

# **Actinic Version 11**

## **Release Notes**

**Actinic Software Limited**

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Version: 0.2

## Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Comments
0.1	26/5/2011	Bruce Townsend	Initial version with new features
0.2	11/10/2011	Bruce Townsend	Changes for v11.0.1

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# 1 Version 11 Release History

## 1.1 Changes in 11.0.1

Catalog Summary Report now shows the product descriptions, AC11-152
Fixed a problem that prevented external linking to a SQL database, AC11-181
Checkout no longer hangs when the server is running Perl version 5.12 and ActEncrypt1024 is not installed, AC11-335
Added a delete option to single use coupon display dialog, AC11-438
Fixed a problem that could cause a DLL error following installation upgrade of sites from earlier versions, AC11-1102
Made the 'forgotten password' function more intuitive, AC11-1474
Logged in customer's cart can no longer become emptied unintentionally, AC11-1692
Company Name is no longer reset to default on upgrade to v11, AC11-1772
Fixed an issue that could cause installation of v11 to corrupt a v10 installation, AC11-1797
Fixed an issue that could cause the Links tab to become blank after purging products, AC11-1811
Maximum Order Value is no longer lost when a customer account is saved, AC11-1814
It is no longer possible to cause a 'data truncated' error by excessively long entries in the meta keywords and description fields of Product Pages, AC11-1851
Added CardSave as a payment option, PSP-375
US states no longer get converted to countries if a country with the same code exists, PSP-362

## 1.2 Changes in 11.0.0

<b>New features and feature improvements in v11 of Actinic Catalog, Business, Business Plus, Enterprise, Designer and Clients can be found in section 2.2 below.</b>
Enabled the Delete key in nine fields where it did not work, AC11-68
Fixed a crash that could occur when editing Package Cost on Zone/Class tables tab, AC11-83
Fixed a crash that could occur when changing from content to design tab if the latter has the preview pane undocked, AC11-84
Focus no longer moves to a different section after generating Preview or Upload, AC11-85
Fixed an issue that could cause a crash when opening the site, AC11-118
Page preview not rendering correctly, AC11-119
Product Caching now includes deleted products, AC11-125
Corrected the help for 'Add all parent section details to product text when indexing', AC11-129
Importing products from a CSV file with content category field not present no longer leads to invalid category setting, AC11-138
Order marked as 'Full Payment Received' is no longer moved from 'Completed' to 'Pending' tab if you open and close the order, AC11-145
Viewing an order line or adding supplementary information no longer voids the invoice, AC11-146
Customer no longer charged incorrect amount after tax exemption selected in checkout., AC11-151

Order export now includes the order discount/surcharge, AC11-196
Bobcat and Minimal theme does not have onfocus="this.value=";" in the search text input box tag, AC11-234
Modified the Payments tab of the Reports dialog to separate the two reports, AC11-245
Fixed an issue that could cause a crash when double-clicking Payment Phase layout in Design View, AC11-260
Fixed an issue that could cause a script error adding product with components to cart, AC11-261
Missing image when Extended Page Info link is used in 'Best Sellers'/New Products', AC11-269
Updated the help under Shipping as it missed an important point, AC11-302
Outdated Digital Download Help File, AC11-333
Links to files outside of the acatalog folder do not work, AC11-337
Preview for Extended Info pages now works properly after applying 'Auto-Resizing Layout' article in the Advanced User guide, AC11-381
Fixed a problem that could cause a crash during upload, AC11-385
MS SQL Snapshot failure can no longer leave the database in invalid state, AC11-413
Incorrect warning when importing a mini design snapshot, AC11-436
The Online Catalogue Name field no longer blanks out after Apply Changes, AC11-452
Blank error message upon closing, AC11-484
Resolved a problem causing an error and crash after editing the shipping table, AC11-500
Fixed a problem that could cause a crash after a flat file import, AC11-502
Fixed a crash that could occur in multi-user mode due to missing content item, AC11-552
Corrected erroneous fraud status reference in the help file, AC11-671
Error with SQL site after placing orders and opening Actinic, AC11-672
Products in Hidden sections no longer appear in Best Sellers / New Products lists, AC11-895

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 About the Actinic Ecommerce Application

Actinic Ecommerce (referred to as 'Actinic') is a desktop Windows program which enables you to design and publish an illustrated, on-line catalogue, take secure, encrypted orders over the Internet, and process these orders in-house.

Actinic v11 continues to require minimal resources to build a successful store. All you need is a dial-up account with an ISP (preferably a broadband connection) and a web site with CGI access capability.

With the enhancements made in v11, **Actinic Catalog** remains the most comprehensive low-cost ecommerce solution available today. Actinic Catalog includes everything a small business needs to design, build and control its own secure web store.

**Actinic Business** delivers a more productive environment for users who have a reasonably high volume of sales going through their store and who wish to further automate their ecommerce procedures. It is also aimed at suppliers who deal online with other businesses (B2B) as well as retailers who want to give regular customers a more personalised service. Actinic Business builds on the comprehensive features in Catalog and allows the online merchant to integrate ecommerce into other existing business systems to create a true e-business.

**Actinic Designer** offers a set of easy to use and flexible tools to enable internet professionals to create highly functional ecommerce sites on behalf of their clients. It offers multiple, unlimited site creation and licensing and integration with Macromedia Dreamweaver enabling external design of the store pages. This product is primarily a site design tool, but it provides all the tools for order processing and the related features such as mailing list generation for demonstration purposes.

**Actinic Catalog Client** and **Actinic Business Client** provide a cost effective route for ecommerce professionals who use Designer to deliver Actinic functionality (without the web design capability) to their clients.

**Actinic Business Plus** delivers all the features of Business along with the capability to create multiple sites that can take orders. This product is primarily for merchants or designers who operate more than 1 store. It also allows multiple users on these sites to maintain the store and process orders.

**Actinic Enterprise** includes all the functionality of Business Plus, with a local SQL database option for handling larger order volumes, plus additional user access and order picking facilities for companies with warehousing and more advanced user access requirements.

Version 11 is an upgrade from Version 10.

### 2.2 Description of Additions to Actinic Since Version 10

#### 2.2.1 Online Accounts

- Actinic can now create accounts automatically for both online customers, and customers placing mail / telephone orders. Accounts can be created when an order is placed, either automatically, or with customer opt-in or opt-out. Customers can log in to their accounts and view / modify their contact details.

#### 2.2.2 Order Tracking & Order History

- Customers can view the status of recent orders in their account, or by searching on postcode and order number. They can see when an order is shipped, and view the tracking number for the order. They can also view past orders, up to a number of days old (settable by the site owner).

#### 2.2.3 Single-Use Coupons

- You can now generate discount coupons that can only be used once. Coupons can be associated with any discount that Actinic is capable of generating, and may be time expiring.

They can be activated by entering a code or clicking on a link. Both coupon codes and links can be exported to a csv file for mailmerging. Coupons can be generated and exported for specific groups of customers via the Mailing List function.

#### **2.2.4 Single Product Pages**

- Actinic can now automatically generate an individual page for each product on the site. Product pages have a lower performance overhead than subsection pages. They are automatically optimised for search engines, but can be further optimised manually, separately from the section page that the products are listed in.

#### **2.2.5 SEO Improvements**

- Default page Title tags have been improved. The company name no longer appears in every title, and every page title is unique.
- New sites use hyphens instead of underscores in page filenames. Upgraded sites can be switched to do the same.
- Copied pages are now given more concise, numbered page names.
- In the latest themes, the size of the style sheet has been much reduced to improve page load times.

#### **2.2.6 Design Improvements**

- Three new CSS-based themes are provided, to a more consistent standard.
- Product, section and fragment images now have Title tags, which provide pop-up tooltips in modern browsers.
- The company logo image always links to the home page by default.
- A list of top-level sections can now be shown in the horizontal menu bar, provided there are not too many of them.
- A default favicon image is now provided for the site.

#### **2.2.7 Usability Improvements**

- A few more commonly-used windows have been made permanently resizable.
- The internal page preview uses the latest version of Internet Explorer by default, and can be set to use an earlier version via the Site Options.
- Memory use during site generation has been further reduced.

### **2.3 System Requirements.**

#### **2.3.1 Merchant PC**

- Microsoft Windows XP (service pack 2), Windows Vista or Windows 7
- 1 GB RAM for XP; 2 GB RAM for Vista or Windows 7
- Minimum 1 GHz processor recommended; 2GHZ for sites with over 5000 products
- At least 120 MB available on the hard disk
- Broadband or dial-up access to the Internet
- Internet Explorer version 6 or higher
- Minimum screen resolution of 1024x768 pixels (anything less and Actinic will not be displayed wholly within your screen)
- Best viewed using a 65536 colour (or better) display

### **2.3.2 Web site**

Your ISP must be running a Windows or UNIX server (at least 20MB process memory recommended), and provide Perl 5.004 or better and a user writeable CGI directory.

All products now require a set of Perl files called 'MD5'. These files implement encryption/decryption, which is required to support logging in to online customer accounts. Actinic Products include a local copy of MD5, however for improved performance, Actinic recommend that the ISP be asked to install "Digest-MD5", version 2.09 or later.

### **2.3.3 Actinic Enterprise SQL**

Actinic Enterprise SQL version requires MS SQL 2005 or 2008

If you are running an Actinic Enterprise SQL Server site on a Windows XP machine, you should have Windows XP Service Pack 3 or higher.

### **2.3.4 Actinic FreeTrial Compatibility**

Compatible with FreeTrial hosts running script id 101000.

## **3 Installation Details**

### **3.1 Multiple Installations of Actinic**

Like previous releases of Actinic, it is not possible to install two copies of v11 on the same PC. However, once a copy of v11 has been installed and licensed, new sites can be licensed and maintained using the single software instance.

### **3.2 Co-existence with earlier versions**

If you have an earlier versions installed, they will be unaffected by the installation of v11 if you choose not to upgrade. Use of a second website to 'evaluate' the upgrade is permitted within the terms of the licence agreement so long as you do not operate both sites concurrently to take live orders.

If you have an existing installation of v10 you will be offered the choice of upgrading it.

Version 11 requires a different authorisation key to earlier versions.

## 4 Upgrading from Previous Versions of Actinic

If you have a web site using an earlier version of Actinic, this site has to be upgraded to v11. v11 uses the same design architecture as v8, which is very different from previous versions (v7 and earlier).

### 4.1 Upgrading from v8, v9 OR V10

There are instructions for this in the main help in v11. Just install a standard v11 and then go to 'Application Settings | Upgrading to New Versions' in the main help when you are ready to do the upgrade.

### 4.2 Upgrading from v7 and Earlier

An automated upgrader will convert your old site(s) to the new architecture, but it is recommended that you familiarise yourself with the new design concepts and features in case you have to make a few manual changes after the automated upgrade. The upgrader will handle the bulk of the changes for you. A few changes may be reported by the upgrader as needing attention but you will need to make the changes manually. Finally you will need to check through the appearance and operation of the upgraded site to make sure it is as you expect. A few manual amendments may also be required here.

For these reasons it is recommended that you do the following:

1. Install v11 without upgrading your existing site(s) and familiarise yourself with the new v11 design concepts and features. The design elements you are used to in v7 and earlier are not quite the same in v11. Templates have been replaced by layouts and layout selectors. Themes have now become independent sets of layouts, images and button sets. Your existing site image files get upgraded to custom themes and button sets (called something similar to 'Best Seller of Site1 upgraded from version 7.0.6.0.0.GBGA' etc) – this happens even if you had not modified them. Some v7 themes have been retired but this doesn't not prevent your site upgrading satisfactorily.
2. Upgrade your site and check it carefully in a test environment. There are three ways of upgrading an earlier version site:
  - a. During the initial installation of v11, the installer program will ask you if you wish to upgrade an existing site. All previous versions of Actinic can be upgraded this way.
  - b. If you have already installed v11, you can still run the v11 installer. This is the file called 'setup.exe' that came on the CD or in the download file. Again it will ask you if you wish to upgrade an existing site. All previous versions of Actinic can be upgraded this way.
  - c. Alternatively you can export a snapshot from your earlier version site. Then startup v11 and import the snapshot into a v11 site. This only works on v6 or higher sites. Snapshot upgrades will not work with v5 or v4.

In cases (a) and (b) ensure that you close your previous copy of Actinic before running the installer. The full site upgrade will only take place when you start up v11 and use the relevant site.

Your earlier version installation will be unaffected by the upgrade process.

3. The upgrade may produce some log files (it will tell you). These are placed in the Actinic v11\upgrader\"sitename\" folder and called something similar to ScriptUpgrades 8.0.0.0.0.GEXA.log and DesignTextUpgrades8.0.0.0.0.GEXA.log. The former lists any changes you made to Perl scripts. These changes are not automatically applied by the upgrader so you may have to manually reapply these changes to the new v11 scripts. The scripts haven't changed much in v11 so this should be fairly straightforward. The DesignTextUpgrades log contains changes you made to certain items of design text, typically ones with embedded HTML. With each change in the log there is a suggested action you should take to apply a similar change in v11.

4. The next thing to do is go to the Design menu and choose the Check Coding Errors option. This will produce a report of all coding problems that may cause problems when generating your web site. Double-clicking on an error message will take you to the offending code in a layout.
5. Keep a careful record of all changes you make as you will need to reapply them later in the process.
6. Once you have fixed up any script changes, design text changes and coding errors it is time to test whether the site appears and functions as you would expect. One way of testing is to go to 'Web | Switch to Test Mode'. When you next upload, Actinic will upload your store pages to a sub-folder called 'test' within the 'acatalog' folder online.
7. If you find areas where the upgrade has not given the same appearance or functionality as you had previously, firstly see whether these are small issues that you can correct yourself.
8. If you have issues with the upgrade that you are unable to resolve manually, contact Actinic Support. They may either guide you through the necessary changes or possibly give you new upgrade instruction files. In this latter case you will need to reapply the upgrade.
9. When you feel confident that the upgrader (together with any small changes you need to make yourself) has satisfactorily upgraded your site it is then time to do the upgrade for real. Within your currently live copy of Actinic, download all the outstanding orders from your website. If you have a large volume of sales, you may want to go to 'Settings | Business Settings | Orders' and tick where it says 'Suspended' and upload. This will replace all your 'Add to Cart' buttons with a message saying 'CATALOG SUSPENDED'. After suspending online ordering, wait half an hour and download orders again to ensure there are none up there. This eliminates the risk of any orders being lost during the upgrade. Finally then repeat the upgrade and changes so that this time you have an up-to-date set of orders transferred together latest stock levels etc.
10. Once you are happy the store is working correctly, you can switch out of test mode (if you used that approach for testing) and put the site live. To put your site live:
  - Go into your new site, and double-check that you are going to upload to the correct location by checking 'Web | Network Setup'. These settings should be identical to the settings in your old site.
  - Go to 'Web | Refresh Website' to upload the site.
  - Once it has uploaded successfully, go to 'Business Settings | Ordering' and un-tick 'Suspended' in order to make the site active again (if you ticked this box earlier).
  - You can now update the site by going to 'Web | Publish to Web'.

## 5 Instructions for Use

### 5.1 Main Help

Actinic comes with extensive and integrated help. You can press the F1 key on your keyboard at any time to display the main help file. You can also click on the '?' button at the top right hand corner of each window and then click on an individual field on the screen to get specific, context sensitive, help. Use the Help menu for a complete explanation of using Actinic, including configuration details and creating the online store at your web site.

### 5.2 Starter Guide

The 'Getting Started Guide' can be accessed via 'Help | Starter Guide' option in Actinic. It is a PDF file designed to introduce the salient features of Actinic, and help you work through how to use them. They are a very good way to become familiar with the key features of Actinic.

To access this guide, a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader needs to be installed on your machine - this is available from <http://www.adobe.com/> or <http://www.adobe.co.uk/>.

## 6 Technical Data

### 6.1 Release Version Details

#### 6.1.1 Installation directory structure

Actinic v11	The default installation directory. Holds files common to all sites, such as reports and help files.
BACKUP	Any non site-specific files replaced during the installation are placed here.
Backup <i>version</i>	Files from an earlier version site that have been upgraded
Extensions	Files related to any software extensions e.g. Actinic Assistant for Dreamweaver
Formats	Holds various default styles.
Themes	The files that constitute the themes, available via the 'Design   Themes' menu option.
OCCUpgrade	Installation directory for the Payment Service Providers install program. Contains the master files. On startup, Actinic copies the relevant files to the current site.
Original	The master set of general files used when sites are created.
SiteBackups	Default location of all site and theme backups
SSLUpgrade	Legacy directory holding the log of Shared SSL Service Providers (now withdrawn).
Starter Guide	The browser-based introduction to the functionality.
Upgrade <i>version</i>	Theme files associated with any upgraded sites
My Documents	
Actinic v11	
Sites	Locates all licensed sites.
Site1	Default site after installation.

#### 6.1.2 File version numbers

### 6.2 Install program version numbers

### 6.3 Restrictions

#### 6.3.1 Installing Database Components

“Microsoft Data Access Components” (MDAC) and the Access Jet engine are provided on the installation CD. They are installed as part of the normal installation process but can be skipped by user selection. If they aren’t installed then certain database operations within Actinic may fail meaning that normal operation isn’t possible.

### **6.3.2 MD5 calculation**

Actinic Business and Developer install their own MD5 script and uses it if it can't find the MD5 Perl module installed on the web server. If the MD5 Perl module is already installed then it is used instead of Actinic's.

Actinic's MD5 implementation is slower than the Perl module implementation (because it has to be written in Perl) so we recommend the ISP install the Perl module for improved browser performance.

### **6.3.3 Internet Explorer earlier than version 6**

Actinic v11 uses some facilities provided in libraries installed with Internet Explorer. In particular, Internet Explorer version 6 or later must be installed otherwise the software may fail to run properly. You may receive the error message:

“Error Starting Program - The Catalog.exe file is missing export WININET.DLL:FtpCommandA” if you don't have Internet Explorer version 6 or later installed.