

Creating Downloadable Products

Downloadable products can be transferred directly to the customer via the Internet, allowing merchants to sell them without packaging, printing, or shipping. Products that can be downloaded include documents, software, and audio-visual materials.

There are different ways to use downloadable products. For example, you might set one up so customers have to register with your store before they can download a PDF catalog of your products.

Let's say you want to sell the downloadable version of a book that's already in your catalog. This means you'll have two versions of the same product: the physical book that you ship out to the customer, and the e-book that customers download directly from the store.

The following steps show you how to create a downloadable e-book product.

1. Upload the downloadable files to the store's download folder.

Use your file manager or FTP to make sure that all files to be downloaded are added to the catalog/download folder. (Contact your web developer if you need help with this.) In some cases, you might have more than one downloadable file for each product. For our scenario, we added a file called 'e-book.pdf' to our store's download folder.

2. Make sure the product exists in the catalog.

You need to make sure there's already an existing product in the catalog for the downloadable product. This won't be a downloadable product yet – you'll make it downloadable later. Make sure the product has a weight value of zero and a quantity value of at least 1.

If there isn't an existing product, you'll need to create one. If you're not sure how to do this, read Attitude's osCommerce Simple Guide '[Creating a Product](#)'.

3. Make sure the store is configured to use downloadable products.

If you're not sure how to do this, see the section 'Changing configuration settings' on page 12 of this guide.

Attitude's Simple osCommerce Guides

creating_downloadable_products.pdf

Download from: www.oscommerce.co.nz/docs/

For osCommerce installation, customization and support, contact Attitude.

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Introduction

This guide tells you how to create products that customers can download from your osCommerce store.

It covers:

- **Uploading files to the store's download folder.**
- **Creating products.**
- **Changing configuration settings.**
- **Creating product attributes.**
- **Using product attributes to link products with files in the store's download folder.**
- **Testing downloadable products.**



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Now you're ready to make the product downloadable. To do this, you need to set up download options for the e-book product.

4. Log into ADMIN.
5. Click CATALOG.

osCommerce Administration | Online Catalog | Support Site

Choose an action.. English

osCommerce
Support Site
Support Forums
Mailing Lists
Bug Reports
FAQ
Live Discussions
CVS Repository
Information Portal

Orders
Pending: 3
Processing: 0
Delivered: 2

Statistics
Customers: 7
Products: 28
Reviews: 1

You are **not** protected by a secure SSL connection.

Configuration
My Store, Logging, Cache

Modules
Payment, Shipping

Catalog
Contents, Manufacturers

Locations / Taxes
Countries, Tax Zones

Customers
Customers, Orders

Localization
Currencies, Languages

Reports
Products, Orders

Tools
Backup, Banners, Files

The Products Attributes system allows you to set up download options and link your download to a particular product. In this scenario, we'll create a new product attribute and use it to link the e-book product in our catalog to the downloadable e-book file in the downloads folder.

6. Click PRODUCTS ATTRIBUTES.

Each product attribute is made up of a product option and an option value. The Product Options section of this screen shows you a list of existing product options (for example, 'Color', 'Size', and 'Model'). Here you need to create a new option that allows the product to be downloaded.



Administration Contact Attitude | Support Site | Online Catalog | Administration

Customers

- Customers
- Orders

Catalog

- Categories/Products
- Products Attributes**
- Manufacturers
- Reviews
- Specials
- Products Expected

Reports

- Products Viewed
- Products Purchased
- Customer Orders-Total
- Low Stock Report
- Sales Report

Tools

- Database Backup
- Banner Manager
- Cache Control
- Define Languages
- File Manager
- Send Email
- Newsletter Manager
- Server Info
- Who's Online

Configuration

Product Options

Option ID ▼

Option Values

ID	Option Name		Action
1	Color		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
2	Size		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
3	Model		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
4	Memory		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
5	en: <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/>		<input type="button" value="insert"/>

ID	Option Name	Option Value		Action
1	Memory	4 mb		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
2	Memory	8 mb		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
3	Memory	16 mb		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
4	Memory	32 mb		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
5	Model	Value		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
6	Model	Premium		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
7	Model	Deluxe		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
8	Model	PS/2		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
9	Model	USB		<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
10	Color ▼	en: <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/>		<input type="button" value="insert"/>



7. Type the text 'Download' into the blank Product Options text box.

Product Options Option ID

1 |

ID	Option Name	Action	
1	Color	<input type="button" value="edit"/>	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
2	Size	<input type="button" value="edit"/>	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
3	Model	<input type="button" value="edit"/>	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
4	Memory	<input type="button" value="edit"/>	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
5	en: <input type="text" value="Download"/>	<input type="button" value="insert"/>	

'Download' is the name of the new product option you're creating. (You could use another name if you prefer.)

8. Click INSERT to add Download as a new product option.

5 en:

This creates the new product option and adds it to the list of existing options.

Product Options Option ID

1 |

ID	Option Name	Action	
1	Color	<input type="button" value="edit"/>	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
2	Size	<input type="button" value="edit"/>	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
3	Model	<input type="button" value="edit"/>	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
4	Memory	<input type="button" value="edit"/>	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
5	Download	<input type="button" value="edit"/>	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
6	en: <input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="insert"/>	



An option can have one or more values. The Option Values section shows you a list of existing option names and the values they are linked to. You need to link your 'Download' option to a new value.

9. At the bottom of the Option Values section, select DOWNLOAD from the drop down menu.

Option Values

1 |

ID	Option Name	Option Value	Action	
1	Memory	4 mb	edit	delete
2	Memory	8 mb	edit	delete
3	Memory	16 mb	edit	delete
4	Memory	32 mb	edit	delete
5	Model	Value	edit	delete
6	Model	Premium	edit	delete
7	Model	Deluxe	edit	delete
8	Model	PS/2	edit	delete
9	Model	USB	edit	delete
10	Color	en: <input type="text"/>	insert	

Color
Download
Memory
Model
Size

10. Type the text 'E-book' into the blank Option Values text box.

10	Download	en: <input type="text" value="E-book"/>	insert
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'E-book' is the name of the new option value you're creating. (You could use another name if you prefer.)

11. Click INSERT to add 'E-book' as a new option value.

10 Download insert

'E-book' should now be visible as a new option value on the final page of the Option Values list.

Option Values

1 |

ID	Option Name	Option Value	Action	
1	Memory	4 mb	edit	delete
2	Memory	8 mb	edit	delete
3	Memory	16 mb	edit	delete
4	Memory	32 mb	edit	delete
5	Model	Value	edit	delete
6	Model	Premium	edit	delete
7	Model	Deluxe	edit	delete
8	Model	PS/2	edit	delete
9	Model	USB	edit	delete
10	Download	E-book	edit	delete

11 Color insert

12. Scroll down the web browser page so you can see the Products Attributes section.



The Products Attributes section lets you:

- Create a new product attribute by linking the existing e-book product in your catalog with the 'Download' option and the 'E-book' option value.
- Link the e-book product to the downloadable e-book file in the downloads folder.

Creating the attribute and using it to link the product with the downloadable file makes the product downloadable. Your first step is to select the product that will become downloadable.

13. Select the correct product name from the Product Name dropdown list.

Products Attributes

1 | 2 | >>

ID	Product Name	Option Name	Option Value	Value Price	Prefix	Action
4	Matrox G200 MMS	Model	Value	0.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
2	A Bug's Life	Memory	8 mb	50.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
5	Beloved	Model	Premium	100.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
3	Blade Runner - Director's Cut Book	Memory	16 mb	70.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
1	Courage Under Fire	Memory	4 mb	0.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
9	Die Hard With A Vengeance	Model	Deluxe	120.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
7	Disciples: Sacred Lands	Memory	32 mb	0.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
8	E-Book	Model	Premium	0.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
6	Fire Down Below	Memory	16 mb	10.0000	-	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
10	Frantic	Model	PS/2	0.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>
12	A Bug's Life	Color	16 mb		+	<input type="button" value="insert"/>

Filename: Expiry days: Maximum download count:



14. Select 'Download' from the Option Name dropdown list.

This links the Option Name to the product.

The screenshot shows a configuration form for a product. The 'Option Name' dropdown menu is open, showing options: Color, Download, Memory, Model, and Size. The 'Download' option is selected. The form includes a 'Filename' text box, an 'Expiry days' field set to 7, a 'Maximum download count' field set to 5, and an 'insert' button.

15. Select 'E-book' from the Option Value dropdown list.

This links the Option Value to the product.

The screenshot shows a configuration form for a product. The 'Option Value' dropdown menu is open, showing options: Deluxe, 16 mb, 32 mb, 4 mb, 8 mb, Deluxe, E-book, Premium, PS/2, USB, and Value. The 'E-book' option is selected. The form includes a 'Filename' text box, an 'Expiry days' field set to 7, a 'Maximum download count' field set to 5, and an 'insert' button.

16. Type the name of the download file into the Filename textbox.

This links the downloadable file to the product.

The screenshot shows a configuration form for a product. The 'Filename' text box is filled with 'e-book.pdf'. The 'Option Name' dropdown menu is set to 'Download' and the 'Option Value' dropdown menu is set to 'E-book'. The form includes an 'Expiry days' field set to 7, a 'Maximum download count' field set to 5, and an 'insert' button.

17. Adjust any other settings as appropriate.

For example: expiry days, maximum download counts, value price, or prefix. These settings override the defaults you set in Administration -> Configuration.

NOTE: The value price is either added to or subtracted from the final price of the product, depending on whether the prefix is set to '+' or '-'. You might use this setting to discount downloadable versions of shippable products (e-books, for example) to reflect your reduced handling costs. Or you might add an extra charge for a different version of a downloadable product. For example, if you sell a downloadable software product you might want to charge more for the version that includes extra support documentation.

18. Click INSERT.

12

Filename: Expiry days: Maximum download count:

Clicking INSERT creates the new attribute and adds it to the Product Attributes list.

Products Attributes

1 | 2 | >>

ID	Product Name	Option Name	Option Value	Value Price	Prefix	Action
12	E-Book	Download	E-book	0.0000	+	<input type="button" value="edit"/> <input type="button" value="delete"/>

Now that you've added one attribute, you may want to add others. A product can have many different attributes. These may or may not be downloadable.

Once you've finished adding attributes to the product, it will then be available in the catalog for customers to purchase and download.

The screenshot shows the osCommerce product page for 'E-Book'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Top >> Catalogue >> Books >>'. The product price is \$25.00. The 'Available Options' section shows 'Download: E-book'. The page includes a 'Write Review' button and an 'Add to Shopping Cart' button. The shopping cart is currently empty. The page also features a 'Tell A Friend' section and a notification icon.



Testing the downloadable product

You should now conduct a test purchase of the new downloadable product to ensure it is working correctly.

Using a test customer account, add the downloadable product to the shopping cart and proceed to the checkout. The shipping screen shouldn't appear. Instead, the customer should be taken straight to the Payment Information screen. (If the shipping screen does appear, check whether your cart contains shipped products as well as downloadable products. If it does contain any shipped products, remove these for your first test.)

Once the customer confirms the order, you should see the Checkout Success screen. The downloadable product should be available via a link on the screen, as below.

osCommerce

Top >> Catalogue >> Checkout >> Success Log Off | My Account | Cart Contents | Checkout

Your Order Has Been Processed!

Your order has been successfully processed! Your products will arrive at their destination within 2-5 working days.

Please notify me of updates to the products I have selected below:

E-Book

Thanks for shopping with us online!

Continue

Delivery Information Payment Information Confirmation **Finished!**

Download your products here:

E-Book	Expiry date: Thursday 04 May, 2006	1 downloads remaining
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You can also download your products at a later time at 'My Account'

Categories
Books (2)
Hardware-> (6)
Software-> (3)
DVD Movies-> (17)

Manufacturers
Please Select

What's New?
Microsoft Internet Keyboard PS/2 \$69.99

Shopping Cart
0 items

Order History
A Bug's Life
E-Book
The Matrix

Bestsellers
01. Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorer
02. Hewlett Packard LaserJet 1100Xi
03. Courage Under Fire
04. Blade Runner - Director's Cut
05. Matrox G200 MMS
06. E-Book
07. The Matrix

The customer will also be able to access the download from the My Account area.

To access the downloadable product from the My Account area, view the order and click the link at the bottom of the screen.

The screenshot shows the osCommerce website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Log Off', 'My Account', 'Cart Contents', and 'Checkout'. The main content area is titled 'Order Information' for 'Order #18 (Pending)'. It displays the order date as Thursday 27 April, 2006, and the order total as \$25.00. The product list shows '1 x E-Book' with a price of \$25.00 and a download link labeled 'E-Book'. Below this, the 'Billing Information' section shows the billing address: 'Test Customer, 123 Test Street, Test, 90210, Testing, New Zealand'. The payment method is 'Credit Card'. The 'Order History' section shows a single entry for '27/04/2006 Pending'. The 'Download links' section shows a link for 'E-Book' that expires on Thursday 04 May, 2006, with '1 downloads remaining'. A mouse cursor is pointing at the 'E-Book' link. On the left side, there are several sidebar widgets: 'Categories' (Books, Hardware, Software, DVD Movies), 'Manufacturers' (Please Select), 'What's New?' (The Wheel Of Time, \$99.99), 'Quick Find' (search box), and 'Information' (Shipping & Returns, Privacy Notice, etc.). On the right side, there are 'Shopping Cart' (0 items), 'Order History' (A Bug's Life, E-Book, The Matrix), 'Bestsellers' (Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorer, etc.), and 'Specials' (Blade Runner).

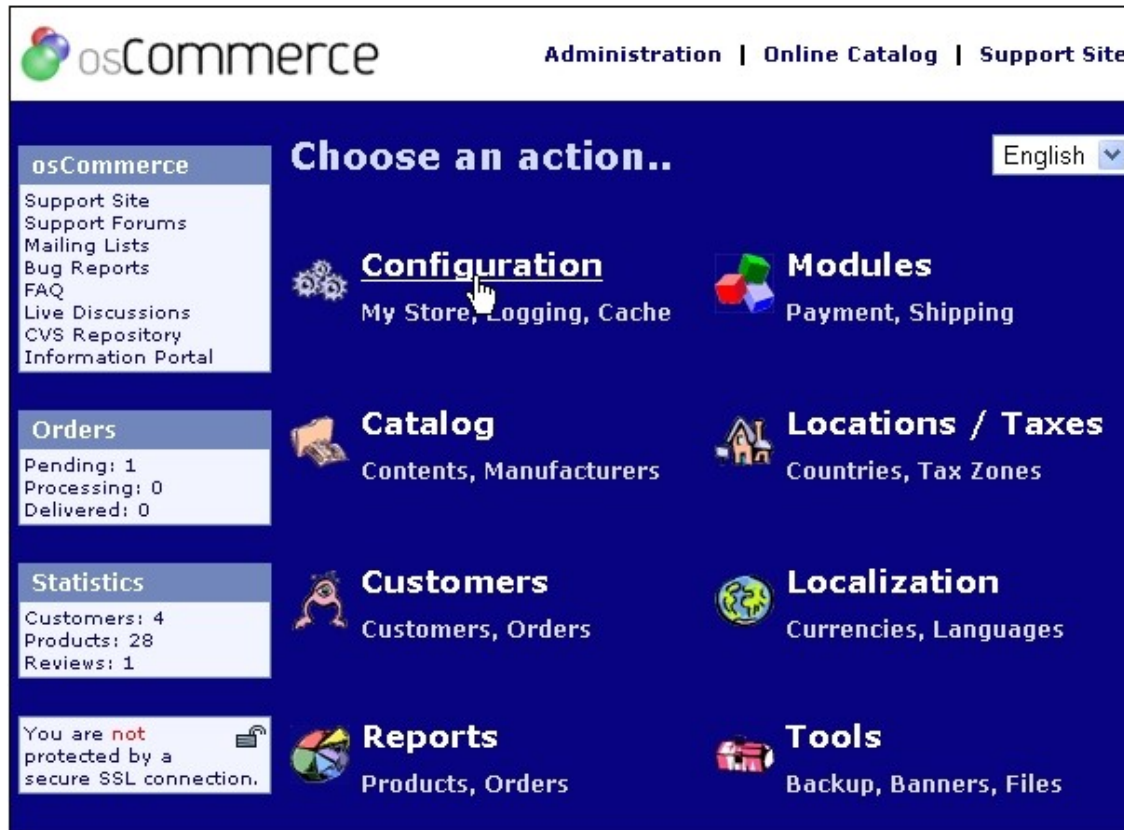
If you can't see a link to the downloadable product, check that:

- Each attribute is set up correctly.
- Any filenames are spelled correctly.
- The correct files are in the download folder.

If the link still doesn't appear, there could be a pathing problem. You need to make sure the location of downloads is correctly pathed in the configure.php file. (Your web developer may need to fix this.)

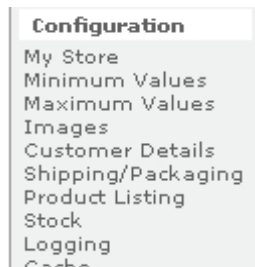
Changing configuration settings

1. Log into ADMIN.
2. Click on CONFIGURATION.



The screenshot displays the osCommerce Administration interface. At the top, the osCommerce logo is on the left, and navigation links for "Administration", "Online Catalog", and "Support Site" are on the right. Below the logo, there are four summary boxes: "osCommerce" (with links to Support Site, Forums, Mailing Lists, Bug Reports, FAQ, Live Discussions, CVS Repository, and Information Portal), "Orders" (Pending: 1, Processing: 0, Delivered: 0), "Statistics" (Customers: 4, Products: 28, Reviews: 1), and a security notice: "You are not protected by a secure SSL connection." The main content area is titled "Choose an action.." and features a grid of menu items. The "Configuration" item, which includes "My Store, Logging, Cache", is highlighted with a mouse cursor. Other menu items include "Modules" (Payment, Shipping), "Catalog" (Contents, Manufacturers), "Locations / Taxes" (Countries, Tax Zones), "Customers" (Customers, Orders), "Localization" (Currencies, Languages), and "Tools" (Backup, Banners, Files). A language dropdown menu is set to "English".

The Configuration section of the Administration menu will appear on the left hand side of the screen.



Clicking on an item in the Configuration section of the Administration menu will display the settings for that item. The setting at the top will already be selected.

Title	Value	Action
Enable download	false	▶
Download by redirect	false	ⓘ
Expiry delay (days)	7	ⓘ
Maximum number of downloads	5	ⓘ

To edit a particular setting, click on the setting name or the setting's Info ⓘ button. The setting will become highlighted and you should see an arrow that indicates that the setting is currently editable.

If you click the setting name, you will see an area at the far right of the screen where you can make any necessary changes. (In this case, go to Step 4.)

If not, you should see an EDIT button at the far right of the screen.

3. Click EDIT.

Title	Value	Action	Enable download
Enable download	false	▶	<input type="button" value="edit"/>
Download by redirect	false	ⓘ	
Expiry delay (days)	7	ⓘ	Enable the products download functions.
Maximum number of downloads	5	ⓘ	Date Added: 11/20/2003



4. Change the value.

Title	Value	Action	Enable download
Enable download	false	▶	Please make any necessary changes
Download by redirect	false	ⓘ	Enable download Enable the products download functions.
Expiry delay (days)	7	ⓘ	
Maximum number of downloads	5	ⓘ	

radio buttons: true, false

update cancel

5. Click UPDATE.

The value for that setting will now reflect the change.

Title	Value	Action
Enable download	true	▶
Download by redirect	false	ⓘ
Expiry delay (days)	7	ⓘ
Maximum number of downloads	5	ⓘ

In our example, following these steps will enable downloadable products for your store. There are four settings that you can change here.

The *Enable Download* setting determines whether the store can have downloadable products.

Download By Redirect only works on Unix/Linux hosts, and requires that osCommerce has permission to create and remove directories. Consult with your web developer before setting this option to 'true'. They can advise about any implications and decide whether this option is workable on your hosting environment.

The value for *Expiry Delay* tells you how many days the product will be available for downloading by the customer after purchase. A value of zero means there is no limit set, and the product is indefinitely available for download. (This default can be overridden for individual products.)

The value for *Maximum Number of Downloads* indicates the maximum number of times the customer can download the product. A value of zero means the customer cannot download the product. (This default can be overridden for individual products.)

