combination already exists in a target product. Normally this combination will then be left alone and none of its fields will be changed. However, if you want you can specify fields here that should be overwritten with values from the source product.

As a security measure you should always first click the "Check Target" button before you can press the "Copy combinations now" button. After pressing "Check target" you will see below it the product names belonging to the product id's that you entered. When you chose for products by category or manufacturer you will see the name of that category or manufacturer and its first two products.

Combination copy will only copy the fields that you would also generate with Prestashop's Combination generator. It will not copy images, specific prices or advanced stockkeeping values.

Hint: if you need to copy to a lot of products from different categories it may help to add them to a dummy category. That way you can combine the flexibility of product-edit with the power combi-copy.

14.2   Combination delete

Deleting combinations is easy in the Prestashop backoffice – and Prestools tries to avoid duplicating backoffice functions. So this function here is mainly directed at mass deletions on many products. In this it is the logical counterpart of Combination Copy.

Just like Combination Copy (see there for more explanation) this function works with one template product from which you can select attribute combinations that then will be deleted on all the selected target products. Alternatively you can select to delete all the attribute combinations.

Note that this can mean that you will specify the same product id both as source and target.

In the free version you can have one product as a target at a time.

Combination Delete will also delete specific prices and advanced stockkeeping values belonging to the combinations.

14.3   Speed considerations

Combination Copy and Combination Delete are rather resource intensive. So when you need to deal with large numbers of products and/or large numbers of combinations you are advised to start with small numbers to get a feeling of how long it will take.

Combination Copy and Combination Delete have been designed so that they should be able to smartly deal with timeouts.

In the paid for version the timeout limit for Combination Copy and Combination Delete is standard 5 minutes – much longer than the 30 seconds that is standard for PHP. You can change this value at the top of the TE_plugin_combi_copy.php and TE_plugin_combi_delete.php files.

15 Combination pricer

Sometimes combinations are a collection of elements. The pc is a good example: it combines a housing, a motherboard, a harddisk, memory, a motherboard and a mouse. So the pricing is a combination of the prices of those elements. Prestashop 1.6's Product Combinations Generator allowed you to define the prices of those elements and then it would use that as basis to set the prices of the combinations.

This function provides that functionality on a permanent basis – also for other properties like weight.

16 Attribute-sort

This function works very similar to product-sort (and was derived from it) without the advanced options. Useful when an attribute groups has many entries. You can sort in four ways: filling in position numbers, clicking on column headers, drag&drop and clicking on the arrows. As always: you need to press Submit All to implement your changes.

17 Attribute Im- and Export

This function allows you to export and import attributes with csv files. It also offers another opportunity to sort attributes.

18 Attribute List

This read-only function gives you an overview of which attributes are used and by how many products. You can also click through to a product-edit of those attributes.

19 Images

19.1 Image-edit

Image-edit does not allow you add or remove images from a product. That can only be done within Product-Edit.

However, it does offer the possibility to edit the legend of an image – something that is impossible in Prestashop. You can also change the order of the images and select which one is used as the cover image.

For products with combinations there is the option "assign combinations". When you check that option and click Submit again an extra column will appear with the combination attributes. When you select one or more of the attributes the images will be assigned to the combinations that match these attributes and the image name will be changed accordingly after you submit. For example, when you have a product "dress" with attribute grous color and size and you set the color to red then the image will be linked to all combinations with color red and the image legend will become "dress red". You are free to change the legend later on.

19.2 Regenerate Images

Regenerate-Images offers you the possibility to regenerate images. Just like with other functions you will find here more flexibility than in the Prestashop backoffice:
- you can select images by image id, product id and category I
- When the Imagick library is installed the program will give you the option to choose whether you want to use that or GD.

There used to be a [free module that supports Imagick](#) when uploading images in Prestashop. But this has been withdrawn by its author. For Thirty Bees the module is still available. In both Prestashop and Thirty Bees Imagick is used by the pdf software when it is available.

There are options whether you want to replace existing images and whether you want to delete unused image formats. Note that replacing existing images is off by default.

You can select which formats you want to regenerate. When you select only one format you get an option to provide an alternative size. This will allow you to experiment with different formats without changing the system settings.

The option to replace index.php is meant for people whose shop became infected by some virus.

The time needed for regeneration can vary a lot depending on how many formats you use. When you generate highres (x2) images you will quite likely need to allocated time.

The easiest to work with is the "Regenerate image(s) at intervals" function. That will automatically retry on failure. In most cases it will handle the whole range without problems or timeouts. When problems do occur take the followingin consideration:
- Big images take lots of time. When you are on a slow computer with lots of hi-res formats even regenerating a single image can result in a timeout. As a solution you can define that the image will be regenerated in more than one call.
- Replacing existing images can be a problem with timeouts. Every time the whole batch will be regenerated.
- When the software keeps repeating the same batch: enable verbose, click on NW and look whether there is an error message. In one case I saw there was a 6000x6000 image that caused an out-of-memory error.

Regenerating default images is mainly interesting after you have changed their width-height ratio. If you have done so you should first redraw the images in the img/p or img/c directory so that they fit in the new format without whitespace.

☁🖰🗎🗎🗁 **Margin functions**

With many sources for your pictures it can happen that not all your pictures look the same: some are big, some small and some are not at the center of the allocated space. With regenerate-image you can repair that. For that you see three fields: strip margin, add side margin and add top/bottom margin.

Trim image – when selected – strips the whitespace around your image. The result is the minimal rectangle necessary to hold the image.

By adding margins you add whitespace. Percentages refer to the whole image. So if you add 50% to the sides your new image will contain 25% whitespace on each side and 50% image in the middle. Trimming is slow. Standard 25 seconds per image is calculated but it depends very much on the size of the original. As the original is not changed it has to be done each time an image is regenerated.

The stripping is done by a function at the bottom of image-regenerate-proc.php. Besides the image it takes two parameters. One is the color. That has been set at 255. The other is the tolerance. As you may know white in a .jpg file is not really white so you need a rather high tolerance within which you consider space whitespace. Standard it is set at 55 for that reason.

This means that sometimes stripping can go wrong. Either it takes too much and your image becomes crippled. Or it takes too little and your image becomes too small. For that reason a "core" file is generated (like 123-core.jpg). This file contains the image after it has been trimmed and before new margin have been added. With Prestools' Image overview you can see all the core files at once and that way have an easy check that all stripping went ok.

📁🖼️🖿🗎 Check

The Check function provides a quick overview of your images. It checks all the image directories and outputs all image numbers that deviate from the ideal. It can be a quick guide to see where regeneration is needed. The following flags can be found after the image number:

- "DIR": the image directory is missing
- "b": the base image (123.jpg) is missing
- "i": the index file (index.php) is missing
- "m": there are missing derived files
- "x": there are extra derived files that are not found in the imagetype database table. Some themes produce hi-res derivates (like 123-large2x.jpg) that are not registered in the database and will produce false positives here. Only derivates are looked for. Other files will not be registered.

19.3 Imagick

Imagick is a the PHP library of ImageMagick. It is the most popular alternative to PHP's native GD graphics library and it is known to work faster and produce image files that are both smaller and better quality than GD. Unlike GD it does not ignore color profiles in photos.

One other potential advantage of Imagick concerns the EXIF header. GD strips this standard and there is no way to prevent that. But in Imagick this requires a separate command. Prestools strips it by default when using Imagick. But is easy to outcomment the line "$img->stripImage();" in image-regenerate-proc.php when you want to keep it.

As Imagick is not standard installed with PHP it depends on your hosting provider whether and how you can enable it. Some hosting providers – like Bluehost – may have it pre-installed for you.

Installing Imagick yourself can be a bit of a challenge. You need to install both the program ImageMagick and the PHP module Imagick. Both come in many varieties that will not always work together due to version and 32/64-bit conflicts.

ImageMagick is a program that you can install on your Windows or *nix computer. Its traditional use for image conversion is as a shell function where it is called from PHP with an exec() function. You get then code like

  exec("convert -fill blue -draw \"circle 100,100 100,50\" circle.png");

The main competitor of ImageMagick is GraphicsMagick. That fork of ImageMagick is claimed to be still better but it has no PHP library so you can only use it with exec().

You may encounter reports about security issues with Imagick. They are discussed at https://imagetragick.com/. However, these have been solved with a new version quite some time ago. Besides that, they happened only when the customer could upload images that were then processed by Imagick. That does not apply for Prestashop shops.

ImageMagick can be downloaded here: http://www.imagemagick.org/script/binary-releases.php#windows

Imagick can be found here or here (Windows users: note the tag "dll" at the end of each line) .

Imagick under Windows

This internet page contains instructions on how to install under PHP 7. Here you can find the module for your exact PHP version. The latter page is probably the best place to start as it contains links to the software that you need to download and install and it has very short install instructions at the bottom. Its instruction for the Imagick files doesn't make sense. You can put them anywhere where you point the windows environment variable MAGICK_HOME.

You have thread-safe and not thread-safe versions of the dll. If you search in the output of phpinfo() for thread you can see whether your php is thread safe.

imagick

imagick module	enabled
imagick module version	3.4.2
imagick classes	Imagick, ImagickDraw, ImagickPixel, ImagickPixelIterator, ImagickKernel
Imagick compiled with ImageMagick version	ImageMagick 6.9.3-7 Q16 x86 2016-03-27 http://www.imagemagick.org
Imagick using ImageMagick library version	ImageMagick 6.9.4-8 Q16 x86 2016-06-07 http://www.imagemagick.org
ImageMagick copyright	Copyright (C) 1999-2015 ImageMagick Studio LLC
ImageMagick release date	2016-06-07
ImageMagick number of supported formats:	239
ImageMagick supported formats	3FR, AAI, AI, ART, ARW, AVI, AVS, BGR, BGRA, BGRO, BIE, BMP, BMP2, BMP3, BRF, CAL, CALS, CANVAS, CAPTION, CIN, CIP, CLIP, CLIPBOARD, CMYK, CMYKA, CR2, CRW, CUR, CUT, DATA, DCM, DCR, DCX, DDS, DFONT, DJVU, DNG, DOT, DPS, DPX, DXT1, DXT5, EMF, EPDF, EPI, EPS, EPS2, EPS3, EPSF, EPSI, EPT, EPT2, EPT3, ERF, EXR, FAX, FILE, FITS, FLIF, FPX, FRACTAL, FTP, FTS, G3, GIF, GIF87, GRADIENT, GRAY, GROUP4, GV, H, HALD, HDR, HISTOGRAM, HRZ, HTM, HTML, HTTP, HTTPS, ICB, ICO, ICON, IIQ, INFO, INLINE, IPL, ISOBRL, ISOBRL6, J2C, J2K, JBG, JBIG, JNG, JNX, JP2, JPC, JPE, JPEG, JPG, JPM, JPS, JPT, JSON, K25, KDC, LABEL, M2V, M4V, MAC, MAGICK, MAP, MASK, MAT, MATTE, MEF, MIFF, MKV, MNG, MONO, MOV, MP4, MPC, MPEG, MPG, MRW, MSL, MSVG, MTV, MVG, NEF, NRW, NULL, ORF, OTB, OTF, PAL, PALM, PAM, PANGO, PATTERN, PBM, PCD, PCDS, PCL, PCT, PCX, PDB, PDF, PDFA, PEF, PES, PFA, PFB, PFM, PGM, PICON, PICT, PIX, PJPEG, PLASMA, PNG, PNG00, PNG24, PNG32, PNG48, PNG64, PNG8, PNM, PPM, PREVIEW, PS, PS2, PS3, PSB, PSD, PTIF, PWP, RADIAL-GRADIENT, RAF, RAS, RAW, RGB, RGBA, RGBO, RGF, RLA, RLE, RMF, RW2, SCR, SCREENSHOT, SCT, SFW, SGI, SHTML, SIX, SIXEL, SPARSE-COLOR, SR2, SRF, STEGANO, SUN, SVG, SVGZ, TEXT, TGA, THUMBNAIL, TIFF, TIFF64, TILE, TIM, TTC, TTF, TXT, UBRL, UBRL6, UIL, UYVY, VDA, VICAR, VID, VIFF, VIPS, VST, WBMP, WEBP, WMF, WMV, WPG, X3F, XBM, XC, XCF, XPM, XPS, XV, YCbCr, YCbCrA, YUV

Directive	Local Value	Master Value
imagick.locale_fix	0	0
imagick.progress_monitor	0	0
imagick.skip_version_check	0	0

Imagick is infamous for problematic installations. Make sure that your module and Imagemagick files match. A common problem that can be seen with phpinfo() is that the module has been loaded but that it has 0 (zero) ImageMagick supported formats (see above how it should look like). In that case the module is correctly loaded but the connection with the ImageMagick application doesn't work correctly. Sometimes restarting your computer helps.

Imagick under Linux

Installing Imagick under Linux can be just as problematic as under Windows. Quite a lot can be found on the internet but it is often not clear how package and version specific these are.

One sequence that seemed to work under Ubuntu was:

apt-get install ImageMagick

apt-get install php5-imagick

if you get an error about a missing "MagickWand API configuration file" you should also run "apt-get install libmagickwand-dev"

19.4   Image Preprocess

Image preprocess allows you to process images before you upload them to the shop. It is a primitive kind of mass edit for images.

You start by putting the source images in the tmp subdirectory of Prestools. The results are generated in the tmp2 subdirectory. This allows you to experiment. Always check the resulting images whether each of them is ok.

The most simple functions add or remove **margins** from the images. It is an easy way to get more or less margin around your images or to move them up or down inside their space.

Next comes **trim**. It cuts each of the four sides until the border of the subject of the image. The function has three variables that you can manipulate to get the function to work for your image. The trimcolor is the average backgroundcolor. It combines with the margin to determine whether a pixel is part of the background or start of the main subject. The algoritm works by scanning all pixels of one row (or column) starting from the side – moving towards the center. When it finds a row with pixels that are not background it concludes that this is the start of the main subject and takes this as the position of the trim for that side. As images are often dirty and contain random deviating pixels one non-background pixel is considered not enough. The number used is determined in the third variable: the bitcount threshold.
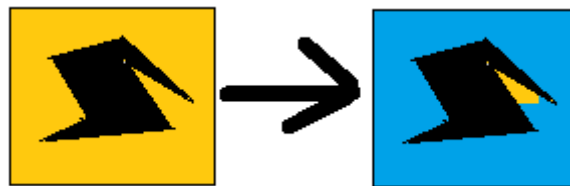
Finally there is **Clean Background**. It starts with a trim – but instead of cutting the sides it fills the space with a background color. Next it starts from each side and looks for each pixel row and column for the transition from background to foreground. This is a rather rude process that leaves out enclosed background and also background that cannot directly been reached from one of the side (see image above). You can set one variable – the tolerance. If you put it too low some of the background will not be cleaned. If you put it too high you will get lines in the background color through your image.

19.5   Image Overview

This function gives an overview of all the product pictures in your shop – ordered by image id. It is meant for quality control. You can choose the image size. Clicking the image will bring you to the base image (like 123.jpg). Clicking the name will bring you to the product page.

image id	src	cart_default 48x48	small_default 75x75	medium_default 129x129	home_default 293x293	large_default 394x394
		48x48	75x75	129x129	293x293	394x394
182	821x821	48x48	75x75	129x129	293x293	394x394
183	684x684	48x48	75x75	129x129	293x293	394x394
184	684x684	48x48	75x75	129x129	293x293	394x394
187	550x550	48x48	75x75	129x129	293x293	394x394

At the bottom of the formats you find an option "sizes". This gives you an overview of all sizes of all product images. It allows you to find too big and too small base images and to see that all derived images are present and that they have the right format. The latter is specially of interest after you have switched to another theme.

19.6   Image Cleanup

Delete images without product checks for images that are no longer used and empty image directories. It works in two steps. In the first step unused images and directories are collected. You can then review them and click in the second stage to delete them. A backup of the images will be saved in the image\archive directory. The deletion itself is a paid plugin.

You may also want to delete image formats of valid images that are no longer used – for example because they belonged to a previous template. This is in the free part of the software. You can do that in Image Regenerate by setting the checkbox "delete unused". The software will force you to check at least one image format – but that is just a small nuisance. Be careful with HiRes images: some templates create HiRes image formats that aren't registered in the Prestashop database. These will be deleted by this procedure.

20 Category-edit

Category-Edit shows you all your categories on one page. The categories are standard sorted the way they are displayed in the webshop.

The main use of category edit is for SEO. It gives you an overview of all your meta data and descriptions within one single page.

There are some statistics fields that show you how many products and sub-categories a category has. You can use this for quality control to find categories with products or with too few of them.

When you click the category id it will bring you to the backoffice edit page for this categpry. This will only work when you have provided the correct relative path to the backoffice in the header. By default "../" is provided. That will work when you made Prestools a subdirectory of the admin directory.

The category name can be clicked. It will bring you to the category page as it is shown in your webshop.

There are two fields to select a subset of the categories. The text search will look in the names and the descriptions for a substring. In the id's field you can provide a list of id's and id ranges. You can also a tree of categories by putting "s" behind the number (like "123s").

As there are seldom questions about this script it is a bit underdeveloped compared to the other scripts.

21 Category Tree

This function is very similar to Prestashop's Sitemap. It provides as an extra information on how many products a category contains and how many of those are active. That makes it easier to weed out empty and nearly empty categories.

22 Customer Search

Customer search is closely related to Order Search (see below). It allows you to search for customers on a huge number of variables.

An important feature of Customer Search is that it allows you to export csv files that you use for your marketing.

23 Customer CSV Mix

Customer CSV Mix allows you to combine CSV customer csv files such as you might have exported with Customer Search. You can also subtract files to exclude a group of customers.

24 Orders

24.1 Order validity and other pitfalls

An important Prestashop concept regarding orders is validity – as indicated by the "valid" field in the ps_orders table. It shows in the backoffice in the orders page as a green background behind the amount.

Valid can be roughly translated as paid. As such you can interpret it in Prestools and Prestashop statistics.

However, Prestashop is no bookkeeping program and it is your responsibility to make sure that those terms indeed overlap. Small shops sometimes put Bankwire orders on Shipped while they have never been on Paid. As they don't ship without payment it may clear to them. However, the valid flag will still be false. On the other hand some software misconfigurations may cause unpaid Bankwire orders to be set as "valid".

Prestashop knows "refunds" and "returns". You can always declare a refund with a button above the status field on the order's page and the return can be anything up to a products price. A refund is connected to either a product or the shipping cost. Returns on the other hand are by default disabled. You need to enable them on the Orders->Returns page. In contrast to refunds returns always refund the full product price and you can set that the product(s) are added to the stock again. Order totals are not corrected for returns and it is easy to overlook them.

An order has only one insert and one update date. Keep that in mind when an order is made on 31 December and you edit the order the next day to add some products.

24.2 Order-edit

Order-edit offers you the possibility to add and remove products from orders.

The main limitation of Prestools order editing is that it doesn't handle discounts when you add a product. If the original order contained a discounted price that price will be applied no matter how the quantity changes. And if a new product is added to the order it will have no discount – with the exception of group discounts. So you will need to add discounts yourself.

product id	attrib	Product Reference	Product Name	Base Price	Discount	Group Reducl	Unit price no tax	Tax	Unit Price with tax	Qty	Total no tax	Total tax inc.	Weight	Image	Delete
1885	485		Droste letter melk 135 gram - Letter : A	2.594300 inc 2.83	●pct ○amt Tax ●in ○ex 0.00	0.00	2.594300	9.00%	2.83	1	2.59	2.83	0.00		
1885	488		Droste letter melk 135 gram - Letter : D	2.594300 inc 2.83	●pct ○amt Tax ●in ○ex 0.00	0.00	2.594300	9.00%	2.83	1	2.59	2.83	0.00		

The image above shows how order-edit looks in the latest versions. The three darker colored fields deal with discounts. You can change the base price and the discount. Javascript takes care that the relationship between the field is always correct.

When you change an order after a payment has been made you will need to enter an extra payment to make up the difference. With unpaid bankwire orders this may not be the desired outcome: instead of two bills you may prefer to send one – with the new amount. You can achieve this by checking the "update payment" checkbox that appears with those orders above the "verbose" checkbox.

Check your invoices: without an extra payment or the "update payment" check the amounts mentioned in the left margin of the invoice will reflect the old amount.

The discount, wrapping and shipping costs at the global level (at the top of the form) are including VAT. This can result in some special effects when the discount is the result of a cart rule excluding VAT: the VAT percentage of a global order discount is the average VAT of your products. So when you change the composition of your products the average VAT may change and in that case the discount with VAT will stay the same while the discount excl. VAT will change.

With Prestashop 1.6 and Thirty Bees you might use Advanced Stock Management. This may bring some complications as Order-edit doesn't support all aspects of it:

 - One issue is that for ASM it matters whether an order is shipped or not: Order-edit assumes that an order has been made but is not yet shipped. So when you might make changes to an order that already shipped you will need to make additional changes in the database.

 - Another issue concerns split orders. When an order concerns products from several warehouses it will be split in the backoffice so that each warehouse can mark that its part of the product has been sent. Order-edit won't do this order splitting.

24.3 Order list for EU tax

In the EU webshops of downloadable products (like Prestools;)) need to report for VAT taxes for every EU member. This page provides a nice overview for that purpose. Also useful for people who wants an overview of their international sales.

In order to save space the orders for the home country are not displayed.

24.4   Order Search

Which customers bought product A? Which orders have been placed by customer X? What did we sell in New York? Who are our best customers? How many of our customers use carrier X? This search interface provides you with easy answers to such questions.

Language: English (English) ▾ Shop: all shops ▾   Verzenden
    Period (yyyy-mm-dd):   till   DESC ▾   ☐ Export as CSV
        ⦿ all customers ○ new only ○ old only   Separator ⦿ ; ○   **Order statuses**
    Startrec: 0   Nr of recs: 100   Sort by date ▾   ☐ verbose   ☑ orderstate 0
            All carriers ▾   All payoptions ▾   valid ▾   ☑ Awaiting check payment
                                                                          ☑ Payment accepted*
    ☐ Show deleted addresses   ☐ List mode   ☑ Canceled
Find [   ] and [   ] and [   ]   ☑ Payment error
    in main fields ▾   in main fields ▾   in main fields ▾   ☑ Awaiting bank wire payment

Your search delivered 1 records. 1 displayed.

Order	Reference	Delivery	Invoice	Ship nr	Cust id	John DOE	2019-06-04 Tue 13:07:48	Tot 69.90 Ex 69.90	ProdsWT 69.90	Shipping 0.00	Wrapping 0.00	Payment accepted Payment by check	0	My carrier
2	OHSATSERP	0	1		1									

John DOE My Company 16, Main street 2nd floor 33133 Miami Florida United States 0102030405 pub@prestashop.com
OTHER-Mon adresse: John DOE My Company 16, Main street 2nd floor 75002 Paris France 0102030405
Show products

Note that standard only valid orders are displayed. If you want to see all orders (including the cancelled and those not yet paid) you should select "all" instead of valid.

If you sort by customers or best customers it takes the most recently made orders in the selected period. So if you had 200 order in March and left the Nr of recs at the default 100 you will only see the orders from the second half of march – sorted by customer.

Standard there is a block like in the image for each order. If you want a more compact view there is List Mode that shows one line per order.

24.5   Category Revenue

The statistics in the backoffice provide an overview too of what you sold of each category. But this overview is faster and more flexible.

24.6   Sold Products

Period (yyyy-mm-dd): [   ] till [   ]   Verzenden   **Order statuses**
                                                            ☐ Export as CSV   ☐ orderstate 0
Find [All ▾] [   ]   Separator ⦿ ; ○   ☐ Awaiting che
                                                                               ☐ Canceled
sort by: [sales ▾] [DESC ▾] Shop: ☐ verbose   ☐ Payment err
[All shops ▾]   ☐ Awaiting ban

☐ ean ☐ upc ☐ reference ☐ suppl.ref

Startrec: [0]   Number of recs: [1000]

0 (of 0) ordered products shown for period: - for all shops

id	Attr	Name	category	Quant	p.price	Sales	Sales/tax	orders

An overview of sales per product. Just like with the previous page, these statistics can also be found in the backoffice. But this overview is faster and more flexible. And you can export the values in a csv file.

You can specify a period, the desired order statuses and specific products or categories. Optional you can add a few fields such as the barcodes and references. There is also an option to export the list as a csv file.

24.7 Shipping Costs

An overview of the shipping methods and costs in your shop.

24.8 Sales Graphs

This option gives you some visual insight in the performance of your shop.
At the moment there are 6 graphs available:
- Quarterly and year-on-year shows the sales over the entire life of your shop.
- Hour-of-the-week shows you which among the 168 hours of a week are busiest in a certain period.
- With 40-days you can compare the last 40 days with a similar period in selected previous years.
- Year-weeks and Year-months shows you resp. the weekly and monthly sales for selected years.

There are options to open the graph in a new window and to export it as a png. You can also define larger formats than the standard 640x320px.

25 Customizations

This gives a list of products that allow customizations. When you choose a product it will show all the orders for that product and the chosen customization.

26 Utilities

This page provides a list of popular functions that don't apply to all shops but can be handy when you need them:
- Deactivate products with stock of 0 or lower
- Activate products that are in stock
- Deactivate manufacturers without active products
- Activate manufacturers with active products
- Index product(s)
- Show search words for product

- Give one product id for which you want to see the search terms in the database:
- Show search words
- Analyze keyword id's
- Edit SEO strings

Most commands will speak for themselves. Index product(s) allows you to (re)index a product no matter whether it is already indexed at that moment and no matter how many other unindexed products there are. Analyze keyword id's may come in useful when you want to understand the verbose output of product indexation.

Do not use these utilities blindly. Look what fits for your shop.

27 Cleanup

Another set of useful functions. These are specially useful for older shops that have gone through lots of changes. This will help to keep your shop mean and lean.
- Empty cache
- Delete abandoned carts older than
- Delete old connections
- Delete connections older than
- Remove deleted languages
- Remove deleted shops info
- Cleanup deleted product info
- Check and repair image covers
- Check for zero prices
- Delete expired specific prices
- Delete expired vouchers
- Delete expired catalog rules
- Cleanup search index
- Delete unused keywords
- Regenerate friendly urls for products and categories
- Delete unused entries in category_product table

Remove zero id's is specially directed at partially broken shops. Many items like products, images and orders have auto-increment id's. However, due to faulty restoring of databases those auto-increment settings sometimes disappear – what makes the shop unusable. It can also happen that bugs in the code turn id's into a zero. This procedure removes those zero id's.

28 Integrity Checks

This function checks the integrity of your database as far as it concerns your business data (mainly products and categories). Problems found here can affect the functioning of your shop. When your shop experiences problems running integrity checks is a good place to start. Combining the data here with data from the error log is often enlightening.

To work safely with this functionality the following is recommended:

- Work from top to bottom. The product trinity (ps_product, ps_product_lang and ps_product_shop) should be ok before you look whether lower level tables like images are correct.

- Check some products to see how the reported database problem works out in your shop.
- After you have fixed something check the affected products.
- If you see large numbers of some type of problem, check for the cause. It can be some faulty import or migration. It can also be some kind of tool or module that doesn't work correctly. Finally it can be some module that changes the database structure for its own benefit. In the last case you obviously don't want to "fix" the database and you may even consider changing the code of Integrity Checks to avoid accidental "fixing".

Note that – specially in bigger shops – this page can take some time to load.

The "light" problems can be addressed by clicking the links and making changes in the product. You also find some functions for that purpose at the bottom of the page. For the "more serious" problems it offers both an option to repair and an option to delete problem products.

In this context the PSCleaner module (TBCleaner for Thirty Bees) should be mentioned. It checks for a much wider range of problems. But it rigorously and automatically deletes every problematic product or feature and provides a very summary report on what it has done. Unfortunately it doesn't support multishop. Both Prestashop and Thirty Bees no longer encourage its use.

The next option looks for missing indexes. As the index-structure changes a lot over Prestashop versions this take a conservative approach on reporting problems. It uses a reference file with the structure of a fresh PS 1.6.1.23. You can build your own reference file with the command "setindexreference.php?alpha=Gamma" - this should be done with a fresh copy of the same PS version or a reference version of your shop. In that case you can easily adapt the code to report in more detail about the differences (just delete "continue;"...).

The possible problematic values shows you potential problems. An example is visibility. This value determines whether the product can be found by search in your shop and/or by browsing through categories. The usual value is 'both'. It is perfectly legal to fill in other values. However, often this was done while experimenting and/or without understanding what it means. And then one day people start wondering why they can't find a product…

Character set and collation cause seldom problems. You have two character sets: utf8 and utf8mb4. The latter is preferable and both Prestashop and Thirty Bees now use it. However, the average user will at most find that some icons won't work under utf8. One side effect is that utf8 uses three bytes and utf8mbt4 four. That can cause problems when the key of a database table is a string as Mysql has a maximum length for keys. This is the reason why in the ps_alias table the string length has been reduced from 255 to 191.

Collation has two options too: general and Unicode. The latter is the best. Collation is about searching and comparing. In some languages there is more than one way (=utf code) to represent a certain character. The Unicode collation is better at seeing those options as the same. Disadvantage is that when you convert from general to Unicode you may encounter in rare cases a duplicate key error. The most likely place where this can happen is the ps_search_word table. The solution is simple: you can empty and regenerate this table.

Automatic repairing in the latest versions resets the indexed flag – forcing you to re-index the involved products. It also updates the date_upd field of the ps_product_shop and ps_category_shop

records. That makes it easy to see all the changed products together: just sort them descending on date_upd.

Integrity repair doesn't solve all problems. Some problems you will need to solve yourself, for example when product have no or an invalid tax group.

At the bottom the page shows a set of quick fixes.

Automatic repairing has its limits. For example, disconnected categories are placed under the home category. But their original place could have been somewhere else. Also, incomplete products may be the result of failed deletions. In that case you don't want to place them back. Repaired products or categories may be not active – and thus invisible for the visitor. So it is recommended that you manually check the results.

However, these limits should not stop from repairing. Repairing can restore valid products and thus bring in extra sales. Defect products can cause all kinds of errors in Prestashop. They also may be visible on some places of the backoffice but not on the front side (or opposite).

See also "autoincrement info" under Shop Rescue. When you enable the optional "integrity checks" there you will see such checks for all autoincrement id's. However, that function doesn't offer repair options.

29 Shop Rescue

In the course of time Prestools has collected quite a few functions that might help to fix your webshop.

At the top of the page you see some basic information about your shop: which theme, which database and which php.ini file.

29.1   Configuration flags

In the first block you can change a number of flags in the configuration table.

Field	shopgroup	shop	Value			Comment
PS_SHOP_ENABLE	NULL	NULL	No ○	● Yes	7	Enable shop
PS_REWRITING_SETTINGS	NULL	NULL	No ○	● Yes	7	Friendly url
PS_ALLOW_ACCENTED_CHARS_URL	NULL	NULL	No ●	○ Yes	7	Accented url

The first line gives the name with which the option is stored in the ps_configuration table. This table can have different settings for each shop and shop group but for the settings that we are dealing with here you will normally want to set both to NULL so that all are covered. If there are already shop or shop group specific settings in this table they be will shown too and you can change them too.

In the value column you can set a new value. The underlined value is the value that you will find in a fresh standard (English) Prestashop installation. In the next column you can submit changes.

The final column shows the text with which you will find this option in the backoffice of an English installation.

In case of trouble with your shop that makes it hard to get in I recommend the following (in this order):

- clear the cache
- disable overrides and non-Prestashop modules
- switch off the ccc options
- switch off Apache ModSec

29.2 Reset cacheflags

Prestashop maintains cache flags in the product tables that check whether a product has attachments and what its default attribute is. This function will check and correct those values. Use it when you see unexplainable problems with attributes.

29.3 Delete Prestashop Cookies

This will delete all Prestashop cookies on the computer from which you are running Prestools.

29.4 Look for zerolength files

One cause of trouble is zero-length files. This can be the reason why you suddenly get an error that some class is not found.

29.5 Server settings

Check here whether your server (Apache and PHP) modules and settings are compatible with Prestashop.

Note that your shop may run perfectly well without all settings being as required. It is very well possible that the requirements are for functions that you don't use.

29.6 Database version check

This produces a list of Prestashop versions and a check whether the installation matches. This mainly is for service providers who are confronted with shops that have been upgraded in an improper way. Note that this is a very rude way to check and not always correct.

29.7 Excess tables and fields

This function compares your database to that of a fresh shop. The excess tables and fields – that are likely installed by modules – are shown.

29.8 Database calibrate

This function compares your database to another database. You are recommended to choose a fresh database

29.9 Compare configs

This button opens a separate page. You can select there two with export files from the configuration in your database. You can also compare with the table from your present shop
The purpose is to quickly compare two settings.

29.10   Restore database and files

When you try to upgrade your shop with Prestashop's 1-click autoupgrade module it by default first creates a backup. Unfortunately it is often impossible to restore this backup. This function restores the backupped database to a new database.

It also offers the option to restore the files to the tmp2 subdirectory of Prestools. From there you can move them elsewhere.

29.11   Autoincrement info

This function provides three tables:

- The first one shows the autoincrement values of all tables that use that function.
- The second looks in other tables whether they contain values that go above the auto-increment maximum. When for example the highest id_product in ps_product is 1234 it looks in other tables that use id_product – like ps_product_attribute – whether they contain values higher than 1234.
- The third table – that is only shown when explicitly enabled – functions like an extended version of the Integrity Checks: for all tables that use an autoincremented field it checks that their values are present in its base table. Unlike Integrity Checks there are no options to repair here. As the lists can be long you can as the start of each line collapse or expand it. There are also "collapse all" and "expand all" buttoms

29.12   Unique maker

In old shops sometimes some unique indexes have been deleted and re-imposing them is impossible because doing so will produce a duplicate key error. This function allows you to see which values are double and to delete those doubles.

29.13   Filter PHP error log

PHP error logs are usually full of repeated messages about the same bug. This function compresses such logs by maintaining only the most recent version of a message and deleting all older versions.

29.14   Which carriers belong to this cart?

"No carriers" is a common problem with webshops. And the number of variables involved makes that it is often a hard to solve problem on the forum. This function makes it easier both to check for yourself and to produce text that can be copied to the forum to accompany your question.

30 Export

On this page you find a few export functions. These can be used to compare different installations:

- Export File tree allows you to get a file list that can be compared with a similar list from a localhost version of the same shop. There are several option, for example to exclude the image directory.
- Export category tree
- Export table list give you an overview of your database tables.

31 Search Statistics

Shop Search offers an overview of the search terms that have been used by the customers in your shop.

If you click on a search term you see in the right column how often it was clicked on every day.

The results fields is supposed to tell how many results this query term produces. As this statistic from the Prestashop table is very unreliable you can check for yourself the results by clicking on the head of the right column.

32 Discount Overview

Discount Overview gives you an overview of all the discounts that are active in your shop. Useful when you forgot which discounts you had offered.

33 IP Addresses

This page gives an overview of the which ip addresses are visiting your shop the most and – if known – where they come from.

34 Module Info and Compare

This page gives an overview of the modules in your shop. It shows the active/inactive/uninstalled and deleted ones that are still in the database. It also provides a list of the hooks to which a module is connected. There are many options to filter.

When you select a hook you will see some additional information about it. See the example below:

We see here that the hook displayHeader has 77 modules linked. It can sometimes be found in template as HOOK_HEADER. This hook has an id_hook with the value 10. According to the database it has the title "Pages header" and the description "This hook displays additional elements in the header of your pages". Finally it is found in the alias table that it sometimes called just "header". Note that hook names are not case sensitive

There is also the possibility to compare the hooks of two webshops. This can be of use when you have two shops: one is doing something ok and the other not. You start by pressing the Export button in shop A. This creates a "moduleshook.csv" file in your download directory. Then you go to Module Info in shop B, select this file to import and then click on the Compare button. In the resulting window standard only the those modules are shown that differ in some way. But the option buttons at the top contain an option to see all modules. This will also show differences in module versions.

statspersonalinfos				displayAdminStatsModules	2.0.2
statsproduct	PrestaShop	2.0.3	AdminStatsModules	displayAdminStatsModules	2.0.3
statsregistrations				displayAdminStatsModules	2.0.0
statssales	PrestaShop	2.0.0	AdminStatsModules	displayAdminStatsModules	2.0.0
statssearch	PrestaShop	2.0.1	AdminStatsModules actionSearch	actionSearch displayAdminStatsModules	2.0.1
statsstock	PrestaShop	2.0.0	AdminStatsModules	displayAdminStatsModules	2.0.0
statsvisits	PrestaShop	2.0.3	AdminStatsModules	displayAdminStatsModules	2.0.2
			displayHeader actionOutputHTMLBefore		

Above is part of the output of such a comparison. The first mentioned module (statspersonalinfos) is not present in the present shop but it is in the imported shop. The missing part is greyed out. The module statssearch is present in both shops, but its use of hooks is different. In both shops it uses the hook actionsearch (shown in white). Both have also another hook, but those are different – as indicated by the colored background. Of module statsvisits the two shops have different versions. This too is indicated by a colored background.

As mentioned there are aliases for hook names. These are often discarded names from older Prestashop versions. When you compare the modules and hooks of two shops the comparison is corrected for the aliases: the names of the shops on which you run the comparison are leading.

If you have two shops and some module works only in one of them the problem is often in the hooks and this tool can help you to find the differences.

Another use is when you are setting up a new shop that should replace an existing one. This way you won't forget to install one of your modules.

35 Override List

This option shows you the overrides in your webshop. Not all of them may be active. To each override it adds a list of modules that may have installed it.

As mentioned on the page, Prestools is not capable of making connections with 100% certainty. However, given that many instability problems are caused by overrides and that it is not always clear from which module those overrides come, this can help you solve problems in your webshop.

To find sources for the override Prestools can use four different methods. The easiest methods look only under the modules directory for files with the same name as the override file. The more advanced methods ("heavy" and "extra heavy") search all files in the modules, override and theme directory for function and variable names. The difference between the latter two is that "heavy" does this only for overrides for which no source was found with the "medium" method while "extra

heavy" does it for all modules. That can be useful when an override file contains functions for several modules.

Sometimes the overrides are an exact copy of the file of a module. In such cases that is shown by printing the name of the module file in bold.

You can choose whether you want to view or download the main files. The default is view.

The first column is the override.

The second and third columns – taken together in (extra)heavy mode – show the modules that might be the source of the override. In (extra)heavy mode they show all the modules and files calling an override's functions or variables. For each module a maximum of one file is shown. Behind the labels ov: (=override directory) and th: (theme directory) you can find more than one star linking to a compare page.

The fourth column is the file that is overridden. Note that its path is not always the same as that of the override file.

The fifth column contains a list of all overridden function plus always a "header". Behind the function names you may find stars. If you move the mouse over them you see the name of a module file that contains this function and may be its source. If you click such a star you will come on a compare page where this module file is compared with the override file. The override file is always at the right side. When you click a function name you will see the override file compared to the overridden file.

At the top of the compare page you find all the function names of the override. Function names that are not present in the file with which the page compares it are printed in Italic. Function names that are on both sides the same are in bold. The comparison function ignores spacing and comments. The function that you clicked last is shown with a yellow background on both sides.

When functions are different it can be hard to see what is different. The checkbox in the topbar takes care of that. If shows the code of the two functions without linefeeds. At the point where the differences start they get a grey background. You will see four times the same function. The latter two contain comments.

Of course it is also possible that an override belongs to a module that has been deleted. So in case of doubt you should open an override file. Many – but not all – of them contain some commenting text that tells to which module they belong. If the script find such a note the module name is shown striken through and with a grey background.

Note that there can be only one override for a function. So when two modules want to override the same file you will need to manually combine those overrides. If you aren't aware of this the later override will overwrite the first and cause it to malfunction.

For Thirty Bees there is a module with similar functionality.

36 Server Shop List

This function is for service providers with many Prestashop installations on their server. It gives a quick overview of the main properties of all those installations. If you have many installations this function can take quite some time to start up. However, a lot of JavaScript functionality allows you to explore information on the fly.

At the top there is a module selector that allows you to see quickly which shops use a specific module and which version. Another selector does the same for ps_configuration table entries. The two pictures below show what you can expect. As the table is quite wide I have cut it in two parts. Note that for a PS 1.4 shop only the basics are shown:

database	version	pre	b.o.lang	ASM	rounding	modules	id	sg	name	url
dream	1.5.5.0	ps_	nl	0	????-halfup	68	1	1	Dreamtest	localhost/_dream/
ps149	1.4.9.0	ps_	en		????-halfup		X			
ps1614clean	1.6.0.14	ps_	nl	0	line-halfup	272	1	1	Cleany clanny	localhost/_ps1614clean/
							2	1	Lopez	
							3	2cos	Bittner	
							4	2cos	Zure Vlinders	
ps1742	1.7.4.2	ps_	nl	0	line-halfup	57	1	1	Topsnoep1742.nl	localhost/_ps1742/
tb110	TB1.1.0	tb_	nl	0	line-halfup	104	1	1	Grootgrutter	localhost/_tb110/

theme	langs	currencies	products	orders	s.prices	vouchers	catrules
CakeShop	nl	EUR,USD	7/7	0	1	0	0
default-bootstrap	en,nl	GBP	4/4	0	2	0	0
panda	en,nl	EUR	4868/3251	5923	73	61	0
default-bootstrap	en,nl	EUR	2/2	0	2	0	0
default-bootstrap	en,nl	EUR	5/5	0	2	0	0
classic	nl,pt,en	EUR	20/19	0	2	0	0
HT1028	ar,en,he,nl	EUR,ILS	1687/1225	9926	0	3	0

This function must be enabled in the Settings1.php file by setting $allow_server_shoplist to true.

37 Retrieve backup database

It is recommended to make your own copy of the files and backup of the database and not to rely on the backup of the update process. However, many people don't know that and regularly reports appear from people who had a failed upgrade and then found out that restoring the old version fails too. What doesn't help is that Prestashop stores its database backup in a bunch of .bz2 files that aren't easy to process. And it is often the database retrieval that goes wrong.

This function solves that by offering you the option to retrieve the database backup towards an empty database. Of course you will still need to connect your data to that database. As Prestools is not dependent on the functioning of your website this should even then work when the failed restore has disabled your back office.

When a shop is longer active the database can grow very big due to statistics. This function offers the options to skip the restoration of those statistics.

To give you yet more flexibility there is an option to keep the unzipped backup files (.sql) in the tmp subdirectory of your Prestools directory.

38 Tips and tricks

In this section common problems and their solutions are listed

38.1   Customize your product-edit

The standard product-edit page shows some 55 fields from which you can choose - while you may just use 5. This is a lot of clutter and it makes it hard to find the field you want. However, you can customize this in the Settings1.php file so that you just see what you need.

38.2   Switching to ASM

In paragraph 3.2 under 3.2 ("The fields (sorted by fieldname)") you will find under Stockflags how you can switch products from standard stock keeping to ASM (advanced stock management). In contrast to Prestashop – that resets all quantities to zero - Prestools will keep your quantities.

38.3   VAT Change

Occasionally countries change their VAT rate. And often you want to keep the prices for the consumer the same – what means that you need to change all the prices without VAT a bit. This can be easily done with Prestools.

Take as example the situation where the VAT rate changes from 20% to 19%. Now you want to raise your prices a bit so that the price with VAT stays the same. So you need to multiply all prices with 120/119. You can use the Prestools mass edit edit function "increase%" for that but that requires a bit of math. Old/new = 120/119 = 1.0084034. So the increase (subtract 1) in percent (*100) is 0.84034. That is the value you should insert in mass edit. Be as accurate as possible. The above example works better with more digits like 0.84033613.

Start with one product to make sure that you have your math right. Change your VAT rate in Prestashop. Now select in Prestools all products that have that VAT rate and use the mass edit function "increase%" to edit their price. As you already increased the VAT you should see the correct prices with VAT appear so that you immediate visual control.

In Prestools you cannot simultaneously change the VAT and the price. To get around that you should use some field that you don't use for the shop. I like to use online_only. First I set the new VAT and simultaneously I switch on online_only. Then I search on online_only and in the resulting rows I change the price and also set online_only back to unchecked.

When products have attributes that carry a price those need to be changed too. You can best do that in ProdCombi.

38.4 You don't need to submit for listing and csv export

Say you have 10,000 products and you want to export them in a csv file. Displaying 10,000 on screen will take forever and probably fail due to a timeout. But you don't have to. When you click the Export csv button or the List Products button it looks at what the fields in the header contain on that moment. So it is perfectly possible to have 100 products on screen and export a csv with 10,000.

38.5 Updating combination prices with many combinations

Say you sell computers and you have attributes like harddisks, memory sizes and processor. Now the price of some processor changes and you want to change that in the webshop. But you have a few dozen combinations with that processor for your product.

In that case you can use the third line of combi-edit.php to select only those combinations with that processor. After that you can use mass update.

An alternative is offered by Combi Pricer.

38.6 Going back to default

The title of most pages can be clicked. This will bring you back to a page where all settings are default. Often clicking this title is the fastest way to set things back to default before you start the next job.

38.7 Cleaning up images

For cleaning images with Prestools you need to buy a plugin. However, even without plugin you can do some cleaning in two ways. First of all it shows you which images are no longer used and you can erase them manually. Besides that there is the issue of old image formats: when you changed at some point your template it is quite likely that the new template uses different formats. However, if it uses different naming conventions the old formats will stay on your server. Image-generate has an option to delete them.

38.8 Products with(out) suppliers (or carriers, etc)

As you may have noticed the standard way to get all products with a certain feature, attribute, carrier or supplier is to select that in the selectbox and then to leave the text field for what you search empty.

So if you want to have all products that don't have a supplier or don't have a value for a certain feature you should invert the query. To do that you should replace the argument (normally "in") with "!in" or "!=".

As some people find this confusing it may be that that logic is inverted in the future.

38.9   Removing SSL

You have a nice website running on SSL and you download a copy to your computer. And then you find that you can't login because there is no SSL on your localhost. Many people will recognize this scenario.

Prestools offers a solution. As Prestools runs outside the Prestashop engine it isn't hindered by this dilemma. And in the menu option Shop Rescue you can change the setting for some flags – including those for SSL.

38.10   Discounts for product combinations

There are two ways to achieve discounts for specific product combinations in Prestools:

One way is with product-edit. You can only specify that the discount is combination specific when you make the discount. This field cannot be changed later on. Also you need to fill in the id_product_attribute number: there is no nice overview of the attribute values. You can look those values up on the combi-edit page if you want.

The other approach is with Prodcombi. In that case you need to click in the header the "extra field" discount. After you get an extra field where you can add or modify a discount for that specific combination.

38.11   Solving Prestashop csv import problems

Many people have trouble importing csv files. Surprisingly often the problem is not in their import file but in their existing data. For some reason this is checked too and some unbalanced html (for example a <div> without a closing </div>) in an existing description can be enough to stop your import.

When Prestools submits descriptions it automatically balances the html. There is also a mass edit function with that purpose. When you make description editable and run the mass edit function you will see those description marked as changed (by the grey background) and after you submit them the problem will be solved.

38.12   Missing indexes and auto-increments

Sometimes Prestashop installations have all the data but they lack some of the database indexes and/or auto-increments. This can cause serious problems.

The most common scenario where this happens is with exports and imports using phpMyAdmin (some other exports – for example the Prestashop backup during the upgrade – don't have this porblem). An export by phpMyAdmin stores the indexes and auto-increments separately. So when you import such an export file it will first create all tables and import their content. Then it will do the same for all indexes and thenfor all auto-increments. So it will go three times from A till Z.

What often happens is that the import ends in a timeout. People then check the tables, see that the last table (usually ps_zone_shop) is there and conclude that everything is finished while in fact some of the indexes or auto-increments were not implemented.

The most obvious problem that a lack of auto-increment causes is zero value id's. When for example you enter a new product, you enter its name, price, etc, but you leave its id_product field empty. The

auto-increment functionality will automatically set that id to the next available number. But when id_product hasn't been set as an auto-increment field in the ps_product table it will get the value 0 instead. If you still had set the unique index for the id_poduct field that will result in an unique index violation once you enter a second product. If there wasn't an unique index you will get many product with the same zero id_product. Of course that will be a big mess.

There are some 140 auto-increment tables in a Prestashop installation. Most are seldom used but their potential for causing problems is the same. So if you see reports about missing indexes or auto-increments when you run Integrity Checks you should take that very seriously and repair it as soon as possible.

On the Cleanup page you will find a function to delete all the zero id's that have been created previously. This is necessary as multiple zeroes will create an unique index violation when you try to apply the index.

Fixing missing indexes or auto-increments is a matter of importing the part of export file that hadn't been processed. If such a file is no longer available you can use an export dump of a fresh Prestashop installation of the same version. Of course that can leave you with some module tables that need to be fixed in another way. It can be a bit of a challenge to find where exactly an import timed out, but the Integrity Checks will you that.

39 Advanced topics

39.1   Limitations of Prestools

A common restriction is the *max_input_vars* setting in the php.ini file of your server. That often limits the number of fields that can be submitted with a form to 1000. As that is also a problem with Prestashop translations you can find [many](#) [discussions](#) of how to solve this on the Prestashop forum

If you operate under the limit of 1000 input vars it means that when you have one editable field and a hidden variable (the product id) you can submit nearly 500 records at once. If you submit more the rest will be ignored. The last processed row may have had only a part of the new settings applied. You will not always get error messages for this problem so when in doubt you should always check whether the changes have been applied to all records. For product-edit there is a warning, but that uses an estimate of your server's limits. So it is not wise to try operating just below the margin.

The default setting is that you get the first 100 records displayed. This is a very safe limit. Usually you can display at least 1000 records before the display of the table becomes noticeably slower.

One person reported that his server went down due to too much httpd requests. If you encounter similar problems you should consider your configuration. A standard page with 100 products will bring requests for 100 images and a few other files. Things are even worse when your descriptions contain pictures and links to javascript files. So if this happens to you you should consider not showing pictures, showing the description only when really needed for editing or review, and showing less than the default 100 products.

Prestools supports most of the Prestashop functionality. But there are limits. The order-edit page contains an extensive list of situations that are not supported. In some cases – such as split orders –

this has to do with complexity. In other cases – such as discounts – this has to do with not redoing Prestashop's calculations. Remember that Prestools works outside the Prestashop engine and thus is not aware of modules that introduce alternative ways of calculating discounts. States form another problematic subject: some countries have taxes on both the state and the country level. Things get complicated with inter-state orders as the way they are handled is not always the same. If your shop deals with such complicated cases you are advised to test how Prestools deals with them first.

39.2   Translations

Prestools likes to work "close to the metal" and one of the ways to do that is by using the [English] names from the database as much as possible. So translations have not been a priority.

At the moment only product-edit has been made fit for translations. There is at the moment a Dutch translation that can be found in the file nl.php. If you want to make a translation for another language you are encouraged to use that file as a template. Keep track how your translations work out on the screen: too long translations may mess up the layout.

If you send me your translation files I will include them in the package so that other people can use them too. It will also give me an indication how much demand there is for translations – and how much priority should be given to making the rest of the software fit for translations.

39.3   Speeding things up

With Prestools Suite you can edit hundreds of records at once. To maximize speed only those lines that really have been changed – as you can see by their background color – and only those fields that you selected for editing are submitted.

For most operations you will find Prestools Suite sufficiently fast. But if you are processing hundreds of records at once you may experience that things are too slow for your taste.

When you display a product-edit with a few hundred records the main time consumer will be the images. So switching off the product images can save a considerable amount of time. More generally you can speed up by not including fields that you don't need.

Also – if a product is submitted – every field that was editable will be submitted – even if it was not modified. So you should take care to make only those fields editable that you really want to change. For the occasional changes – like when you find a typo in a description – you can use the product-solo feature that you can reach by clicking the product id.

On large databases the showing of some pages will become slower. For example, product-edit showing 100 products from a database with 350000 products took in a test 25 seconds under Windows (under Linux it would be a lot faster).

One thing to watch is inactive languages and shops. They consume lots of processing time as Prestashop keeps updating them. Inactive languages are the most problematic. Every time you update a product in Prestashop it updates all languages. Prestools updates only one language at a time (unless you use the extra languages option in product-edit) but that doesn't help that much as

the indexation still is done for all languages. With the latest versions Prestools restricts the indexation to the changed language for names and descriptions. But when for example the reference field is changed all languages need to be updated. The core of the problem is that the indexed flag – that signals that a product needs to be re-indexed - is in the ps_product_shop table. So it is not possible to flag that on the product_lang level.

39.4   Bug and Error reports

The main parts of Prestools have been around for a few years now and used by quite a few people. So it is quite solid. But no software is perfect and you may encounter some problem too with Prestools Suite. *User reports of such errors – and suggestions for improvement – are very welcome. They are opportunities to improve the software.*

Before you start writing a complaint you are kindly asked to upgrade to the latest version. Your problem may have been solved already and it would be a waste of your and my time to spend more time on it then.

Next you should make sure that javascript works correctly in your browser. Some security tools (anti-spam, anti-virus,anti-malware, etc) may restrict javascript too much and cause Prestools Suite to work in unintended ways. As this concerns the frontend you will notice the effects quickly and your data won't be affected. Try using another browser if you think you have this problem.

More difficult is that some hosting companies seem to reject any program outside Prestashop and just report "file not found" when you type the correct url. I haven't yet found out what causes this. Maybe a lack of execute rights.

Most bugs will affect only the front-end of Prestools as its back-end is rather short and simple. So - when in doubt: look whether your data are rendered correctly in the front-end. If they aren't, you have found a bug – but your data are still unchanged. Just don't press that submit button...

When you write an error report please be specific. If the problem seems in the backend you can do a submit with "verbose" switched on so that you can see – and report - database errors.

The next paragraph lists some common problems and their solution.

39.5   Known issues and common problems

If nothing is changed after you submit changes you should first refresh your page. Sometimes you saw just an old cached version of your data. The next step is to enable Verbose and to look at the code. Even if you are not a coder yourself you will notice the colored background and the fat printed error messages and warnings if there is something wrong. You can report those.

Users of the Safari browser may experience that some options in dropdown menu's don't work. Actually you were not supposed to see those options but due to a quirk in the Safari browser those options aren't hidden. (For the nerds: "display:none" doesn't work for option elements under Safari).

Prestools Suite uses the PHP MySQLi library. This is an extension to the standard mysql library that Prestashop uses. A few people have reported that this library was not by default installed on their hosting account. In that case you should contact your hosting provider. Be careful to install the right version of the library – compatible with the main MySQL library: specially MariaDb is sensitive for version differences. They cause a "Headers and client library minor version mismatch" error.

Some people have experienced problems with anti-spam/anti-malware software. For the techies: Prestools uses a lot of iframes where other software uses ajax and some anti-malware software considers that suspicious. Often the effect is that Prestool works once. After that javascript on the page is blocked or product-proc.php is renamed or deleted. If you experience this you should ask your hosting provider to add an exception to the anti-malware software that labels Prestools as safe. Prestools has in its settings a "supersafe" option that when set to true does not use iframes on the product-edit page. For some people this may help to overcome this type of these problems.

Sometimes every Prestools program gives a 404 error and even calling not existing files in the Prestools directory gives a 404. This has to do with file rights – they should be set to 755.

Some people have reported problems with the .htaccess file. If Prestools doesn't work after installation you might consider deleting this file. I am not sure what exactly causes this problem. Suggestions are welcome.

Prestashop installations ted to grow inconsistencies in the course of time. A product may for example not be present in the product_lang database and as a consequence invisible as there is no text to display. Or you may have combinations of which the product that they belonged to has been deleted. Often you won't notice such issues. Sometimes they gives problems in Prestashop but not in Prestools. And sometimes it is the other way around. Run the Prestools' Integrity Check function to check for (and if you want: repair) some of those database inconsistency problems.

If you don't see images in Prestools that you know are there it may be a Prestashop "feature". In newer versions (I noticed it in 1.7.3) Prestashop makes the different sizes of the image only when the product is looked at the first time In the front office.

Some caching modules may give problems with Prestools. This problem was noticed with Amazzing Filter Pro. It stores product information in one-line-per-product csv files under its module directory that are updated by overrides. As a result changes you make in Prestools will not be visible: disactivated products will stay visible and activated products will stay invisible. The only solution is to empty their cache and reindex all products in the backoffice part of the module.

Prestools assumes that you use VAT. Some effort has been made to have product-edit work when you have disabled tax. But other functions haven't been tested for this. Please let me know if you have some wishes in this respect.

39.6   Security

You can set username and password in the Settings1.php file. You can also set there the IP addresses from which Prestools Suite can be used.

However, no software is totally secure and for that reason we have an extra level of security: you are encouraged to store your files in a subdirectory of your admin directory. In Prestashop your admin directory is shielded from search engines – so that is an extra level of security. For that reason you should never publish your Admin or Prestools directory on the Prestashop forum.

39.7   How Prestools Suite got started and evolved

I started with Prestashop with version 1.4. One of the main problems I encountered was that orders couldn't be edited. There was an Orlique module on Addons for 89 euro and there was a free script written by some Italian guy in the PS forum that had been made for PS 1.3 and didn't work in 1.4. I ended up with both: I bought the Orlique module and I patched the forum script so that it worked under 1.4 as I believed such a thing should be freely available. The patching turned out to be rather easy. It was my first introduction with working outside the Prestashop engine directly on the database.

My next step was with categories. I needed to add descriptions and meta data for a lot of categories. As I am not very good at thinking up text I often left one unfinished to start with another for which I had more inspiration. What I missed was an overview so that I could see which ones had been finished and where I could simultaneously work on more than one. So I adapted some old script that I had made for another project. This was the birth of category-edit.

Both scripts were rather popular in the Free modules section of the Prestashop forum. But people kept asking for a mass edit for products – similar to what I had for categories. As I saw the benefits myself too this was the next step. When I introduced it it was immediately more popular than the other two.

As I had now three scripts I decided to combine them and baptize them Triple Edit. That way each of them would get more visibility. This was also the time I opened a new entry in the Free modules section of the forum so that I could keep the newest version posted in the first post. Since then the script has kept expanding. Some improvements and bug fixes are the result of questions on the forum and via mail. However, most of the improvements come from me using the script myself and grabbing any opportunity I see for improvement. I like searching for the optimal combination of clarity and power.

Over time more and more scripts were added to the tool and the name "Triple Edit" lost its meaning. The logical successor name was something that hinted at it being a set of tools. As the website Prestools.com was already used Prestools Suite was a logical choice.

39.8   Staying up-to-date

Prestools Suite is updated about every two weeks. Usually this concerns small improvements and bug fixes and you won't bother to update. But quite regularly the functionality is extended.
There are two occasions when you should update:
  - when you experience a bug or find some functionality lacking you should first update before filing a request or complaint.

When you update your Prestashop you are always advised to update Prestools Suite too as newer versions may contain some extra code needed to work with the newer Prestashop version.

Outside these conditions you are advised to upgrade about once a year.

39.9   My coding style

There may come a time that you will want to modify Prestools Suite. You will find that it isn't that difficult once you understand the basic setup and coding style.

I am free from Prestashop's coding styles as Prestashop won't host the software anyway in its Addons shop. It has a policy that they accept software that is not a module only from a few selected partner companies. Which I am not.

I love simplicity. Code should be understandable intuitively – without first looking up what some esoteric php or javascript function is doing exactly. One line usually has one function. Nesting functions may save space and even be a little bit faster but I prefer to keep things open so that I can easily put debug code in between.

Except for the login files (approve.php and login1.php), functions1.php (that contains common functions) and ajaxdata.php (that contains a collection of ajax functions) all files are standalone programs.

In my coding style I like to keep overview: compared to the Prestashop code you will find a lot less whitespace. It saves me a lot of time scrolling up and down.

Objects are not really my thing: I hate it when I need to check five files to understand how something works. And I don't believe that the code would become better understandable if I made separate objects for each of the more than 50 product related fields.

Almost no listeners, prototypes or other fancy javascript stuff for me neither: I prefer to add javascript functions directly to the buttons with an onclick (or onchange, etc) attribute. That way the code is simpler and it is easier to see what is connected with what.

Except for a small popup window library and the inevitable TinyMce no libraries are used. I like plain vanilla javascript. Libraries tend to become outdated after a few years. Also I find them less close to the underlying logic than javascript what makes them harder to understand for the not initiated.

I assume that my users are professionals who use modern browsers (older php versions is ok) so I don't bother with backwards browser compatibility. I will even deliberately leave it out in order to simplify the code.

For people who are used to function and object trees that are dozens of levels deep the flat structure of Prestools files may look opaque. But the flow of information is logical. On front pages for example it follows the layout of the page. Finding how a specific field is handled van easily be done by doing a text search for it.

Does it work for other people? I don't know and would like your feedback. But I did notice that since I started Prestools quite a few modules have appeared that copy the functionality. There used to be a

shortage of mass edit modules and that is over now. Also they often show similarities with Prestools. Unfortunately their authors are forgetting to pay me a part of the income 😊

Much of the functionality of Prestools is the result of user requests. Some things are easy to implement and are ready within days. Other times I will only implement months later when I have found what feels for me as a fitting implementation. Several people have also helped to improve the interface. Thanks to all of you.

39.10   Employee rights

Although Prestools Suite doesn't support giving different people different rights you easily achieve at least some of that by installing more than one copy (in different directories) with different passwords and "handicapping" them by taking out files (you can adapt the menu in functions1.php) or adapting the $field_array at the top of the edit file.
The settings1.php file also contains some relevant options.

39.11   Customizing the Prestools Suite menu

Some companies want to restrict the rights of their employee to modify the shop database. This can be done rather easy.

The menu is a data structure at the bottom of functions1.php. It is easy to see how it works and how you can delete entries from it.

Pages like Utilities contain many subfunctions. It is rather easy to see in the code how such a page is structured and how entries can be deleted.

If you want to delete the files too that is often possible. In contrast to Prestashop the code of Prestools is rather loosely integrated. There are only 5 core files: login1.php, approve.php, footer1.php, functions1.php and ps_sourced_code.php. These are used by all pages (in case of the latter: most). All other files are stand-alone of only connected to a few other files. A text search for the filename will tell you the connections.

39.12   Modifying the Prestools Suite code

What makes coding Prestools Suite easy is the rule that nothing is changed until you press a submit button. So the files come in pairs: product-edit.php and product-proc.php, cat-edit.php and cat-proc.php, etc. In the case of product-edit most of the javascript has been split off into a separate file for speed reasons. In the edit files all the editing takes place and all the smart things like multi-edit are implemented. It is almost all Javascript – with a lot of DOM manipulation. The fact that you can see the data before it is submitted to the database makes new code rather easy to debug. The edit files never change the database. All submission to the database is handled by the proc files that do nothing else.

The proc files are mostly very basic. The heart is a function change_rec() that submits one product (or category or ..) at a time. Around it is a loop so that the file can handle more than one submission. Inside it is a long list of field names – sorted by table - and how they are submitted. In most cases Prestools Suite uses the same names as the fieldnames used in the database. Most validation is basic: such as that a product id should be numeric. In case of trouble the colordie() function is used. This is a wraparound of the die() function that makes the background of the page colored so that one can easily see that something is wrong. In the few cases where normal use can generate erroneous situations in addition a popup is generated. The only part of product-proc.php that is rather complicated is the saving of the feature fields. The proc files tend to be rather small: product-edit.php is ten times as big as product-proc.php. The "verbose" option makes it easy to see what exactly is done in a proc file.

Note the importance of indexing that is needed to enable your customers to search your product database. Whenever one of the indexable fields of a product is changed that whole product is re-indexed. That re-indexing typically takes many times more database operations than the change itself.

As the proc files handle all the saving it means that you can freely experiment in the edit files. You can see the results of your actions in the form fields of the page. When that looks ok you can safely submit your data.

The edit pages can at first seem quite imposing. Product-edit is 2700 lines and comes with a javascript file of 3500 lines. Other pages - like image-edit - are smaller but still hundreds of lines. However, they have all the same structure and they follow the logic of the display. Once you have found out how a field is named in Prestools you can follow it easily with a search function.

The best way to understand the edit pages is to think of them as built of a few segments: the segment block, the search block, the field list, the multi-edit block, the building of the query and the display loop. In each of those blocks there is a loop that runs through all the fields. In some cases not all fields are explicitly named as there is a default handling available.

The initialization segment looks up your countries and languages. It also creates "blocks" like the "taxblock" and the "languageblock" that will later be used in select boxes. When only one value is possible these blocks are simple, like the "taxblock" that lists the available VAT groups. When a product can have more than one value – such as with categories - you get three blocks, like $categoryblock0, $categoryblock1 and $categoryblock2. Block1 contains the list of values. Block0 and block2 contain what comes before and after these values. The texts of block0 and block2 contain the string "CQX" that will later be replaced with the row number. All blocks are made in php and later copied to javascript.

The top part of the edit page is the "search_form". Here you indicate which fields and which rows you want to see and in which order. You can adapt which fields are initially shown in the Settings1.php file. On some other pages – for example combi-edit - all fields are standard retrieved but some are standard hidden. This is determined in an array:

```
$combifields = array(
        array("id_product_attribute",RIGHT,SHOW),
```

> *array("name", RIGHT,SHOW),*
> *array("wholesale_price",RIGHT,HIDE),*

Prestools includes its own copy of TinyMCE that you can customize if you want. Older versions of Prestools contained a link to a cloud based copy of TinyMce. But at some point TinyMce changed that link – so that the old link no longer worked. So I decided to include the complete code with Prestools.

The main javascript functions in the edit file (nowadays stored in a separate file for product-edit) are:

- switchDisplay(): this function can hide a field but its main purpose is to make it editable. So if you have a productname "abc" the content of the table cell will be changed by this function from just "abc" to '<input name="name23" value="abc" onchange="reg_change(this);">' with "23" being the row number that is different on every row. The reg_change() function takes care that the background color of the row will be changed so that you can easily see that this row has been changed. In other cases it may also do some field validation.

- RowSubmit(rownum): this function copies the content of the row concerned to the form "rowform" at the bottom of the table and submits that then. Unless you have checked the "verbose" checkbox the target will be the iframe "tank" at the top right of your page. When the change is succesfully saved and "verbose" is not set the proc file will call the reg_unchange() function in the edit page that once again changes the background color of the row.

- SubmitForm(): this function submits all rows. Just as in RowSubmit it contains some validation and conversion.

- changeMfield(): this is called when you change the field name in the mass edit form. It shows the mass edit options that are available for that field . Note that the array "myarray" determines which actions are available for which fields. This array is very recognizable with lines like: myarray["name"] = [1,1,1,1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0];. In this example myarray["name"][5] is zero, so the regenerate function is not available.

- changeMAfield(): this is called when you change the action field in the mass edit form. It shows the concerning fields (in some cases that was already handled by changeMfield()).

- massUpdate(): this function does the actual mass update work. It goes along each active row and makes the desired changes.

If you want to dive into the source code I suggest the following sequence:

- As product-edit, cat-edit, combi-edit and image-edit are all structured in the same way I suggest that you start with the smallest of them: image-edit. When you understand how that works you could graduate to combi-edit, ending with product-edit.

- As an experiment you could add the location field of the ps_product table to product-edit. This field is a heritage from PS 1.4 and as far as I know no longer in use so you can experiment freely. My favorite way of working when adding a field is to find an existing field that has similar functionality, to search for it in the text and add similar code for the new

field. As we deal here with a simple short text field without complications we could use the UPC field as your example. As most of the functionality for such a field is handled by default adding three lines in product-edit and four in product-proc should be enough.

– Standard a default field has only the "set" functionality in mass edit. You could add replace functionality by adding a line to "myarray".

– For a more complicated field the VAT field is a good example. Here there are several complications: it isn't a simple database field and it is also used to calculate priceVAT.

– Now it is time to switch to categories. The technique of moving data from one select box to another that you find here is also used – with minor variations - in several other fields. So it will be useful to understand how it works.

– The most complicated fields, like carrier and discounts, have subfields. These are for-pay items, so you may not have access to the proc side.

– Finally you might have a look at the submit code. In the javascript functions SubmitForm and RowSubmit your data is preprocessed before it is submitted.

– If you have questions, feel free to ask.

39.13 On demand: copy_category and copy_shopdata

Elsewhere on the forum you will be able to find some other tools I wrote: copy_directory, copy_shop_data, diskspace_use and inactivata. These functions do not follow the philosophy of Prestools that you should feel free to experiment as changes will first be made visual and only be implemented after you press a (row)submit button. For that reason they are not included in Prestools Suite. You will find them elsewhere on the forum or receive them on demand. They are rather rudimentary but still very useful scripts that require some mastery of php to be used.

– [copy_category](#) copies a category from one shop to another. I tend to use it for copying new categories from the production shop to the test shop. Please note that this script is rather old and needs to be revised for the latest version of Prestashop.

– [copy_shopdata](#) is meant for situations where normal upgrades don't work. It allows you to copy the user data while leaving the configuration data behind.

– Inactivata sorts all categories in such a way that all inactivated products come at the bottom. Useful when your shop tends to get stuffed with products that are no longer available but that you don't want to delete yet. The script does not ask questions and immediately does its work.

– Diskspace use was created in order to check how the disk space was used at a time when a shop was consuming too much diskspace. It collects information on all the files and stores that in the database. As such it is the only part of Prestools Suite that creates its own tables in the database. This data collection takes quite some time and you may need to refresh your browser page several times before all the data is collected. One of the things shown is the

images that are no longer used. The diskspace.php file is included within Prestools Suite and is called by the Image Cleaning option under Cleaning Up.