

Actinic Version 8

Release Notes

Actinic Software Limited

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Comments
0.1	07/03/2006	Josh Speed	Draft for review
0.2	22/03/2006	Josh Speed	Updated with comments
0.3	09/05/2006	Josh Speed	Updated for the latest product names and configurations
0.4	17/05/2006	Josh Speed	Revised product configurations
0.5	31/05/2006	Josh Speed	Final product configuration
0.6	06/06/2006	Josh Speed	Added SP2 req for Win 2000
0.7	15/08/2006	Chris Dicken	Added note about upgrading pre v6 versions
0.8	21/08/2006	Chris Dicken	Updated for 8.0.1
0.9	12/09/2006	Gordon Camley	Updated for 8.0.2
1.0	22/09/2006	Chris Dicken	Updated for 8.0.3
1.1	24/11/2006	Chris Dicken	Updated for 8.0.4
1.2	31/01/2007	Chris Dicken	Updated for 8.5.0
1.3	03/04/2007	Chris Dicken	Updated for 8.5.1
1.4	29/05/07	Chris Dicken	Note about upgraded templates added
1.5	15/08/07	Gordon Camley	Additional fixes for 8.5.1
1.6	21/09/07	Chris Dicken	Updated for 8.5.2
1.7	11/10/07	Gordon Camley	Added Supplementary notes for 8.5.2

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1 Version 8 Release History

1.1 Changes in 8.5.2

The 'error occurred while merging' error message should be a lot less frequent when uploading sites AC8-5413
Searchable properties are now only checked when the store is uploaded, which speeds up Actinic starting up. AC8-5442
There have been some performance improvements that will be most noticeable in stores that have a lot of custom settings. Products/sections/etc. that have a value of 'Use Parent' for a custom setting will no longer be stored explicitly in the database. AC8-5284
The 'Maximum Quantity' value of an associated product is now honoured, when that product is ordered as part of a component. AC8-1905
Dragging and dropping sections no longer results in loss of data or crashes. AC8-5431
You can now drag and drop components and attributes around the content tree without them getting lost. This would happen if the product you were copying to already had a component/attribute with the same name as the thing you were moving. AC8-3865
When using the Dreamweaver extension, you now have to select an option on the Actinic menu before Actinic will start. AC8-3655
The product quantity box no longer appears online if the customer is in a group where the product is not enabled. AC8-3786
The Dreamweaver extension now works correctly with Adobe Dreamweaver CS3. AC8-4902
The 'if you would like to ship this item to a different address' checkbox can now be removed from the checkout. AC8-3995
' Mallformed XML cart template (missing AlsoBoughtLine)' message no longer appears in the Actinic error log. AC8-4159
It is possible to select custom fields to export to Google Base now. AC8-4570
You can now control what happens to the stock level of products when orders end up in the 'PSP Pending' tab. AC8-5403
Any custom fields that are limited by content category now work correctly with duplicates (i.e. when you change the category of the main product, the change is made correctly to the duplicate) AC8-4586
Further safeguards against cross-site scripting have been added AC8-5002
An 'Out of Memory' no longer appears on Windows Vista when leaving the Fragment General tab. AC8-4703
The 'number of products in list' field for best sellers and new products now works correctly for Vista. AC8-4729
Images that were outside of the site folder now always appear correctly when importing a snapshot onto a new machine. AC8-4763
Exporting hierarchical files now works fine when you have a large number of user-definable properties. AC8-4844
An intermittent crash that was sometimes experienced when importing and upgrading a snapshot has been addressed. AC8-2335
You can now log in with a username and password using a command line even when not

running in multi-user mode. AC8-3418
Actinic no longer crashes if you go straight to the 'Prices' tab of a product after doing an import. AC8-3898
Actinic no longer crashes if you try and upload with a customer account that doesn't have an invoice address specified for the main contact. AC8-3948
When you delete and undelete a product that has components, any duplicates of that product will show the components correctly after the undeletion. AC8-4026
The 'image' fields in 'Settings Site Options' no longer give an error message if they are left blank. AC8-4032
Answers to 'Other Info' questions for products no longer risk being truncated in any emails generated by Actinic AC8-4098
Some layout improvements have been made to the Shared SSL bounce page to avoid redundant code and include test messages. AC8-4101
Duplicates no longer get confused if you point the master product at an image that has the same filename but is in a different folder. AC8-4112
You can now import a snapshot into a site right after renaming the site. AC8-4122
The stock levels of products are no longer affected by ordering if that product is not stock monitored. AC8-4189
Extended info pages are no longer incorrectly removed from the site during an upload (this was caused by corrupted data being generated during an import). AC8-4298
The 'File/URL' link now works online when you link to a file that is outside of the site directory. AC8-4405
'The Blues' colour scheme is now available in sites after upgrading to v8. AC8-4410
Meta keywords are now always present and correct on the store front page AC8-4433
It is now possible to include custom PHP functions for sites into the standard Actinic php file. AC8-4436
Images with *.jpeg extensions now always preview correctly. AC8-4438
Extended information pop-up links now use html that can be indexed by search engines. AC8-4457
Session locking now always happens correctly when using Nochex and Paypal. AC8-4762
The coupon code is now securely stored on the server when using discounts. AC8-4776
There are no longer any 'insecure items' when using PayPal Pro express checkout and Split SSL. AC8-4788
Product image names are now transferred with other product details when you do a transfer to Actinic EPOS. AC8-4828
Simple shipping now works correctly when adding a new order offline. AC8-4873
Components no longer have extra line breaks added during an upgrade. AC8-4949
You will no longer be able to upgrade from 8.0.3, 8.0.4 etc. to 8.5.2 with a patch. You will be asked to use a full version. AC8-4972
EPOS Link configuration settings are now stored at site level rather than installation level. AC8-5082
Embedded HTML marks in product names are now stripped out when product names are shown in the shopping cart AC8-5084

Ctrl+F now brings up 'Find Orders' correctly AC8-5116
HSBC PSP settings are now retained correctly when upgrading between Actinic versions. AC8-5164
Home, Site Map and Search links now work correctly on the 'Contact Us' page when the customer is logged in. AC8-5181
A reference to the theme designer has been added to the bottom of the 'Contemporary' theme. AC8-5193
Section *.cat files are now generated correctly if the store has an orphaned product that was originally in a section that has now been deleted. AC8-5199
When you import a partial site design into a site that is using encryption, you no longer receive an incorrect error about encrypting orders. AC8-5229
Tabs containing custom settings will no longer change position AC8-5268
Copy/pasting/duplicating products and sections no longer causes multiple instances of custom settings to appear in the tabs. AC8-5287
MySQL and MS SQL can now be used for external linking with Multi-User. AC8-5333
When importing orders from a db that has credit card encryption enabled on it, the message asking you for the encryption password is more informative. AC8-5338
A cookie error is no longer received when you try and order an out of stock permutation AC8-5412
Text to indicate price inclusive and exclusive of tax is now displayed correctly for registered customers AC8-3649
Shipped Components associated with hidden products now move out of allocated in EPOS via EPOS Link AC8-5235
Design layouts 24x7 and Smart are no longer lost after upgrading to v8 AC8-5282
Starting EC from command-line now uses the correct encryption password for encrypting/decrypting CC details AC8-5320
When switching to a second site a password is no longer prompted for if the first site required a password and the second site does not, AC8-5328
Credit Card Encryption and Decryption failures are now reported AC8-5335
UDPs are no longer duplicated when brochure fragments are dragged and dropped AC8-5389
DD Link sent from the desktop using 'Resend URL email' is corrected AC8-5448

1.1.1 Supplementary notes for 8.5.2

1.1.1.1 Restricting ordering of Associated Products

The Minimum Quantity and Maximum Quantity fields of an associated product are not generally checked when ordering an associated product via a component. However a number of customers have requested this feature so it has been added to 8.5.2 and can be enabled by way of a variable 'EnableAssociatedQuantity' which can be set on the 'Stock' tab of 'Settings | Site Options'.

1.1.1.2 PHP Site specific library

Designers may now add there own site wide PHP functions to be used in Actinic. If required, the file needs to be named 'siteincludes.php' and stored in the Site folder. This file, if present, will be included in the site snapshot.

If PHP encounters errors while parsing either actinic_main.php or siteincludes.php then the error will be written to PHPErrors.log in the sites folder.

1.1.1.3 Upgrades using the Patch.exe file

Actinic will no longer supply a Patch.exe for major upgrades. The 8.5.2 Patch.exe can only be used to upgrade 8.5.0 and 8.5.1 to 8.5.2. The reason for this is that the patch does not include the help files and major upgrades such as 8.5.0 require important changes to the help, adding the help to the Patch.exe would make the file almost as large as the main installer.

1.1.1.4 Change to the way 'Use Parent' is implemented for UDPs

In 8.5.1 and earlier the User Defined Properties that were set to 'Use Parent' required a record in the UserDefinedProperties table. This had a substantial overhead when processing the table for large sites with many UDPs. The UDP management has been changed to not require the 'Use Parent' records and these records are removed in 8.5.2 during the DB Upgrade.

This change will have consequences for users that downgrade to 8.5.1 or 8.5.0 and choose to continue using the DB from 8.5.2. For the UDPs to work correctly after downgrading it will be necessary to force Actinic to regenerate the 'Use Parent' UDPs. This can be achieved in the Design Library, Variables tab by selecting each variable that has 'Allow <Use Parent> as an option', change the place of setting by ticking an unchecked box, click OK, edit the variable again and untick the place of setting that was just set.

Upgrading to 8.5.2 again having downgraded to 8.5.1 or 8.5.0 will require the manual removal of the 'Use Parent' record from the UserDefinedProperties table. This can be achieved in Access by running the following SQL:-

```
DELETE FROM [UserDefinedProperties] WHERE nUseParentSetting = 1;
```

1.1.1.5 Stock Control for PSP Pending orders

The behaviour of Stock Adjustments for PSP Pending Orders is now optional. Business Settings | Settings | Options | Stock Monitoring has a new checkbox 'Allocate Stock for PSP Pending Orders'. The default is 'Off' for new sites and 'On' for upgraded sites to preserve the way the stock control worked in 8.5.0 and 8.5.1.

When this option is 'On' the stock will be decremented when the PSP Pending order is received. When this option is 'Off' the stock will only be decremented when the PSP Pending order is paid.

CAUTION: Changing this setting while there are PSP Pending orders will cause the stock to become out of sync and the stock of the PSP Pending orders should be adjusted manually.

1.1.1.6 Actinic fatal error analysis

In the event of Actinic encountering a fatal error a message similar to the following may appear:-

Actinic encountered a fatal error. Details of this error have been saved to 'c:\Actinic\Repository\8.5.2\Source\Catalog\Build\release\Catalog_8_5_2_0_0_0_HIOA_0709070931.dmp'. Please send this file to Actinic for investigation.

The file should be forwarded to Actinic Support along with details of the product version and the events leading up to the error.

1.2 Changes in 8.5.1

PayPal Pro has now been added as a payment service provider for all versions of Actinic EC AC8-4477

You can now choose where to place your site folders when installing Actinic. You are no longer restricted to having everything within the 'Program Files\Actinic v8' folder. AC8-4673

The 'Lookup in Actinic Stylesheet' feature now correctly searches for entire class names rather than partial matches. AC8-4613
--

User-definable variable values can now be imported successfully into Actinic via a hierarchical import AC8-4577
When moving your mouse over a grid in Actinic, Windows Vista users will no longer receive a "An invalid argument was encountered" message. AC8-4696
Actinic now always generates a fresh copy of Act_section_tree.js (and the other array files) when it does an upload. This file contains the live site URLs. AC8-3924
When you register a page design using Dreamweaver now, you only get the outer layout selectors to apply your design to. This means you cannot apply a page design to a page type that doesn't have its own selector AC8-2815
The cart/checkout/search etc. pages now have a page title that shows the company name. AC8-3058
When you use 'Import a Page Design' to pull an Actinic outer layout into Dreamweaver, you no longer get content from the <head> section appearing within the main body of the page. AC8-2121
You can now apply a css class to your full descriptions etc. using the point and click text formatting bar, but when you set the css class back to none, the !!< and >!! marks are removed. AC8-3741
The warning page that appears when you try and add to cart in preview mode now works correctly in multi-user mode. AC8-3776
The 'Single Add To Cart Button' shopping mode now works when there are duplicates of the same product on the page. See 'Layout Changes' (below) for an explanation of the layout changes involved in this fix. AC8-3999
The right-click menu always appears now in the Design tab. AC8-4019
The Shared SSL page now supports background images. AC8-4109
Meta tags now work correctly within brochure pages in the Technical theme AC8-4373
Actinic no longer crashes when switching between Designer and Client sites AC8-4462
Sections are now transferred correctly from QuickBooks (US) via Actinic Link AC8-4580
When you hide a variable with a content category, and then re-enable it again, the field now appears where it should straight away. AC8-3525
The context-sensitive help for the Thumbnail fields is now correct. AC8-4036
Some serious problems were encountered with Actinic's credit card encryption technology in the following situations: switching sites where both sites had the same logon details, running Actinic from a command line where users are automatically logged in, import of snapshots and import of orders. This would result in the loss/corruption of credit card data. This has now been fixed AC8-5159 & AC8-5320

1.3 Changes in 8.5.0

The shipping area of the software has been significantly enhanced with support for volumetric shipping rate calculation, shipping charges based on the category of the product, 'free-over' limits for specific classes, shipping supplements for individual products, the ability to be able to make a product count for more than one item of 'quantity', and the ability to exclude products from shipping calculation. AC8-3925
Actinic v8 is now fully compatible with the requirements of Windows Vista. AC8-4225
A link has been added between Actinic Business/Designer and Actinic EPOS for the transfer

of products, prices and stock levels. AC8-4235
It is now possible to edit any layout in Dreamweaver via the new 'Edit Layout in Dreamweaver' command. AC8-4257
You can now right-click on any CSS class in a layout and select 'Lookup in Actinic Stylesheet' to check out that CSS class properties. AC8-4258
The 'Undo' button now works properly after clicking 'Apply'. AC8-3665
The 'Operations Stock Levels' grid now behaves consistently and correctly all the time when editing stock values. AC8-3739
Files used in the registration of external outer layouts using Dreamweaver are now all collected by a snapshot. AC8-3371
When you export a snapshot from one site, where the site uses an external registered outer layout, and then import it into a different site on the same machine, you no longer receive errors about Actinic trying to upload images from the first site. AC8-3522
The *.pl and *.pm files are now upgraded correctly when upgrading between versions. AC8-4256
The logout link no longer goes to a non-SSL page if the site is using SSL for every page. AC8-3685
The 'click here to start shipping link' on sites where SSL is only used for login/checkout now correctly goes to a non-SSL page. AC8-3687
When you enter HTML for the 'Short Description', this HTML no longer appears in the 'alt' text of the product image. AC8-3775
You can now change the cart button layout in the default product layouts using Site Options. AC8-3889
When you register an external overall layout using Dreamweaver, you now receive a warning that it is advisable to have the external design stored within the 'site folder' (usually 'Site1'). AC8-4259
The purchase order number field now appears if you are only using PSPs for taking payment online. AC8-3954
The product price no longer displays 'fatal error'. AC8-3956
When registering an external layout using Dreamweaver, files referenced in custom *.css files now appear correctly in the preview. AC8-3957
The 'error' message that appears during upload when files contain links to files that cannot be found on the desktop has been changed to a more friendly and informative message. AC8-4260
When you import a snapshot that was created on a different PC using a design registered via Dreamweaver, the images and CSS now appear as soon as you register it. AC8-3959
Actinic no longer crashes when you enter a ',' in the product reference field. AC8-3961
The 'Next' button is no longer active in a design snapshot import, unless Actinic is waiting for a response from the user. AC8-3983
The *.cat file for a section is still generated correctly when that section has been excluded from the sitemap. AC8-3987
Layout selectors are now imported first time when you import a partial site design snapshot. AC8-3997
The 'Simple' list of 'Insert Actinic Content' in Dreamweaver now includes 'NewProductListSidebar', 'BestSellerListSidebar', 'HeaderFooter' and 'BrochureNavBar'. AC8-

4013
The 'Customer Message' field for the 'Price' tab of the component is now included in the HTML correctly. AC8-4014
Extended information pages are now always created correctly from a flat-file import. AC8-4015
There are no longer filename conflicts from non-existent files when uploading and taking a snapshot. AC8-4018
The search page is no longer displayed after a pop-up page is closed by an online customer. AC8-4024
A crash no longer takes place if NewProductsItem and BestSellerItem are added accidentally in an incorrect place. AC8-4030
Images in the 'Mini' best seller and new products layouts are now clickable. AC8-4039
The 'OnLoad' parameter is now added to the <body> tag of a design registered as an external design using Dreamweaver. AC8-4123
'&'s in image names no longer cause images to not appear during a preview. AC8-4160
The code inserted into the '<head>' section of a page when it is registered using Dreamweaver now correctly shows the beginning and end of 'block' segments when the design is viewed in Actinic. AC8-4196
The 'Filename' of an external design when it is registered with Actinic using Dreamweaver is now stored better in the database, so the Actinic site can be moved easier from site to site. AC8-4199
Context-type: text/html is no longer added into the headers of Perl-generated pages by IIS 6.0 AC8-4213
The 'Update Order Shipping' command now works correctly if the calculation basis is either quantity or value. AC8-4232
You no longer receive errors about countries being in a tax zone but not a shipping zone if you have removed the relevant zones from both shipping and tax. AC8-4233
Changes to the EU member states in 2007 have been reflected in the default database. AC8-4283
Digital download links now appear correctly in the receipt emails of customers who pay via PayPal and Nochex. AC8-4311
The meta description and keyword code added by the Dreamweaver integration now works correctly on brochure pages and the store home page. AC8-4289
Content categories can now be imported using the category names rather than the IDs. AC8-4328
Stock is no longer re-allocated to a product when you delete an order. AC8-4133
Variables added via the Dreamweaver integration now always appear correctly in the 'Design' view. AC8-3179
The 'Import a Page Design from Actinic' feature in the Dreamweaver extension now imports designs correctly. AC8-2839

1.4 Changes in 8.0.4

Several performance improvements have been made to Actinic. Ref : AC8-3971, AC8-3972,

AC8-4055, AC8-4089 and AC8-4094
Actinic now includes a hierarchical file converter, to convert flat files to hierarchical import files for the importing of user definable variables. Ref: AC8-4023
Users can now pick whether the main product, or one of its duplicates, is used in the 'best sellers/new products lists. Ref: AC8-2492
Visible duplicates of products now appear within the Best Sellers list automatically. Ref: AC8-3490
Digital download links now appear correctly in emails sent from Actinic when the customer has paid via PayPal. Ref: AC8-3939
The [LINK] expression now always works correctly when used within the main text of a fragment. Ref: AC8-3247
The product references are now included into the drop down lists for the marketing lists (when the user has elected to see product references). Ref: AC8-3270
The also bought and related items lists no longer include hidden products, and also don't include the product you are creating the list for. Ref: AC8-3267
Point and click text formatting done in the 'Design' tab is now visible within the 'Design' tab - you don't have to change to the 'Content' tab to see the changes. Ref: AC8-3305
The 'Page Title' field is now available in a flat file import. Ref: AC8-3743
The search now works correctly with fragments within sections. Ref: AC8-3991
Product prices no longer generate 'parse errors' Ref: AC8-3994
You can now set a component price correctly within Actinic. Ref: AC8-4007
Hidden products are no longer included in the marketing lists. Ref: AC8-3811
You no longer get half-finished duplicate order numbers appearing in Multi User when an offline order is abandoned half-way through. Ref: AC8-3469
Actinic now allows upgraded sites to consistently change colour scheme without triggering a crash. Ref: AC8-601
When you first start the software, and then do a 'Find' in the 'Design' tab and hit enter, Actinic no longer crashes. Ref: AC8-3540
You can now select the 'Generate Now' button in the 'Marketing' dialogues by pressing the 'Tab' key. Ref: AC8-3559
When you delete a product, while you are working on its design code, it no longer causes Actinic to freeze. Ref: AC8-3623
When you are half-way through creating a product, and then go to the Marketing menu without saving the product, Actinic no longer loses the product in the content tree. Ref: AC8-3648
Exporting a site snapshot no longer causes a crash when a product has an invalid value supplied for a user-definable variable (when the value shouldn't be visible to the product due to a content category restriction) Ref: AC8-3890
Line breaks within the full description are now correctly handled by Actinic Link for Sage. Ref: AC8-3985
Some changes have been made to Actinic to ensure compatibility with Windows Vista. Ref: AC8-3990
There is no longer a crash when customers switch to the Design tab. Ref: AC8-4085
The list of excluded categories for variables is now correctly maintained when a variable's

category list is changed. Ref: AC8-3894
Unused User Defined Properties are now removed from the database. Ref: AC8-3946
Upgrading to and from Multi-User versions of Actinic take into account the location of the sites folder. Ref: AC8-3841
When using SSL for Login and Checkout pages the cart ID is passed from the non-secure to the secure server. Ref: AC8-4097

1.5 Changes in 8.0.3

The <DOCTYPE> declaration now always appears right at the top of the page design – even when looking at the built-in preview. This means that IE handles code much more reliably. Ref: AC8-3767
Order level discounts no longer just say 'Adjustment' when appearing in the shopping cart. Ref: AC8-3732
An option to import orders from other copies of Actinic has been added. Ref: AC8-3752
You can now create a set of duplicates all in one go from a group of selected products. Ref: AC8-3698
Products within hidden sections no longer appear in the list of products in the best sellers/new products grid. Ref: AC8-3844
Thumbnail images are now uploaded automatically. Ref: AC8-3798
Meta keywords are no longer ignored by the online search. Ref: AC8-3881
The format of the froogle feed export is now up to date. Ref: AC8-3819
NETQUOTEVAR:PRODUCTANCHOR is now upgraded correctly, so the search results still link to products following an upgrade. Ref: AC8-3788
There is now an option when upgrading to just use a default set of v8 layouts, rather than try and upgrade your current layouts. Ref: AC8-3751
Extensions other than *.html are now supported for sections. Ref: AC8-3805
The 'Fragment Layout' field is no longer missing from sections. Ref: AC8-3813
All JavaScriptArray layouts now correctly generate *.js files containing section data in an array. Ref: AC8-3766
A flat file import using 'Replace' no longer removes the 'Layout' and 'Properties' tabs from 'Online Catalogue' tree node. Ref: AC8-3726
Section links on the brochure home page now take you to a login page if your store is restricted to registered customers only. Ref: AC8-3489
You no longer get errors when four users complete orders at the same time in multi-user mode. Ref: AC8-3749
The list of available payment methods is no longer cached between sites, so there is no chance for payment methods in one site to appear in another. Ref: AC8-476
You no longer receive coding errors after carrying out a snapshot export. Ref: AC8-3339
The parent section lists no longer link the online store when in preview mode. Ref: AC8-3759
The 'Purge and Refresh' option now gives an option to exclude the images/digital download files. Ref: AC8-3790
From 8.0.3 onwards it is now possible to upgrade and then downgrade your Actinic version without crashes. Ref: AC8-3794

It is no longer possible to save a blank value for user-definable variables where a blank value is not allowed. Ref: AC8-3796
The image in the installer for the US version now looks correct. Ref: AC8-3820
Background image/colour settings are now honoured by the online scripts when creating dynamic bounce pages etc. Ref: AC8-3797
Search by Price Range now has a '+' after the last option in the list. Ref: AC8-3487
The description for the 'Ref: %s' prompt in 'Design Text' is now correct. Ref: AC8-3633
When upgrading between version 8 releases, if a layout has been edited by both the merchant and Actinic, the Actinic version will be correctly added to the library with a new name. Ref: AC8-3764
Any files referenced in 'file content' variables are now exported automatically with a snapshot Ref: AC8-3821
Product images are now always taken with a snapshot, even when the layout code doesn't include the image. Ref: AC8-3825
Online searching for choices is no longer broken by the use of !!< >!! tags within the choice fields. Ref: AC8-3842
Best sellers/new products lists now work correctly when the store is using external linking, and there are less than 50 products in the store. Ref: AC8-3843
Crashes no longer take place when navigating the preview using the four navigation buttons: Ref: AC8-3845
Content categories no longer disappear randomly after checking in the library which layouts have been edited. Ref: AC8-3846
Layout navigation now works correctly following a full page preview. Ref: AC8-3857
If a section fragment is using an image that is stored outside of the Site1 folder, the image is now correctly taken into a snapshot, and the file path is updated correctly. Ref: AC8-3875
When creating a 'Password' email for a customer account, after creating new accounts, there is no longer a possibility that the wrong account details appear in the email. Ref: AC8-3877
Discounts are now shown correctly when a product is shown on the first page of the store. Ref: AC8-3882.
The Preview Pane is no longer blank when the product is not installed to the default drive. Ref: AC8-3901.
The Design Tab is no longer empty after importing a snapshot Ref: AC8-3941.
The error 'The system cannot find the file specified' no longer occurs when exporting a snapshot after moving a visible section below a hidden section. Ref: AC8-3952

1.6 Changes in 8.0.2

The script ShippingTemplate.pl is now upgraded when upgrading from earlier versions of Actinic Ref:AC8-3856
The Java Script files are now upgraded when upgrading from earlier versions of Actinic Ref:AC8-3721
The script used for the 'Contact Us' email can no longer be used for sending SPAM Ref:AC8-3867
Fragments no longer get 'lost' when moving their parent section Ref:AC8-3855

1.7 Changes in 8.0.1

Modified layouts are now highlighted in the 'Layouts' tab of the library. Ref:AC8-3256
You can now compare the differences between customised layouts and the original factory versions. Ref:AC8-3256
Related Items and Also Bought lists are now inherited by duplicate products. Ref:AC8-3716
The [LINK] method of including an advanced link in the description of a product or fragment now works correctly. Ref:AC8-3710
De-selecting 'Enabled' for the retail customer group now correctly hides the add to cart button for retail customers. Ref:AC8-3719
When you choose to do a site upgrade now in Actinic, you will not have to confirm an action on each individual layout to be upgraded. You can just set an action once, and use that for all layouts that require attention. Ref: AC8-2774
Actinic v8 now supports Shared SSL providers other than Actinic. Ref:AC8-3695
The Actinic Dreamweaver plug-in no longer conflicts with other Dreamweaver plug-ins. This manifested itself as Actinic starting automatically while using other non-Actinic plug-ins. Ref:AC8-3655
There is no longer a coding error on the 'Curves' theme. Ref:AC8-3703
The 'Powered By Actinic' referrer link now appears correctly in the store pages, Ref:AC8-3640
You can now use the 'User Definable 3' field for things other than just the 'referrer' link. Ref:AC8-3682
Images now show correctly when images are in sub-folders in Site1 and customer is logged in. Ref:AC8-3730
When you click on a variable in the design preview, and there is more than one instance of that variable in that layout, Actinic no longer just highlights the first instance. Ref:AC8-3754
The preview image on the 'Curves' theme now shows the correct navigation icons. Ref:AC8-3702
Documentation is now available on all the different 'Layouts Types' in the library. Ref:AC8-3537
You can now upgrade snapshots that have theme information missing from the snapshot. Ref:AC8-3566
A crash no longer occurs when highlighting and deleting an entire line of code in Actinic, and then clicking on another layout without clicking 'Apply'. Ref:AC8-3668
The 'Filename Conflict' error message now tells you to go to 'Design Additional Files' rather than 'Advanced Additional files'. Ref:AC8-3697
The URL to go to UPS Online Tools is now correct. Ref:AC8-3701
A credit card encryption warning is no longer received with the default US DB. Ref:AC8-3737

2 Layout Changes

2.1 Changes to product layouts – AC8-3999

8.5.1 includes a fix which has included a new variable in the product layouts – 'ProductID'. This variable gets replaced the product reference when the pages are built, but if the product is a duplicate ProductID will be replaced by the full duplicate reference.

ProductID replaces ProductReference in most layouts – as ProductReference never includes any information about duplicates.

When you upgrade to 8.5.1, Actinic will automatically replace ProductReference with ProductID in the following layouts:

- Products - all layouts *
- Add to Cart Button - all layouts
- Component - all layouts
- Best Sellers Lists Entries - all layouts *
- Related Products Lists Entries - all layouts *
- New Products Lists Entries - all layouts *
- Also Bought Lists Entries - all layouts *
- Extended Info Button - all layouts
- Attributes - Push Button Grid
- Extended Info Layout - Includes Add To Cart Button *
- Standard Day List
- Standard Year List
- Standard Month List

* The only places where 'ProductReference' will be kept as it is where it is designed to be displayed to customers in the web pages.

3 Introduction

3.1 Description

Actinic Ecommerce (referred to as 'Actinic') is a desktop Windows program which enables the user to design and publish an illustrated, on-line catalogue, take secure, encrypted orders over the Internet, and process these orders in-house. It supports the creation of an e-commerce site with catalogue, shopping cart, secure payment and subsequent order processing.

Actinic V8 continues to require minimal resources to build a successful store. All you need is a dial-up account with an ISP and a web site with CGI access capability.

With the enhancements made in v8, 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, the ability to create and sell a customised Actinic product, badged with the web professionals own identity 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 and Business Clients 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 Multi-Site option delivers all the features of both Designer and 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.

Actinic Business Multi-User option delivers all the features of both Designer and Business along with the capability to create multiple sites and have multiple users on these sites to perform order processing. This product aimed at high volume stores who have two or more staff using Actinic concurrently.

Version 8 is an upgrade from Version 7.

3.2 Description of Changes to Actinic Since Version 7

3.2.1 New Product Range

A new range of products have been introduced for e-commerce professionals and their clients. Actinic Designer provides a low cost, high value, comprehensive product for e-commerce design. The Catalog Client and Business Client products offer Catalog and Business solutions, but without the design capability, as a cost effective means of distributing a pre designed site to merchants who have purchased a customised solution from an ecommerce supplier.

3.2.1.1 The product range is as follows

For web designers and their clients

- Designer
- Catalog Client
- Business Client
- Business Multi Site - an option on the Business Product to allow multiple operational sites that can take orders.
- Business Multi User - an option on the Business Product to allow multiple operational sites that can have multiple users processing orders

For Merchants

- Catalog
- Business
- Business Multi Site - an option on the Business Product to allow multiple operational sites that can take orders.
- Business Multi User - an option on the Business Product to allow multiple operational sites that can have multiple users processing orders

The v7 Order Manager product is replaced by Catalog client.

3.2.2 Enhanced Security

- V8 provides tools to encrypt the credit card details that are stored on the desktop.
- You can now force a user “logon” to run Actinic on the desktop.

3.2.3 New Marketing Features

- Creation of “Best Sellers” lists for publishing on the website.
- Creation of “Related Product” lists for publishing on the website.
- Creation of “Also Bought” lists for publishing on the website (Business and Designer only).
- Creation of “New Product” lists to allow special promotion on the website.
- Automated generation of mailing lists including mailing labels, envelopes and campaign reports as well as exporting these to a file.
- Advanced generation of mailing lists to allow filtering of the lists based on the order data such as payment type, order value, products purchased, address etc. (Business and Designer Only)

3.2.4 Overhaul of the Web Page Design Capability

V8 introduces a new “Design” module that provide a user interface for editing page designs within Actinic. This design defines the look and feel of the website. The new architecture provides a method of designing HTML pages, by combining product content with HTML fragments in order to generate the website. The new design method is highly flexible and consistent, allowing web designers more freedom to build creative and exciting e-commerce sites quickly and efficiently. At the same time, the point and click user interface, allows users with limited, or no web design knowledge, to easily customise the design of their site.

These design features are not provided in the Client products as the design will be supplied by a web designer.

The following features are provided:

- A new Design Tab.
- A “Design Tree” to allow you to review and edit the structure of the HTML fragments, this replaces the functionality provided by the v7 Dreamweaver interface.
- A Design “Page Preview” shows a preview of all the store pages and allows you to directly edit the design and navigate the structure of the pages by clicking in the preview.
- A “Code Editor” that allows you to edit the detailed HTML that is used to generate the site. The editor is colour coded and context sensitive. It provides tools to assist with variable and layout insertion as well as helping with HTML constructs.
- A “Coding Errors” view to assist with constructing valid page designs.
- A “Library” of reusable code snippets which we have called “Layouts”. Layouts replace v7 templates. The library is supported by a clear user interface which includes creation, deletion and search and replace of layouts, variables and conditions.
- A collection of lists that allow you to process the nested structure of the content. The lists provide extensive control of the list layout allowing
 - multiple columns
 - first and last rows can have a different column count from the other rows.
 - different behaviour for odd and even columns and rows
 - special behaviour for empty lists

- counters to allow manipulation of the layout on an item by item basis.
- A set of system variables to provide all the data that is defined when you create the content.
- The ability to configure the user interface to allow variables to be set (or defaulted) in different parts of the product.
- The ability to categorise products and sections and as a result configure the settability of variables based on categorisation. Categorisation can also result in automatic setting of product data such as the layout to be used.
- The ability to create user defined variables. These
 - have different types including text, number or a list of choices
 - can be configured using categorisation
 - can be set on any tab of Site, Section, Brochure, Product, Fragment, Component, Attribute and Choice and are automatically added in the appropriate place in the user interface
 - can also create a new tab to present the variable in the user interface
 - can be uploaded to the website
 - can be set as modifiable (or not) in a duplicate
- A “Search and Replace” tool to search through the design HTML. It can be used to search through all the code in a page, all the code in the library and can be used to find a variable in the library.
- The use of inheritance throughout the product with extra features on the “Use Parent” setting to help you understand the value that has been set and where that value was set.
- A “Condition Editor” to create and edit conditions to control the website layout. A collection of standard conditions are also provided.
- A user interface to control the visibility of pieces of code, based on conditions.
- The ability to create multiple extended information windows on a product, with different designs for each window. This includes the ability to add a buy button in the extended information window.
- A user interface to make it easy to format pieces of text in both content and in design.
- A more flexible themes dialog that allows you to mix and match graphics, button sets, page designs and colours allowing a lot more mix and match combinations of the standard styles.
- The use of PHP code to generate static HTML pages based on the data provided in the content.
- Permutation grids (implemented using PHP) to draw grids of two or more attributes.
- Variables provided on permutations to allow user defined attribute data to be assigned to an individual permutation (eg you can now have a specific picture for each permutation).
- A collection of new Themes have been developed specifically for V8.
- The ability to preview all the pages in a design, including the online pages such as the cart.
- The ability to configure the page design to allow sharing of common page surrounds on different page types.
- Complete control of the encoding of variables used in a design.
- A more powerful user interface on Design Text to provide descriptions in order to easily find the text you want.
- The ability to export and import pieces of design.

- Full Undo/Redo capability of the design features.

3.2.5 Other Enhancements

- Digital Download is now provided as standard in all products
- One click order completion (originally only in v7 Multi User) is provided across the product range.
- Order line price editing from the desktop (originally only in v7 Multi User) is provided across the product range.
- Bar coding on standard reports (originally only in v7 Multi User) is provided in Business and Designer products.
- Search logs enhanced to allow merchants to find out the common search terms used by shoppers. This feature allows you to tune your search settings and product descriptions based on the searches that shoppers perform regularly.
- User interface extended to cover the full range of website search options.
- White Boxing of the Actinic product for reselling to clients (Designer, Business Multi Site and Business Multi User products only). This feature allows you to configure the actinic product to put your branding on it.
- Improved tax reporting to assist in calculating the merchant's tax liability. (this feature was originally only available in v7 Multi User)
- Integration with Dreamweaver to allow overall page design in Dreamweaver. (not available in Client products)
- Customer Accounts is now available in all products. (This feature was only available in Business and Developer at v7. Note: alternative pricing is retained in Business and Designer only.)
- User Configurable Window Layout.
- The introduction of tool tips on disabled items to explain why they are disabled.
- Separation of the meta description and meta key words variables.
- Reports that support stick on labelling to improve fulfilment productivity.
- Full control of the behaviour of duplicates allowing you to specify which fields can be modified in the duplicate and which must take the same value as the original.
- Actinic Frames have been replaced by a scrolling sidebar feature. Frames are no longer recommended practice as they are not search engine friendly. The scrolling side bar feature has been introduced to support customers who used Actinic Frames in v7. It is still easy to frame your site using custom frames.

3.3 System Requirements

3.3.1 Merchant PC

Your desktop PC may run Windows 2000 (service pack 2 or above), 2003 or XP and should have a minimum of 256 MB memory, 120 MB of free disk space and dial-up (or leased line) access to the Internet. You must have Internet Explorer version 6 or later installed.

Your PC must be configured to a minimum resolution of 800x600 pixels. Anything less and Actinic will not be displayed wholly within your screen. It is also best viewed using a 65536 colour (or better) display.

3.3.2 Web site

Your ISP must be running Windows NT, 2000, 2003 or UNIX, and provide Perl 5 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.

3.3.3 Actinic FreeTrial Compatibility

Compatible with FreeTrial hosts running script id 100851.

4 Installation

4.1 Installation Instructions

Close any open Windows applications. Place the CD in the CD drive. The installation program will self start. If it doesn't, locate the file *setup.exe* on the CD and run it. You will be directed to install a number of components, which together form the full release of Actinic. Read the instructions carefully before advancing to the next installation wizard screen. In most cases the default options can be accepted.

The install program works on all supported Microsoft platforms.

4.2 Installing on Windows Vista

Windows Vista introduces a new security feature call User Account Control.(UAC) Actinic will install successfully with our without this feature enabled by giving the application elevated user. This will result in a small shield (similar to the one for the windows security settings) being shown on the catalog.exe icon.

With UAC enabled, the following system message will appear each time Actinic is started:-

User Account Control stops unauthorized changes to your computer. The source and purpose of this program are unknown. Don't run the program unless you have used it before or know where it's from.

Catalog.exe
Unidentified Publisher

Cancel
I don't know where this program is from or what it's for.

Allow
I trust this program because I've used it before or I know where it's from.

Future versions of Actinic will be given digital signatures so as to avoid this message.

4.3 Multiple Installations of Actinic

Like previous releases of Actinic, it is not possible to install two copies of v8 on the same PC. However, once a copy of v8 has been installed and licensed, new sites can be licensed and maintained using the single software instance.

4.4 Co-existence with earlier versions

If you have an earlier version installed, they will be unaffected by the installation of v8 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 v8 you will be offered the choice of upgrading it.

V8 requires a different authorisation key to earlier versions.

5 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 v8. v8 uses a very different design architecture from previous versions. 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 v8 without upgrading your existing site(s) and familiarise yourself with the new v8 design concepts and features. The design elements you are used to in v7 and earlier are not quite the same in v8. 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 7.0.6.0.0.0.GBGA' etc) – this happens even if you had not modified them. Some v7 themes have been retired but this doesn't 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 v8, 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 v8, you can still run the v8 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 v8 and import the snapshot into a v8 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 v8 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 v8\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 v8 scripts. The scripts haven't changed much in v8 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 v8.
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, then 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, then call Actinic Support who 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 'Advanced | 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 | Update Website'.

5.1 Upgrading from Version 3 - Embedded Drop-Downs

The Version 3 Advanced User Guide recommended a method of creating product options by embedding HTML and JavaScript within the full descriptions of products. This embedded code then added hidden products to the shopping cart.

Please be aware that this method of doing attributes and choices is no longer supported by Actinic Software. If you are currently using this method then you will need to switch over to using actual 'Attributes', 'Choices' and 'Components' within Actinic.

6 Instructions for Use

6.1 Introduction

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.

6.2 Starter Guide

The 'Getting Started Guide' can be accessed via the 'Actinic v8' group on the Start menu in Windows, or else via the '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/>.

7 Technical Data

7.1 Release Version Details

7.1.1 Installation directory structure

<i>Actinic v8</i>	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.
<i>Backup version</i>	Files from an earlier version site that have been upgraded
<i>Extensions</i>	Files related to any software extensions e.g. Actinic Assistant for Dreamweaver
<i>Formats</i>	Holds various default styles.
<i>NavigatorSkins</i>	The files and configuration details of the Navigator.
<i>Themes</i>	The files that constitute the themes, available via the 'Design Themes' menu option.
<i>OCCUpgrade</i>	Installation directory for the Payment Service Providers install program. Contains the master files. On startup, Actinic copies the relevant files to the current site.
<i>Original</i>	The master set of general files used when sites are created.
<i>SiteBackups</i>	Default location of all site and theme backups
<i>SSLUpgrade</i>	Installation directory for the Shared SSL Service Providers install program. Contains the master files. On startup, copies the relevant files to the current site.
<i>Starter Guide</i>	The browser-based introduction to the functionality.
<i>Upgrade version</i>	Theme files associated with any upgraded sites

7.1.2 Sites directory structure

<i>Shared Documents</i>	The default shared documents directory. Normally C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents
<i>Actinic v8\Sites</i>	Locates all licensed sites.
<i>Site1</i>	Default site after installation.

7.1.3 File version numbers

Catalog.exe 8.5.2.0 HBKA

The main application program.

ConnectionWizard.dll HBKA

Supporting file for the Network configuration wizard.

ActDiagnose.exe EDFA

ActDiagnostics.dll EDFA

A diagnostic and problem solving tool. Do not use unless instructed to do so by Actinic's technical support staff.

ActShipHand.ocx FFFA

An ActiveX control for configuring shipping and handling.

OCCControl.ocx EDFA

AuthNetOCX.ocx EDFA

DHOCCControl.ocx EDFA

WUPayCash.ocx EDFA

ISControl.ocx EDFA

7.2 Install program version numbers

ECSetup.exe HBKA

Installs Actinic .

PSPSetup.exe HBKA

Installs the supported online payment service providers.

SSLSetup.exe HBKA

Installs Shared SSL Service Providers.

Mdac_typ.exe 2.6

Microsoft data access installer. Ensures all ODBC-related drivers are correctly installed.

Jet40SP3_Comp.exe

Microsoft Access database engine (JET) update. Ensures all JET-related drivers are correctly installed.

7.3 Restrictions

7.3.1 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.

7.3.2 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.

7.3.3 Internet Explorer earlier than version 6

Actinic v8 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.