

white paper

# **Catalog Cloud Services**

Web Shop architecture for SAP SRM







#### COMPANY PROFILE

As an independent software vendor (ISV) BeNeering develops innovative shopping solutions based on SAP SRM. BeNeering is specialized in SAP consulting and software architecture and is geared to best-practice-standards.

Business engineering by BeNeering means analytical solutions and innovative products. BeNeering disposes of a large reference portfolio of successfully implemented international template- and roll-out-projects.

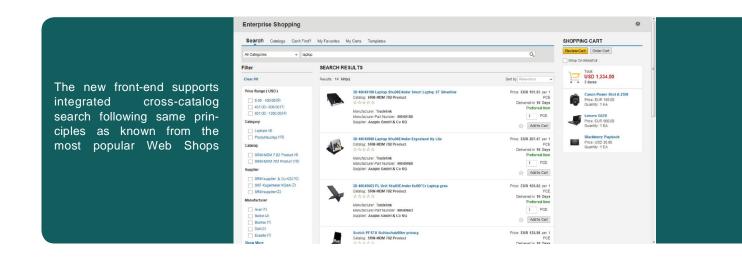
# Catalog Cloud Services

## Supplier Products from the Cloud

### Don't think about System Landscape

SAP's SRM got a new, intuitive interface. And BeNeering's Catalog Cloud Services ensure that users and suppliers can take maximum advantage of the new front end.

"Internet changed the way we use applications and our expectations: Everybody is watching Amazon and Google" says Christoph Moll, director of BeNeering, a system house in the environment of SAP, specialized in procurement solutions. "The main web shop operators have set massive standards in usability, shop structure and product search." Consequently SAP provided its SRM (Supplier Relationship Management) system with a new front end, which is based on today's online standards and developed in modern HTML5.



# IT SOLUTION

## Design your Enterprise Web Shop

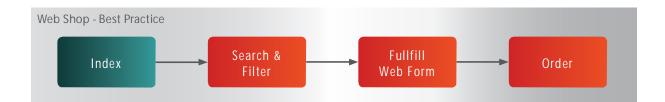
#### WHAT'S NEW IN SAP SRM?

The former breach between the order wizard (SRM wizard) and the catalog system is fixed in the new version. It is no longer necessary to deal with different sub-catalogs, as all supplier catalogs were centralized into one comfortable and user-friendly search-index (Cross-Catalog-Search).

The new search facility naturally comes with auto-complete option. Selected products are stored in a web-shop like shopping cart, which is automatically sent to the supplier after clearance.

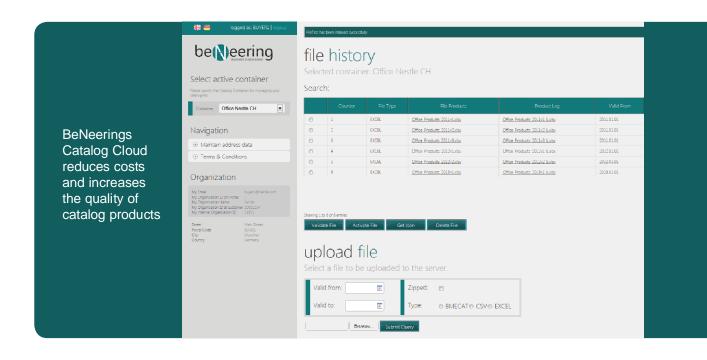
SRM New User Interface is based on common web-shop standards. Customers locate the shopping cart and the search facility at familiar positions. The search results are structured in the same manner as we know it from major web-shops and search engines.

The focus of the new version is set on the customer. He finds himself in a familiar environment with a far more comfortable handling than before - that is the number of clicks per order has significantly decreased. While shopping there is no need to wonder about the functionality of the system.



#### PRODUCT DATA AND CONTENT MANAGEMENT IN THE CLOUD

Now filling SAP SRM with product data becomes even more important for purchase agents and suppliers: For the benefit of a modern web-shop like look-and-feel, the new interface requires much more detailed product data, descriptions and images - what can be assisted by BeNeering's CCS.



Suppliers and purchase departments store product lists in the cloud. The system automatically validates them according to predefined rules. These rules are individually defined by purchase agents or specialist divisions and can cover informations like product group keys, mandatory fields, order units, mappings and tests. A well-arranged error log simplifies proofreading of the data: CCS generates an Excel-file of all product data, marking errors in red and warnings in yellow. The concerned supplier rectifies the criticized items and sends the file back into the cloud.

#### IT SOLUTION

BeNeering's Catalog Cloud System provides remarkable advantages in quality assurance of product data. The validated data is given to the purchase department in order to pass specialist verification and approval.

Once the catalogs are accepted they remain - as usual for cloud-solutions - on a hosted server. Working in the cloud is totally seamless for the operator. Catalog data are synchronized into the SAP SRM system of the purchasing organisation and remain hosted in the cloud simultaneously.

A transfer into SAP SRM is not mandatory. "On customer request the new SAP SRM web-shop interface can directly access the search engine of BeNeering Catalog Cloud in real time," explains Moll.

# CATALOG CLOUD SERVICES

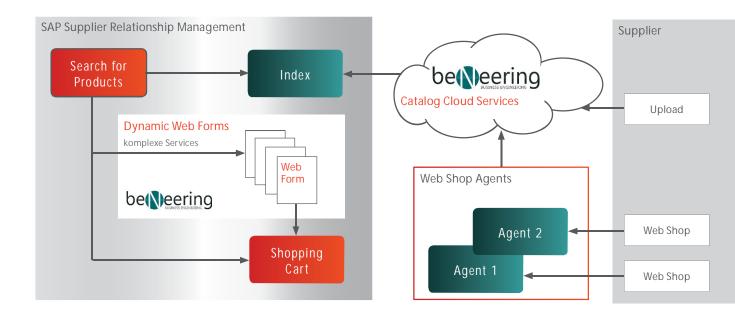
## Leverage SAP SRM

#### MASTERING TCO DUE TO AN INNOVATIVE SEARCH ENGINE

CCS is backed by a high performance search engine based on Apache SOLR. The product data is indexed by the search engine and stored in the cloud. On the basis of this architecture and the intensive use of data compression Catalog Cloud offers an amazing high throughput: "Short loading time and high processing speed are crucial especially for huge catalogs with 100,000 or even millions of products." Catalog Cloud reduces the waiting time for the operator - purchase departments and suppliers - whereby the total cost of ownership (TCO) decreases significantly.



Furthermore browsing catalogs becomes much faster. The second important requirement: "Every search request should be as easy as with Google," describes Christoph Moll, "that's what the operators expect today, and of course fast and relevant results." This technology ensures that common search requests do not produce high volumes of unsorted hits. In a web-shop like manner the operator can refine his request by product line, supplier, manufacturer or price for example (Faceted search).



Additionally BeNeering offers lots of services regarding the live-operation of the catalogs and content management. The service provider assists the so-called on-boarding of suppliers for his clients. These are different process steps needed to list a vendor as supplier (Questionnaire, DUNS-ID, contracts and more), which can be more or less complex depending on the size of the purchasing organisation. BeNeering offers assistance for data mapping and the definition of validation rules.

The entire client customized logic is widely automatically reproduced in the cloud. Further offers are image processing with conversion of different picture formats for the catalogs and a technical service dedicated to the live-operation of the system.

CCS is a solution for simple products. For the purchase of complex articles BeNeering proposes the form-based solution Dynamic Web Forms. This is the adequate answer to master order processes of products where a lot of customization is needed, for example catering, business cards or IT-equipment (You can find more informationen about Dynamic Web Forms at www.beneering.com).

"SAP's new front end of SRM is the right answer to the demands of their clients, for having a unified, more user-friendly system," resumes Christoph Moll, however the new SRM has much higher requests on amount and quality of the product data for the catalogs. "With Catalog Cloud we created a modern, user-friendly back-end, which assists users to master the higher requirements on today's content management."

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