

## RELATIONSHIP TO CATALOG STRUCTURE

WebSource configurator corresponds very closely to printed catalog structures. Almost all configurations are a transformation of print to the desktop. The difference is that the configuration zeros in on the exact product without having to know the exact part number or search page after page of closely related products.

An example may help to better understand the WebSource configurator terminology and the procedure of creating new and administering current configurations.

As an example an electronic supplier catalog has an index. These index items would be considered different "Categories" in a configurator. Some of the "Categories" might be Video, Home Audio, Automotive, Computers, Appliances and Communication. When there are a large number of products in a category, they may be further broken down underneath the main category. These are known as "Subcategories."

In the Home Audio category there might be products like Home Theater, Tuners, Amplifiers, Portable and Speakers. Products can be in multiple categories such as Speakers may be in Home Audio, Video, Automotive and Computers. An advantage of a configurator is that the product does not have to be "printed" multiple times if it has a close association with another product. Neither does it have to be moved away and be disassociated from these products into a separate category to save print space. With a configurator "Speakers" could be a product of all four of the categories. The user has the benefit of having the ability easily select the main product and associated products and accessories needed to create a complete system. Modeling rules assure compatibility of the components.

Attributes describe and define the product. Products are configured by selecting values of all the attributes that describe a product. Some examples of Speaker attributes would be size, power, enclosure and enclosure finish. Although Home Audio and Automotive Speakers have the same attributes, the values of these attributes would be different.

The product modeler can use Tabs to make it easier for a user to configure a Product. If a product has many different attributes, they can be grouped together into logical segments in Tabs.

Configurators are very much related to printed catalogs. But configurators have advantages and flexibility over printed material.