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Success Story



eCatCreator in use at Phoenix Contact

Phoenix Contact is using eCatCreator for verification of product master data created in Phoenix Contact Product Information Management (PIM) System in eCI@ss ADVANCED data format.

Phoenix Contact™ Success Story

Project Requirements

For many years Phoenix Contact uses a Product Information Management (PIM) system for maintenance of product master data. The PIM system is the source for several applications such as print and online catalogs, datasheets and configurators providing product master data in up to 23 languages. The PIM system had to be expanded to implement the requirement of providing product master data for different classification standards, so that the data can be used in customer applications. To support its processes electrical wholesale needs manufacturer product data based on ETIM classification standard. To support e-procurement processes of customers and provide engineering data for CAE systems eCI@ss classification system in ADVANCED data format has to be supported.



„eCatCreator was very useful for the timely review of new eCI@ss releases and data verification in accordance with eCI@ss data structures.“

„By using eCatCreator from Paradine implementation time of eCI@ss ADVANCED in our PIM system was reduced.“

Dipl.-Ing. Josef Schmelter, Master Specialist Classification

The challenge for implementing eCI@ss was in the details. Although the own PIM system supported the specifics of the eCI@ss ADVANCED data model such as grouping of characteristics and cardinality, one question was still left: How could Phoenix Contact validate the implementation and check the generated product data catalogs?

Solution approach

In cooperation with Paradine and the PIM system supplier several releases of the eCI@ss classification standard in ADVANCED data format have been implemented (concept creation, data modeling, Q&A). Adjustments of the PIM were implemented as well as essential new functionality was added allowing the mapping of own product structural elements to the respective eCI@ss structural elements. Once the mappings of all relevant eCI@ss ADVANCED characteristics of a class have been created, all maintained product master data associated with this class are automatically copied to the eCI@ss properties. The generated eCI@ss based product data is exported the BMEcat format and provided in the customer required languages.

eCatCreator obtained the important role to support the implementation and to verify exported eCI@ss ADVANCED data afterwards. The use of the eCatCreators was also helpful for the creation of first created product data exports in new CAx structures for example to describe each connection of a device for the proper representation in CAE applications.

For the validation of the entire solution, in particular of eCI@ss ADVANCED structure elements in German and English language, PC based "eCatCreator" from Paradine will continue to be used as the external validation instance (eCI@ss structures, BMEcat format).



eCatCreator

With "eCatCreator" Paradine provides a fast and cost-effective PC based software solution for the fast and easy creation of product descriptions based on eCI@ss. By using eCatCreator from Paradine, electronic product catalogues can be created quickly and provided to customers, in BMEcat format based on eCI@ss BASIC and ADVANCED data model.

eCatCreator allows users to import, modify and verify compliance (aspects, blocks, cardinality, polymorphism, etc.) of eCI@ss and BMEcat based electronic catalogs. eCatCreator also supports mappings between eCI@ss BASIC and ADVANCED data model and enables the conversion of product data from eCI@ss ADVANCED to BASIC data model and vice versa.

Furthermore eCatCreator supports the transfer of eCI@ss based product master data to newer eCI@ss releases. As the first ever and currently only application eCatCreator supports the new defined eCI@ss workflow for processing of electronic product requests and technical offers. Provided product data can be used for the later and better identification and is provided to internal systems (ERP, PIM, DMS, etc.). Supported data formats are XML (input / output) and PDF (output).

Benefits of the eCatCreator for Phoenix Contact:

- Prompt provision of reference data for own system implementation
- Verification of own eCI@ss implementation in Phoenix Contact PIM system
- Validation of electronic product catalogs exported from Phoenix Contact PIM system
- Fast creation and provision of test catalogs for Phoenix contact in the eCI@ss ADVANCED format at an early stage
- Mapping of Phoenix Contact product descriptions from eCI@ss ADVANCED to eCI@ss BASIC



About Phoenix Contact

Phoenix Contact is the worldwide market leader of components, systems and solutions in the area of electrical engineering, electronics and automation. Today, the family-owned company employs 13,000 people worldwide and had a turnover of 1.64 billion euros in 2013. The corporate headquarters is located in Blomberg in North Rhine-Westphalia. The Phoenix Contact Group has nine companies as well as 50 sales subsidiaries. In addition, the worldwide presence is consolidated by 30 representations in Europe and Overseas. The product range comprises components and system solutions for energy supply including wind and solar, device and machine engineering as well as control cabinet engineering. A diverse product range of modular terminal blocks and special-purpose terminals, printed circuit terminal blocks and plug connectors, cable connection technology and installation accessory offers innovative components. Electronic interfaces and power supplies, automation systems on the basis of Ethernet and Wireless, safety solutions for man, machine and data, surge protection systems as well as software programs and tools provide installers and operators of systems as well as device manufacturers with comprehensive systems.

About Paradine

Paradine is an internationally active consulting, services and software company with core competencies in enterprise-wide, multilingual, system spanning, consolidated product master data management, product classification and well structured, electronic product data exchange. Paradine supports corporations in the organization-wide material master data consolidation from the analysis phase throughout to implementation phase and also provides software solutions for such implementations. The eptos™ product master data repository is an internationally leading solution for the development of central product master data servers with deep integration in the company IT landscape. eCatCreator is a cost-efficient PC-based software for fast and easy creation and maintenance of high-quality electronic product catalogs in eCI@ss BASIC and ADVANCED data model.

