



Akeneo PIM Enterprise Edition 1.6

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👉 Excel, please meet Akeneo. Akeneo, this is Excel.



Create a new import profile

Code (required)

Label (required)

Job (required)
Select a job

- Product proposal import in CSV
- Akeneo XLSX Connector**
 - Product import in XLSX with rules
 - Attribute import in XLSX
 - Attribute option import in XLSX
 - Association type import in XLSX
 - Family import in XLSX
 - Group import in XLSX
 - Product import in XLSX**
 - Category import in XLSX
 - Variant group import in XLSX
 - Product proposal import in XLSX
- Akeneo Rule Engine Connector**
 - Rule import in YAML
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 - Asset channel configuration import in Yaml
 - Asset import in CSV
 - Asset category import in CSV
 - Asset import in XLSX
 - Asset category import in XLSX

Save

Excel is your main tool to work on product data. Spreadsheets are useful to share information with people working on your catalog, both internally and externally.

Today, we are launching a new feature: all teams can natively import and export Excel files with Akeneo.

All you have to do is pick the right import or export job when creating a new import/export profile.

All previous imports and exports you had for your catalog structure and product data in CSV have now their equivalent in XLSX. No more. No less.

Relating to the quick-export, just select the right option. That's it.

The screenshot shows the Akeneo interface with the 'Spread' tab selected. The top navigation bar includes 'Collect', 'Enrich', 'Spread', 'Settings', and 'System'. The user is logged in as 'Julia Stark'. The main content area shows a list of products with columns for 'FAMILY', 'STATUS', 'COMPLETE', 'CREATED AT', 'UPDATED AT', and 'GROUPS'. A 'Quick Export' dropdown menu is open, showing options for 'XLSX (Grid context)', 'XLSX (All attributes)', 'CSV (Grid context)', and 'CSV (All attributes)'. The 'XLSX (All attributes)' option is selected.

| Family | Status | Complete | Created At | Updated At | Groups |
|-----------|---------|----------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| AKNTS_BPS | Enabled | 86% | 08/17/2016 | 08/17/2016 | Akeneo T-Shirts |
| AKNTS_BPS | Enabled | 86% | 08/17/2016 | 08/17/2016 | Akeneo T-Shirts |

Only XLSX? Come on!

Yes, only XLSX. That means we support the following Excel versions:

- Excel 2016 (Windows)
- Excel 2013 (Windows)
- Excel 2010 (Windows)
- Excel 2007 (Windows)
- Excel 16 (Office 2016 for OS X)
- Excel 14 (Office 2011 for OS X)

What about Office 2003? Office XP? First, Office 2003 is no longer supported. However, you can still **open XLSX files in earlier versions of Microsoft Office**.

Technical interest?

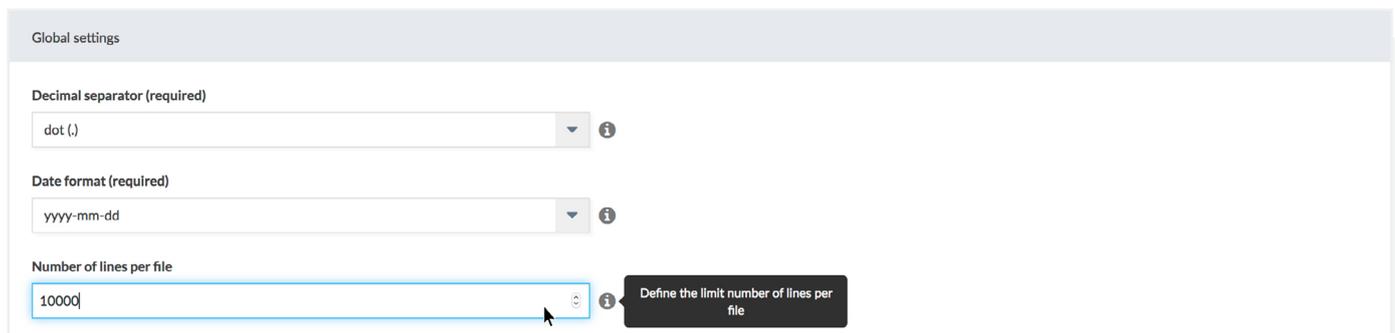
We did not create the PHP library we use to read and write spreadsheet files. Others do this better than us. We chose **Spout** from **Box.com**.

For more technical information about our XLSX connector, refer to the **dedicated online documentation**.

As Julia, I want to export my ten million long products list in only one Excel file

You love Excel. It has been your companion in your product data torment for years. We do not want to impose a divorce, but it is clear that Akeneo is able to handle a larger volume of product data (Excel is limited to 1,000,000 lines. Akeneo limits are detailed **here**).

To keep the whole family together, you can set as many products (or lines) as you want per file as a maximum from the Akeneo user interface. It's better to have multiple Excel files that you can open and manipulate rather than a huge file that is useless!

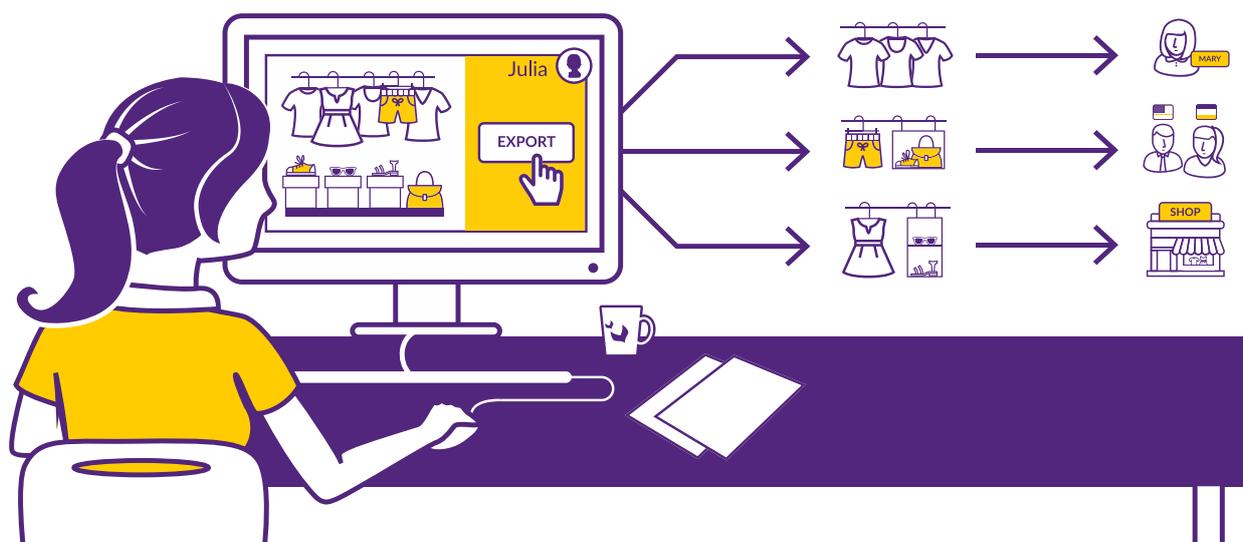


The screenshot shows the 'Global settings' section of the Akeneo user interface. It contains three configuration fields:

- Decimal separator (required):** A dropdown menu set to 'dot (.)'.
- Date format (required):** A dropdown menu set to 'yyyy-mm-dd'.
- Number of lines per file:** A text input field containing the value '10000'. To the right of this field is a tooltip that reads 'Define the limit number of lines per file'.

For those who know Akeneo like the back of their hand, you may ask “How is it possible to export ten million products? Products must be complete, categorized, activated. That is not a common use case to export so many products from Akeneo”. With our new feature, everything becomes possible...

Introducing Export Builder



The PIM contains a lot of product information. Part of this information can be sometime useless for exports. For example, the size of a package for the print channel. But today, all available product data are exported, whatever the channel. You just need to customize your export and choose which data you want for each export!

You're working with external contributors (suppliers, translators, etc), internal departments (purchase team, etc) or third-party systems (Magento, InDesign, etc), and each one of them needs a specific selection of products and attributes.

Each time you export products using the generic product export job, you have to manually remove several columns or/and product lines that are not relevant to the recipient.

This is taking you too much time, but creating custom exports for each recipient is definitely not an option... You need to be able to provide them with the right product information every time your catalog changes.

What could one do about this?

At Akeneo, we have found this feature useful for all kinds of cases where you might have to send files containing product data to third-party apps or other people.

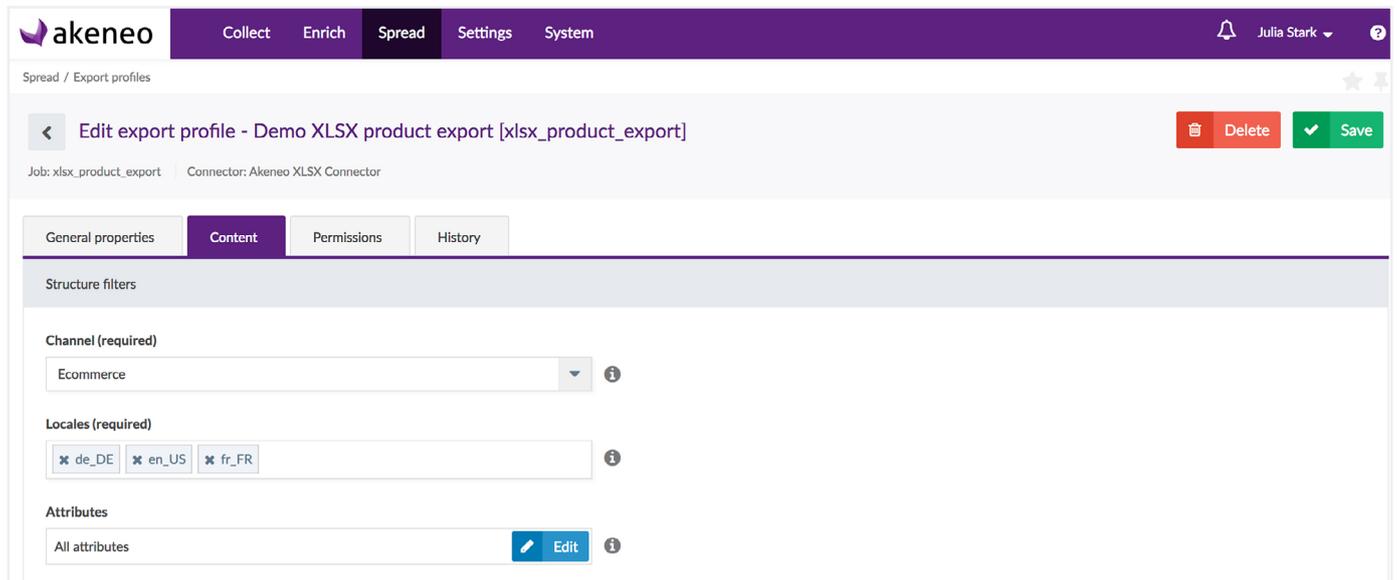
Here are just a handful of ideas for ways to use this feature:

- Need to export missing marketing information in Spanish for your translator? Create a product export selecting incomplete and active products with marketing attributes in French and Spanish.
- Want to tell your supplier that some information is missing? Create a product export selecting all his active products with empty technical attributes.
- Have to generate a weekly report for the purchase team? Create a product export selecting all incomplete products with only their code, name and product category.
- Export product changes only for the e-commerce channel? Create a product export selecting active and complete products with their attributes, except the print attributes, updated since the last distribution to the e-commerce channel.

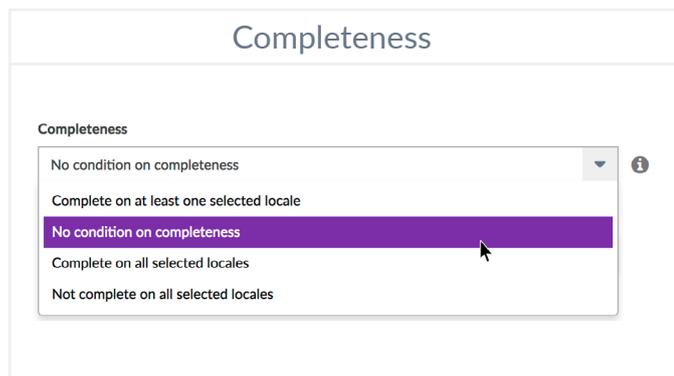
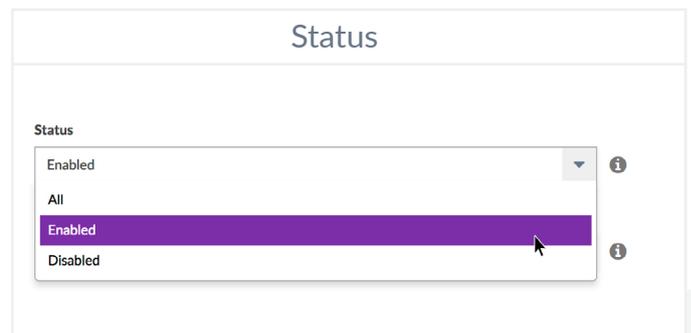
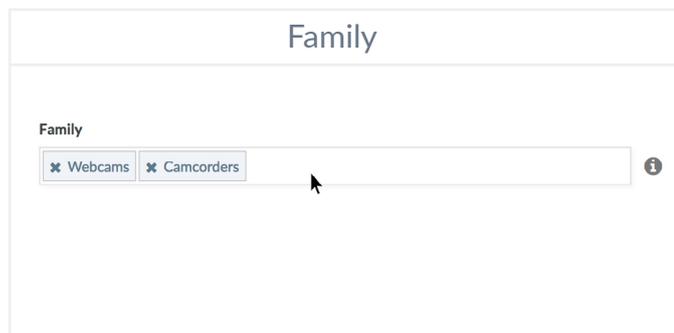
How to? What does it look like?

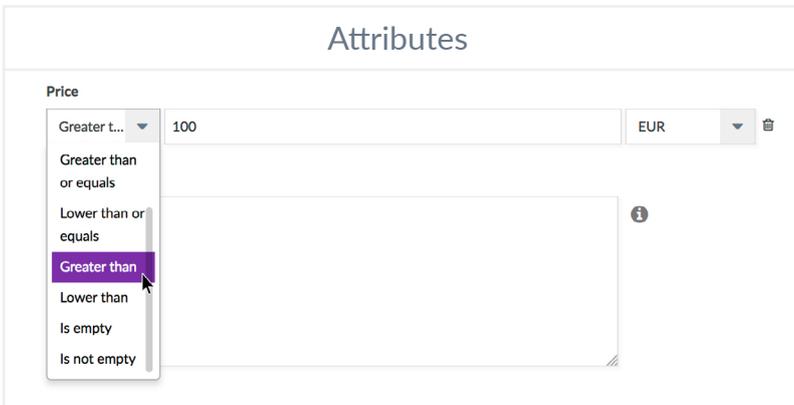
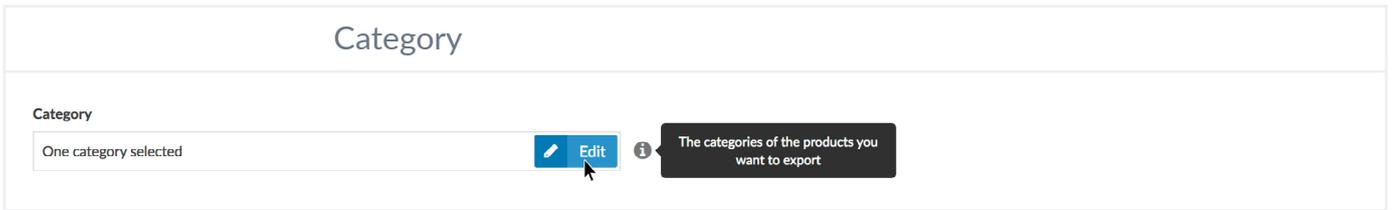
A new «content» tab has been added to the product export profile form (Native ones: Export products and export published products, in XLSX and CSV).

1/ Define the product information you want to export using these 3 criteria: Channel, Locales, and Attributes.



2/ Go further and define a selection of products by filtering them based on the following information:





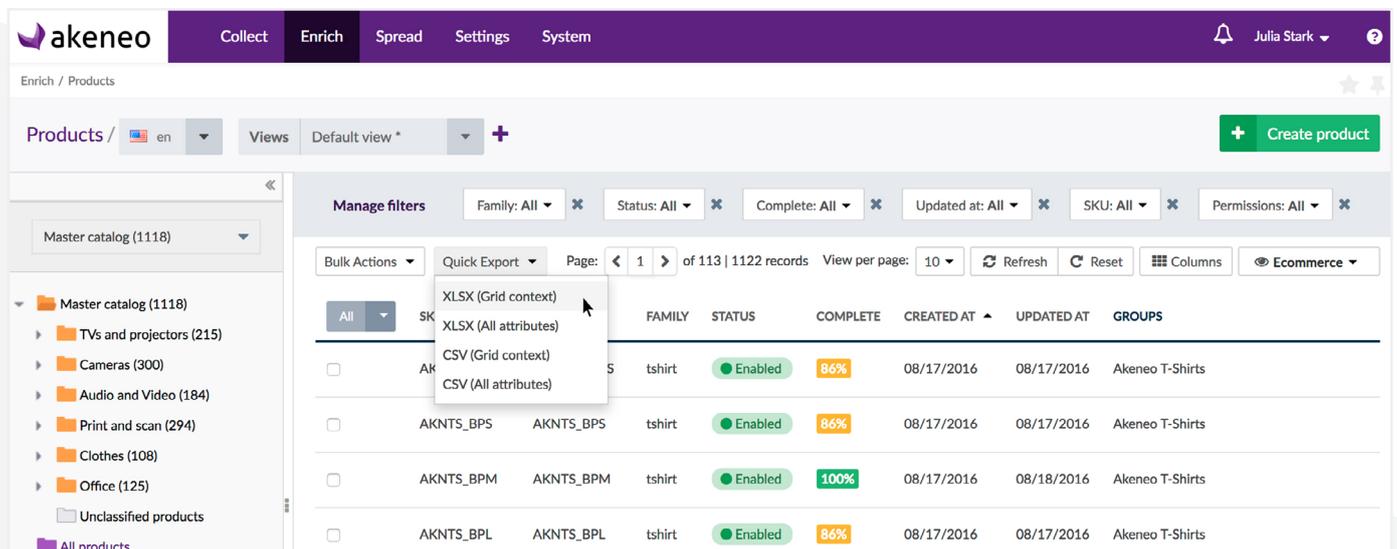
Example: this will select products with a price greater than 100€.

Akeneo Export Builder is a powerful way to exchange relevant product information with your teams and apps, and is quick and easy to set up. Feel free to experiment and see what works best for your business!

Export the product grid content

For those who need to quickly export product information at once, feel free to use the quick export as your export builder: It works the same way!

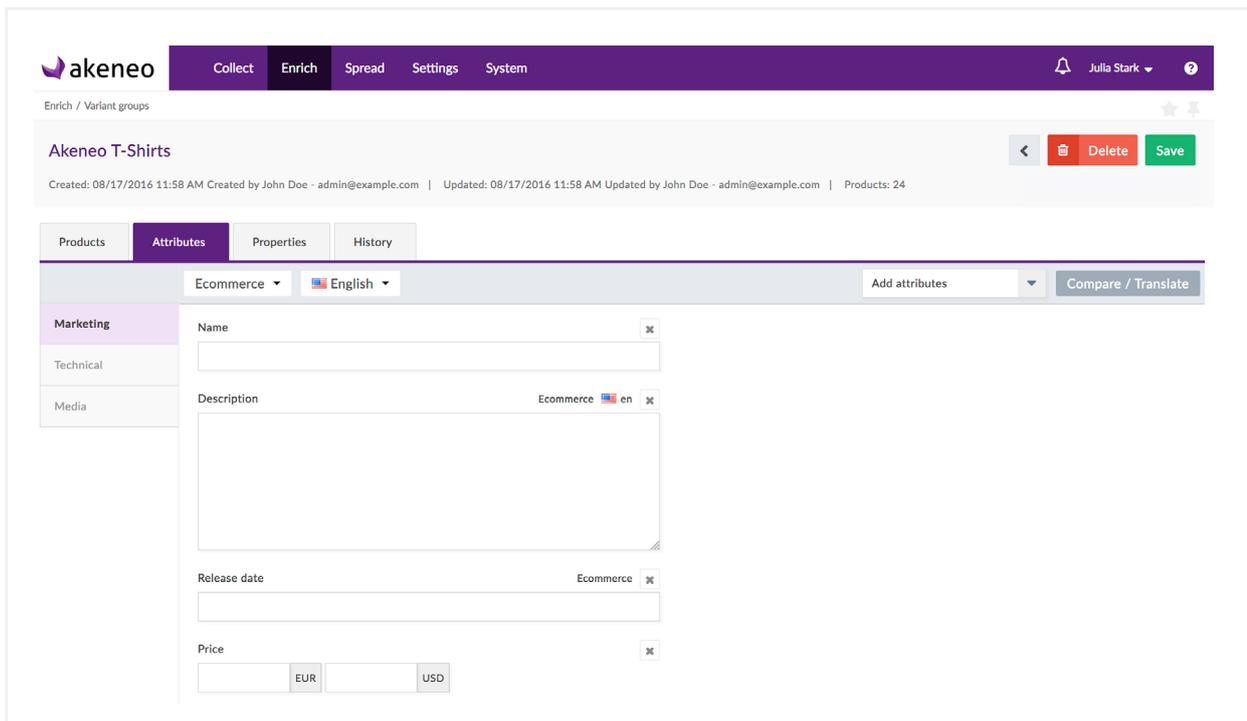
- 1/ Select your products by using grid filters.
- 2/ Select your attributes by using the column configuration (SKU will be exported even if you remove them in the product grid).
- 3/ Select the file format: XLSX or CSV.



👉 User Experience is your best friend to become more productive

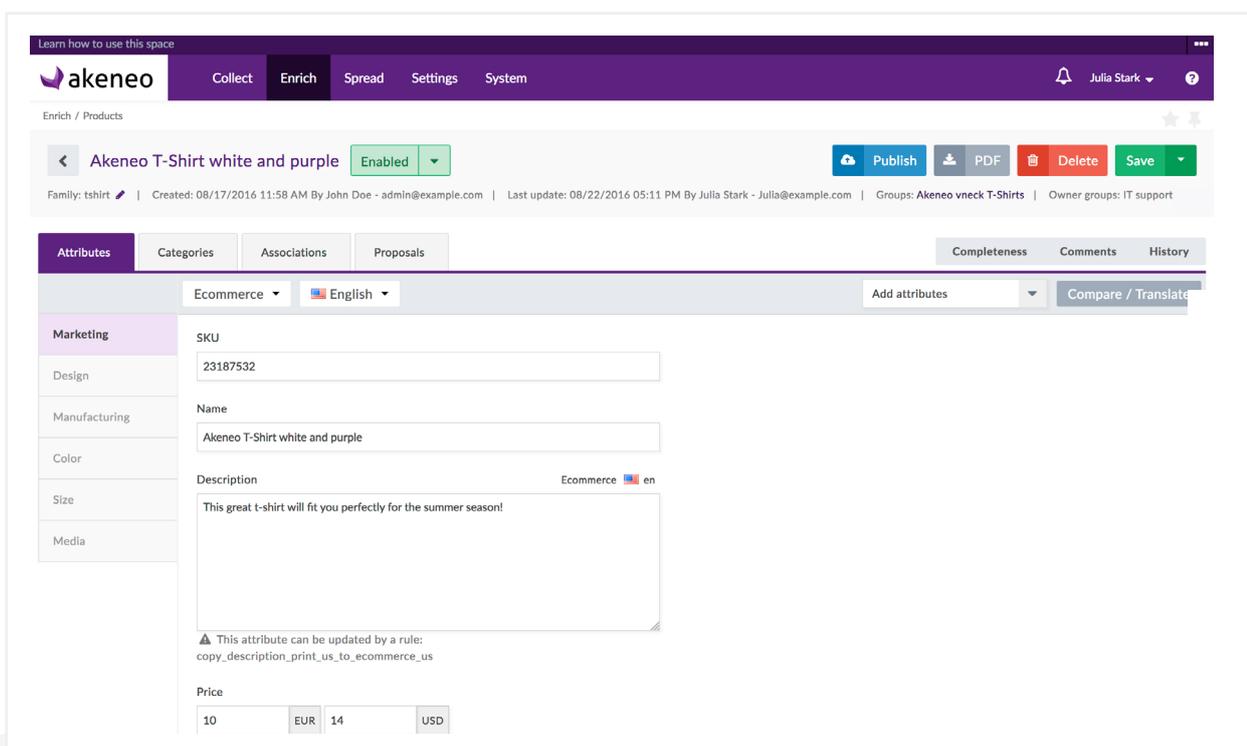
Playing “Spot the difference”

Hint: The variant group form is now similar to the product form.



The screenshot shows the Akeneo interface for editing a variant group. The top navigation bar includes 'Collect', 'Enrich', 'Spread', 'Settings', and 'System'. The user 'Julia Stark' is logged in. The page title is 'Akeneo T-Shirts'. Below the title, there are tabs for 'Products', 'Attributes', 'Properties', and 'History'. The 'Attributes' tab is active, showing a form for 'Ecommerce' in 'English'. The form includes fields for 'Name', 'Description', 'Release date', and 'Price'. The 'Price' field has dropdowns for 'EUR' and 'USD'. A 'Compare / Translate' button is visible in the top right of the form area.

1



The screenshot shows the Akeneo interface for editing a product. The top navigation bar is the same as in the first screenshot. The page title is 'Akeneo T-Shirt white and purple'. Below the title, there are tabs for 'Attributes', 'Categories', 'Associations', and 'Proposals'. The 'Attributes' tab is active, showing a form for 'Ecommerce' in 'English'. The form includes fields for 'SKU', 'Name', 'Description', and 'Price'. The 'Description' field contains the text 'This great t-shirt will fit you perfectly for the summer season!'. The 'Price' field has dropdowns for 'EUR' and 'USD'. A 'Publish' button is visible in the top right of the form area.

2

Bonus: The «compare/translate» feature is now also available on the variant group. Enjoy!

👉 Welcome on board

Two systems were previously used to initialize the PIM (fixtures in YML and CSV connector for imports). In 1.6, only one system is now used to initialize the PIM. The fixtures to initialize Akeneo use the CSV connector.

Only two YML fixtures are kept for job imports and asset configurations per channel.

Import and export all attribute properties

Thanks to a contribution from our community, attribute imports and exports now cover all attribute properties.

Simple PAM initialization



A new cookbook is available to explain how to mass import asset files and asset properties to initialize the PAM.

👉 For a frenetic pace of use, keep a light database

In order to decrease database volume, two different purges are now available:

Purge jobs execution history

Rules for the purge are:

- Delete all execution history older than X days
- Default value is 90 days

The purge is done by a CRON job. All job executions, except the last one, can be purged (imports, exports, backend processes).

Purge entities history

Rules for the purge are:

- Keep the first and last version of the entity
- Purge other entity versions older than X days. The default value is 90 days

The purge is done by a CRON job. Entities that can be purged are: Products, import and export profiles, categories, variant groups, asset categories (Enterprise Edition only), attribute groups, attributes, families, association types, group types, channels.

For more information about purging, see our cookbook.



👉 Move and remove products from categories

We added a bulk action menu to the product grid to edit the product category, in addition to mass edits and sequential edits.

Move products between categories

By choosing this action, products will be positioned in a different category and the existing placement is lost. Trees/categories available depend on user permissions.

Remove products from a category

If you made a mistake and placed some products in the wrong category, you can remove them from this category.

We also added a «remove» action in the rule engine to remove products from categories or trees. **(Enterprise Edition only)**

You can get more information about rules engine actions in our cookbook



👉 Improve the rules engine execution

New operators to refine rules conditions

Thanks to the feedback we received, we noticed a few rules were not defined correctly in customer environments, as they often applied on all products or a subset of products at each execution of the rules.

For example:

- This rule is applied when a product is in the camcorders family and has a name containing «Canon».
- At each execution of the rules, this rule will be applied because there is no condition such as «and has a camera brand not equal to «Canon»».

To improve the definition of the rules and prevent their application at each execution, we added new operators in the rule engine:

- !=
- NOT IN
- IS NOT EMPTY

Well-defined rules will also improve the performance during execution.

Example of rules execution with rules not optimized and optimized (10 rules on 1,000 products):

| | First time rules execution | Second rules execution |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Not optimized rules | 1'13 | 1'00  |
| Optimized rules | 0'37 | 0'04  |



The new operators have been added and detailed in our cookbook: [General information about rule format.](#)

Warning

Carefully define rule conditions to improve performance.

Display the number of matching products for each rule

To help you validate your rules and properly define your conditions, we added the number of matching products for each rule to the rules screen. There is now a «Calculate the matching products» button to show the number of matching products affected by the conditions.

New product import with rules calculation

Because we know that you don't like to wait for asynchronous rule calculation after an import, we added a new «product_import_with_rules» import job, which calculates the rules at the end of the import.

So when products are imported using this new job, attributes with rules are automatically calculated.

Mass edit with rules calculation

As it was not convenient for you to wait for rules calculation to calculate attributes after a mass edit on products, we added a new step which calculates the rules at the end of a mass edit action. The rules are executed only on the products affected by the mass edit action.



If you want to disable rules calculation at the end of mass edit actions, refer to our cookbook: «[How to avoid rules execution on mass edit actions](#)».

Warning

Asynchronous rules calculation must still be scheduled, as it calculates rules after updating certain settings or when saving products.

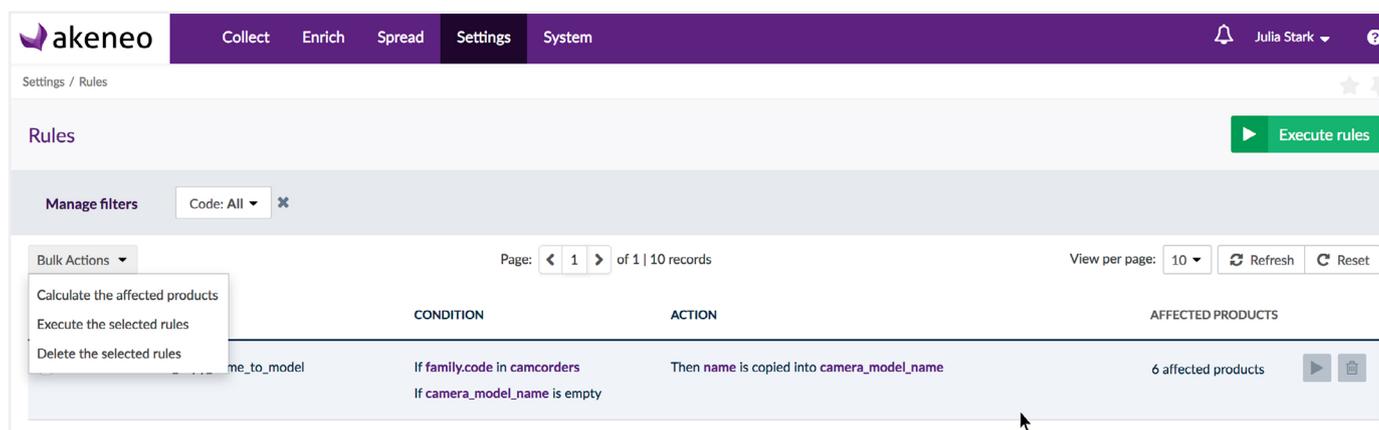
Execute rules from the UI

Sometimes you cannot wait for the CRON job to execute rules and need to execute them from the UI.

It is now possible to execute a rule, a selection of rules or all rules from the UI, using a simple button. A new permission has been added to allow users to execute rules from the User Interface.

Warning

Executing all rules may take a long time.



The screenshot shows the Akeneo Settings / Rules page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'akeneo' logo and tabs for 'Collect', 'Enrich', 'Spread', 'Settings', and 'System'. The user 'Julia Stark' is logged in. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'Rules' section with an 'Execute rules' button. A 'Manage filters' section shows 'Code: All'. Below that, there is a table of rules with columns for 'CONDITION', 'ACTION', and 'AFFECTED PRODUCTS'. A 'Bulk Actions' dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Calculate the affected products', 'Execute the selected rules', and 'Delete the selected rules'. The table contains one rule with the following details:

| CONDITION | ACTION | AFFECTED PRODUCTS |
|---|--|---------------------|
| If family.code in camcorders If camera_model_name is empty | Then name is copied into camera_model_name | 6 affected products |

Bulk action on rules

As it was not convenient to delete or calculate rules one by one, we added a bulk action menu in Settings/Rules to:

- Calculate the affected products on the selected rules
- Execute the selected rules
- Delete the selected rules

👉 Improvements on the PAM

Classify assets into categories

You can now select your assets and move them to the category of your choice. A new bulk action button has been added to classify multiple assets at the same time. The existing placement is lost when assets are moved to the selected category. The available category tree depends on user permissions.

Mass add tags to assets

You can also mass add tags to a selection of assets instead of one by one.

Mass delete assets

Instead of deleting assets one by one when you made a mistake, you can now mass delete them using the bulk menu. This mass delete action behaves like a single delete: Assets are deleted in the User Interface but not from the server.

👉 Improved completeness execution

Completeness is an indicator measuring product enrichment in Akeneo, which is very important. In previous versions, an import or mass edit action would reset completeness until its asynchronous execution, which could take minutes or hours.

In 1.6, we have improved completeness execution. Completeness is now calculated each time products are saved:

- When products are imported or mass edited, product completeness is calculated.
- When a variant group is updated, product completeness for products belonging to the variant group is calculated.
- When rules are executed, product completeness is calculated for products updated by the rules. (**Enterprise Edition only**)

Warning

Asynchronous completeness must still be scheduled, as it calculates completeness after updating certain settings (For example: Updating a required attribute on a family).

👉 Small improvements with big impacts

Thanks to your feedback, we have improved some behaviors to keep the user context and facilitate enrichment work.

We now keep:

- The right tab open in the product form (for example, the completeness panel stays open in the product form when products are edited sequentially)
- The page number in each grid (for example, the page number chosen in the product grid is maintained when the user comes back to the grid from a product form)
- The association type chosen in the association grid
- Filter values in the association grid

Quick exports now comply with permissions for products and published products. They refer to attributes groups, categories and locales.

We received a lot of feedback about permissions on attribute groups not being sufficient for our users, and that they want to define an attribute as read only (cannot be updated).

Two examples:

- Some ERP data should not be updated in the PIM by users (e.g.: SKU, image_URL, name from ERP). Using the attribute group permissions is not the best solution, because our customers would like to have the display attribute near the updatable attribute (e.g.: Name from ERP in display and marketing name in update)
- Why is the attribute editable if it can be updated only by a rule (e.g.: Calculation of a volume...)? Users don't want to waste time enriching the attribute if it is automatically enriched by a rule.

A «read only» attribute property has been added in the Enterprise Edition.

- If an attribute is read only, the attribute is in display mode only, it cannot be updated in any Akeneo screen: product form, variant group, mass edit, sequential edit.
- If an attribute is read only, the attribute can be updated by an import action or a rule calculation.
- This property overrides the permissions in the Enterprise Edition. If the attribute is read only and belongs to an attribute group where Julia has editing permissions, this attribute cannot be updated from the Akeneo UI.