

ProductCenter™ Batch Modules

BatchLoader & BatchGetCopy: Efficient Batch Tools for ProductCenter™

Once you've selected SofTech's *ProductCenter™* collaborative product data management (PDM) solution to handle your product information and processes, one of your first tasks is likely to migrate all of your company's current product data to ProductCenter. *ProductCenter's Batch Modules* complete this process quickly and efficiently, automating loading and copying of product data from a wide variety of source applications, formats, and locations into ProductCenter.

ProductCenter™ BatchLoader and **ProductCenter™ BatchGetCopy** will help make what may initially seem like an overwhelming data migration project quicker and easier. In one session, for example, you could load all of your legacy engineering change orders (ECOs) with the associated parts, files, and drawings into ProductCenter, add different types of common and custom attributes to items — and link them.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Automates data migration into ProductCenter**
- **Provides flexibility in the way data is added**
- **Enables you to add or alter item attributes and links**
- **Provides method to copy files on a reoccurring basis and to populate replication servers**

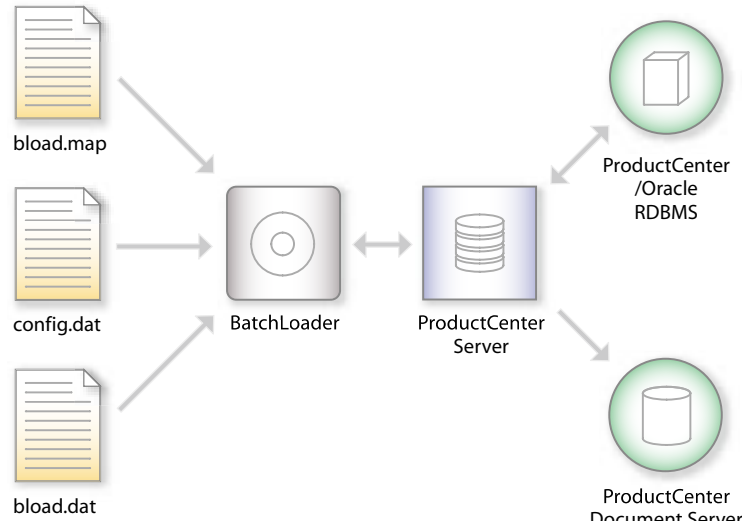
BatchLoader

Simplifies Data Migration

ProductCenter™ BatchLoader gives you a simple way to add large numbers of new files and product data to ProductCenter, change information in multiple ProductCenter items, or add new versions of items, automating the process of adding valuable legacy data into ProductCenter. This legacy data can be information that is stored in a database system or files archived in some type of physical storage.

Easy to Use

You simply set up a configuration file that tells ProductCenter BatchLoader how to operate and where to locate items. For example, you supply information on the user, the ProductCenter database, and your working directory. You also set up a map file defining the attributes and links of the items you want BatchLoader to process, and a data file containing a list of the actual files. From there, ProductCenter BatchLoader quickly processes the list of files and adds them to ProductCenter — without further intervention.



ProductCenter's BatchLoader simplifies your data migration tasks.

Flexibility in Adding Items to ProductCenter

ProductCenter BatchLoader provide a number of different ways to add product information into ProductCenter. For adding new items only, BatchLoader takes all of the items (parts, forms, ECOs, etc.) listed in the data file and checks them into the ProductCenter class that you specify, along with the attributes and links in the map and data files. This mode enables you to most easily add legacy data.

Add New Versions of ProductCenter Items

You can also add only new versions of items. ProductCenter BatchLoader assumes all the items listed in the data file are ProductCenter items and that you want to revise them. BatchLoader checks the items out of ProductCenter, places them into a temporary directory, and then checks in the revised versions along with the attributes and links in the map and data files.

Add Both New Items and New Versions of Items

In this mode, ProductCenter BatchLoader combines two processes into one. It adds new items to ProductCenter and in the same session, adds new versions to files if the items are already in ProductCenter. Using the information in the data file, BatchLoader queries for the existence of a file or project before it determines what to do.

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IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF DATA THAT DRIVES YOUR PRODUCT SUCCESS...

Alter Attributes and Links of Items in ProductCenter

In this mode, ProductCenter BatchLoader assumes that all files listed in the data file are already in ProductCenter. BatchLoader simply alters the attributes and links with values that you supply, but without checking out an item or changing its version. With the data file, you can also change the attributes or links for an individual file without having to create a new map file.

Sets Item Attributes

Whether adding new items to ProductCenter or working with existing ProductCenter items, you can add or alter common or custom attributes such as name, version, or effectivity date.

Build Product Structure

ProductCenter BatchLoader also knows the dependent relationships between items. You can add links to new items you are adding to ProductCenter or to existing items you are altering.

Keeps You Informed

When ProductCenter BatchLoader runs, it lets you know what it is processing by displaying information on the screen. Optionally, you can direct this information to a log file and choose how much information you want to display.

BatchGetCopy

Another Batch tool is *ProductCenter™ BatchGetCopy*, which is helpful anytime you need to copy a set of files, especially on a recurring basis. For example — when you need to archive or synchronize data with other software you use. ProductCenter BatchGetCopy retrieves sets of files and can also be used to automatically populate ProductCenter's replication servers.

When the client requests copy of a document, ProductCenter BatchGetCopy checks if it's already in the replication server. If the file is there, it sends the file to the client. If not, ProductCenter's *Vault Server* sends the file to both the client and to the replication server. BatchGetCopy also allows you to retrieve sets of files found within a ProductCenter query, individual or lists of files by name.

Retrieves File Sets Automatically

ProductCenter BatchGetCopy provides a listing of files you want retrieved or search criteria. The files are stored in a specified working directory where you can process them.

Populates Replication Servers

ProductCenter BatchGetCopy and ProductCenter support a "pull" replication model, where documents are copied and stored whenever the ProductCenter client performs the GetCopy or View File commands.

ProductCenter™

SPECIFICATIONS

Version: 8	Web Client: Netscape®, Microsoft® Internet Explorer.
Client: Microsoft® Windows® 2000/NT/XP, Sun Solaris™, HP-UX	Web Server: iPlanet™ Web Server, Microsoft® Internet Information Server, Apache™ Web Server
Server: Microsoft® Windows® 2000/NT, Sun Solaris™, HP-UX	Database: Oracle®



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