

Steve Rubenstein's Recurring Billing

Unused Code & Shopping Cart Module

Version 1.1

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There is a lot of code and a few database tables that are not currently used within the billing system. Many were expected to be used in version 2 of the system, which was never built. The code and database tables were not removed though because they could very well prove useful in an updated version or are used with the shopping cart functionality.

Unused Tables

avContent avContentCategory avContentCompany	The content management system is active, but is not heavily used right now except for customizing emails used within the shopping system. It was originally expected to play a bigger role in creating templates, but it did not make sense.
avLanguage avLanguageCompany	For supporting multiple languages in the system. These tables list the languages available and which language is being used by each company. Multiple language support is not currently implemented. However, the avProductLanguage table supports the concept as it can store product information in multiple languages. The theory was that the primary system interface would be in English, but that companies could customize the language for their customers, i.e., invoices could be sent in a customer's language (avCompany.languageID).
avPayflowTemplate	Payflow refers to the subscription processing methods. We did not want to refer to it as "workflow" as that implies certain functionality. However, we do intend to expand Payflow to incorporate more workflow capabilities. This table was designed to enable the client to select which invoice template to use for a particular payflow method based on the customer's payment method, late status, etc. It became more complicated than it was worth, so we instead built more options into the invoice templates instead. But we will likely enable this in 2.0 to provide more customization without having to create a different payflow method just to enable using different templates.
avProductRegion avRegion avRegionBundle	Regions are useful for reporting, sales territories and custom pricing. The region concept is mostly built into the database design, but has not yet been enabled. The concept is that certain products will be available only in certain regions. This could be expanded to custom pricing and commission plans as well. A region bundle is a collection of regions, such as a group of states that make up a salesperson's territory.

Shopping Cart Functionality

The billing system has been used the system as the basis of a sophisticated shopping cart for a few clients. The system has some functionality that does not apply to service companies. It is acceptable to drop these features, but some of the core functionality may be useful for clients, especially when building a front-end user interface for customers. Here are the tables that are currently shopping cart oriented:

avProductSpec	Useful for storing specifications of a product, e.g., the components of a computer. The system will automatically display these specs to customers in a table. For parent/child products where each has specs, the system will display them in a single table for easy comparison.
avShipping	Stores shipment information when shipping an order to a customer.
avShippingInvoice	Tracks the shipping/invoice relationship. Enables one order (invoice) to be sent in separate shipments or vice versa.
avShippingInvoiceLineItem	Tracks the shipment / line item relationship. If an order is sent in multiple shipments, this can track which line items were included in each shipment. Not currently enabled.
avUserProductFavorite	On the shopping cart front-end, enables customers to store a list of their favorite products. Useful for customers that often order the same product.
avUserProductWishList	On the shopping cart front-end, enables customers to create a wish list of products they want to purchase. This list is currently accessible only to the customer but could easily be made available to the general public for gifts.

The following directories include the shopping cart code.

_shoppingRoot/	Stores the files that would be in the root directory of the system if using the shopping cart.
include/	
template/	
defaultCategory.cfm	Calls the code in the shopping directories to display a category on the front-end shopping cart site.
defaultProduct.cfm	Calls the code to display a product in the shopping site.
control/	
c_shopping/	Contains all code to manage the shopping cart, including contact form, cart, checkout, and customer account login. The contact code can be used for incoming contact messages. The ShoppingCatalog.cfc component is used for displaying the "Preview" of a product, i.e., what it will look like.
view/v_shopping/	Directories that store the display pages on the front-end shopping cart site.

