

ProductCenter™ Software Development Kit

Easy-to-use C/C++, Perl, and WebLink™ Interfaces for Developing Site-Specific Tools & Applications

When it comes to enterprise systems, such as product data management (PDM), companies sometimes need the flexibility to meet the particular requirements of their unique environments. SofTech's **ProductCenter™ Software Development Kit (SDK)** provides your administrators and programmers with programmatic access to ProductCenter's most important features to create your own client applications to uniquely tailor the capabilities of your ProductCenter system.

The ProductCenter SDK is an interface library consisting of ProductCenter C/C++, Perl, and WebLink™ Toolkits or collections of program calls and templates to provide simple, easy-to-use access to ProductCenter through these programming languages. It is an indispensable tool for easily and quickly building add-on applications and utilities to ProductCenter to perform site-specific operations on product data.

The ProductCenter SDK can help you to shave many additional hours off your critical work processes — in addition to reaping the built-in efficiency of ProductCenter itself. You can further streamline your environment by automating tasks such as generating viewables, creating easy to use find/view/print solutions for shop floor viewing, automating workflow processes, or integrating to enterprise systems, such as ERP — all extending the reach and value of your product data.

HIGHLIGHTS...

The ProductCenter SDK can be used to build utility programs and software tools to automate many operations such as:

- **Building application-specific integrations to third-party applications beyond those provided by SofTech**
- **Batch importing product information from your existing systems**
- **Automating repetitive tasks within your workflow processes**
- **Building custom user interfaces to meet specific requirements such as a simplified find/view/print interface for the shop floor**
- **Monitoring ProductCenter activities for recording or gathering statistics on usage patterns**
- **Triggering site-specific processing on selected events such as Add, Check-In/Check-Out, or Delete**



An example of a File/View/Print solution.

Benefits of Using the ProductCenter SDK

Ease-of-Use Features

This ProductCenter SDK has been designed to be straightforward and easy to use, allowing anyone with a basic level of familiarity with ProductCenter and software programming to quickly build useful utilities and monitoring tools. The ProductCenter SDK also includes many instructive samples to serve as a basis for your own solutions.

Extending the Power of ProductCenter

In most cases, you can do anything with the ProductCenter SDK that you can do in the ProductCenter user interface except administrative functions such as adding users. For example, you can add and delete data objects, manage revisions, grant access to various users and groups, execute queries on the database, manage processes, and create relationships among data elements through the use of links.

Operate on File or Record-oriented Data

You can perform operations on either file data, such as engineering drawings, or record-oriented data to include part numbers or vendor information. These objects are managed through user functions, such as adding new objects, versioning objects through *Check Out/Check In*, setting both common and custom attribute values, and building product configurations using *Named Links*.

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

File Management

File operations, such as *Add, Check In/Check Out, Return Unmodified, and Get Copy*, can be performed on individual items using the ProductCenter SDK so that files stored in the ProductCenter *Document Servers* can be accessed.

Release Management

Release management operations, such as *Submit, Approve, and Disapprove* can be performed on individual items and product configurations using the ProductCenter SDK interfaces.

Workflow Operations

Process operations, such as *Item Routing, Activity Claim, Send Forward, Send Backward, Work-List Queries, Dynamic User Assignments*, and activity completion *Activity Post Operations*, are supported through the ProductCenter SDK interfaces.

Web Access Minimizes Training

The ProductCenter SDK *WebLink™* interface provides extensions to HTML that extracts data from ProductCenter and displays or edits that data on user developed Web pages created using any commercially available Web-authoring tools. This allows the creation of Web clients tailored to the specific needs of particular users or groups of users, leveraging the Web platform for its ease of use and ability to be tailored. As a result, you expose only the functionality essential to a particular end user community to minimize training and encourage more widespread usage.

Access to Multiple Data Sources

The ProductCenter SDK allows you to combine the collaborative product data management capabilities of ProductCenter with existing enterprise applications, such as your ERP system — all integrated into a single common interface. Through this interface, users can access data that resides in external systems, such as querying your company's ERP system to generate part numbers and return that information to ProductCenter.

Security

The ProductCenter SDK executes programs on behalf of an authorized ProductCenter user. It requires a valid ProductCenter user name and password to operate and is subject to the user and object access permissions defined within ProductCenter.

Database Query

The ProductCenter SDK supports a powerful query facility for finding ProductCenter objects within your application. You can search for

objects based on criteria defined using both common and custom attributes and operate on objects once found. You can also search on workflow instances as well.

Transaction Logging

The event monitor is a background ProductCenter process that detects end-user operations and allows you to programmatically examine any selected item operation (such as *Add, View, Check In/Check Out, Rollback, Alter, Approve, Disapprove*, etc.) for logging, or if need be, to trigger additional processing, such as product release, viewable generation, workflow initiation, or updating your ERP system.

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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