Microsoft® Navision Axapta®

Microsoft Navision Axapta Product Builder

Microsoft Navision Axapta Product Builder makes it possible for production and sales staff, as well as customers, to configure complex products via a Windows client or the Web.

Key Benefits:

- Cut costs and time associated with the production design process
- Increase cooperation between sales, production and purchasing
- Enable customers and vendors to configure and order their own products

Key Features:

- Immediate item configuration based on customer input
- Generate specific bills of material for each configured item
- Create production-specific routes and job cards for each configured item
- Incorporate facts from any Axapta table into the product models
- Minimal maintenance
- Facilitate divergent national standards

Production companies today face many complex and challenging demands. You must be able to adjust your product range quickly and supply your customers with exactly what they want. Microsoft Navision Axapta Product Builder simplifies the process – from solving complex calculations to increasing interaction with your customers and vendors via the Internet.

Flexible product models

Using Product Builder, you create flexible product models. Through a comprehensive series of menus and options, you define the criteria for the product models that are then used for individual orders. A product model defines the calculation methods and variables – color, size, materials, etc. Once the models have been created, users simply fill in the unique requirements for the customer's order. Compared to traditional production systems, the product model in Product Builder is faster, more efficient and reduces the potential for error.

Precision

With Axapta Product Builder, manual entry is virtually non-existent. Employees simply choose from a selection of pre-defined values – no dragging and dropping or manual calculations. Room for error is reduced dramatically and valuable time is saved.

System adjustments are also automatic. When manufactured articles – ranging from furniture to

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computers and automobiles – are modified, the product models are adjusted immediately so that new products comply with the changes. Thus, the hundreds of separate bills of material that would normally need changing individually, are all automatically updated in one easy step. Reordering is also easier because the system uses order-specific article numbers.

Adapts to the user

The Product Builder adapts to the needs of the user – whether production, sales, accounting, executive or customer. All of the potential choices in production are organized in groups and subgroups, which provide the user with a quick and simple overview. Only the information they need appears on the screen. And, users can be attached to one or more user groups – so that they can have access to the same product model on different levels. For example, an engineer might have access to a wider or different range of information on a product than a member of the sales staff. This is made possible through the variable/user group setup facility.

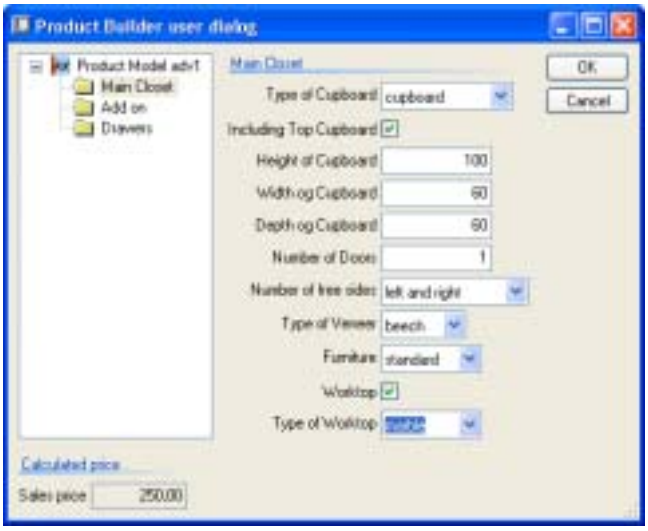
Connecting sales and production

Complete integration throughout Axapta ensures greater coordination between sales and production. Information in sales is automatically relayed to production and vice versa. A sales person can check on the status of production for a particular item and a member of the production team can see when a new order from sales has been registered.

Sales employees are also able to give accurate quotations and dates of accepted delivery times at the bargaining table. Using Product Builder, they can generate an item to meet the unique requirements of a customer. The salesperson simply types in the customer's criteria for the desired product and Product Builder handles the calculations and configuration. In only a few moments, a full product description along with an overview of the production process including expected time of delivery is at the fingertips of the salesperson. And, the item is customer-specific every time.

Configuration by customers and vendors

Product Builder makes it easy for your customers and vendors to create their own products from home or the office via the Internet. After selecting the desired values for the product, the customer clicks 'OK' – and is then presented with options such as price calculation or adjustment of configuration details. With Product Builder, your customers can submit multiple orders, monitor the production status or view an expected date of delivery all via the Web.



Product configuration user dialog

Maintenance

Because Product Builder is a natural and integrated module within Axapta, data such as bills of material and related routes are automatically generated. The integration also means that maintenance is minimal, because data updates in one part of the system do not need to be repeated.

Built for Axapta

The success of product configuration and the value it adds to your business can depend on the level of integration with your ERP or MRP system. Product Builder is completely integrated with Axapta because it is an inherent part of the functionality. The time and effort saved can be used to negotiate better prices with suppliers, stay focused on changes in the market and develop new products.

Contact your partner

To learn more about Microsoft Navision Axapta, contact your local Navision Solution Center. They have the expertise necessary to meet your specific business needs.

About Microsoft Business Solutions

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Data Summary Sheet

Key Features	Description
Easy to use	•Intuitive layout and structure •User-adjustable menus, forms and reports •User-adjustable layout of main tables and journals •Windows commands incl. 'copy and paste' from and to Axapta •Direct access to main tables from journals •Advanced sorting and filter options •Built-in user help including an integrated manual •Option to mail and fax directly from Axapta •Application can be run in different languages
Product Builder Overview	• Fully integrated with Axapta sales orders, purchase orders and production • User dialog automatically generated from variable setup on product model • Immediate item configuration based on customer input • Generates production of specific bills of material for each configured item • Can model all complex products • Default values for variables depending on customers and/or inventory items • User profiles on variables to only allow specific users to specify this variable • Reuse of configurations • Generation of item numbers based on the model variables • User selections can be specified on external documents • Price combinations based on product models • Language texts offering user dialogs in preferred languages • Export/import of product models
Routing integration	• Allows the creation of production specific routes and job cards for each configured item • Default routes, as templates for the routes created in the product model • Inserts complete default route in product model
Validation Rules	• Create validation rules for variables, groups of variables and a complete configuration • Create rules that govern the allowed content of variables • Add or remove values from enumerated text variables • Assign values to specific variables based on the content of other variables • Validate values and display an error message build from the condition • Add or remove variables from the user interface based on customer choices • Enable product models to deal with divergent national standards • Validation rules as X++ code • Create rules that govern the allowed content of variables (each variable, for a group of variables, or for all variables in a complete product model) • Assign values to specific variables based on the content of other variables • Add or remove variables from the user interface based on customer choices
Advanced Configurations	• Provides access to all of the tables and classes in your Axapta installation • Makes it possible to create complex formulas for tasks such as the calculation of raw material consumption • Incorporates facts from any Axapta table into your product models • Enables product models to deal with divergent national standards • Allows you to create advanced calculations using X++ programming language. Variables can be declared as any table, class or data type in Axapta. • Unlimited calculations

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Product Builder for Enterprise Portal

- Allows you to configure a product via the Internet using existing product models
- Available as an add-on to the Axapta Enterprise Portal – Customer Role. You have the same user-dialog as when configuring the item via the sales order line

Other key features:

- Reuse of data from previous configurations if needed
- Price calculation based on customers' choice in variables
- Price calculations can be fixed amount, percentage or even programmed per variable
- Configuration details can be printed on order carrying papers of free choice using the standard Axapta document handling feature
- Possibility of using submodels with inheritance of variables from top to buttom and visa versa

System Requirements

To obtain all of the features mentioned in this fact sheet, the following modules and technologies are required:

- Microsoft Navision Axapta 3.0
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Logistics Series
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Production I and II
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Product Builder I, II, III and IV
- Microsoft Navision Axapta X++ Source Code
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Enterprise Portal Framework
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Enterprise Portal – Customer Role
- Microsoft Navision Axapta Product Builder for Enterprise Portal