StiboSystems

STEP Trailblazer

8.2 Web UI Redesign Summary

Version 1
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1 Introduction

The STEP Trailblazer 8.2 release features an exciting redesign of the Web UI. In ways both subtle and pronounced, nearly every aspect of the Web UI has been brought in line with a new look and feel. The template for these changes is Google's Material Design, which lays out in clear terms the visual rules Google adheres to when designing and updating their suite of products. Many other companies also use Material Design to unify the user experience.

With the STEP Web UI, Stibo has applied many of these same rules. As a result, the aesthetic of the STEP Web UI is both cleaner and more consistent, providing users with a more intuitive interface.
With changes as comprehensive as these, questions and concerns about how this update will affect users are expected. To that end, this document will describe:

- the reasons why Stibo has made this change
- how the functionality of the Web UI is affected by this change
- a closer look at the primary changes made to the Web UI

2 What's behind the change?

The reason the STEP Web UI has been updated is simple: our customers. The fast pace of change in the digital realm challenges everyone who creates web-based interfaces to find ways to embrace the accepted look and feel of the moment. Google's publicly available design manifesto, Material Design, is a design language developed in 2014 that is used by a large and growing portion of those offering content or access online. Material Design focuses on clean, simple layouts intended to make content easier to access by making interfaces more intuitive. In practice, this entails stripped-down color schemes, unobtrusive lines, improved white space use, elemental shapes, and easy-to-read text. By incorporating Material Design's motifs into the STEP Web UI, not only is the interface's look and feel more streamlined, the overall usability is also improved.

It is important to note that the enhancements made to the STEP Web UI are not limited to aesthetic improvements. Other exciting projects intended to streamline the user's ability to execute tasks in the Web UI were also implemented with this update. Though not referenced in this document, they will be described in detail in the release notes for the STEP Trailblazer 8.2 release.

3 How will this affect me?

While the 8.2 release of STEP Trailblazer features a number of useful new features for Web UI, the redesign project itself has affected none of the Web UI's baseline functionality. However, some minor configuration changes may be required to ensure proper and uninterrupted operation of the Web UI following an upgrade to STEP Trailblazer 8.2. To that end, Stibo strongly recommends customers:

- create a plan for upgrading that evaluates potential impact
- use a development test server to review and test the updated Web UI prior to updating / implementing 8.2 in a live environment
- ensure users are made aware of the Web UI design changes prior to updating production systems to 8.2. Change, even good change, should be announced properly

To assist in this effort, the following section of this document describes some of the changes to the Web UI configuration that may require user action when upgrading to the updated Web UI.

3.1 Fewer lines of text in Homepage widgets

To increase the overall readability of text in the Web UI, both the font size and the space between lines of text has been increased. To accommodate the effect this change will have on how text appears in the Homepage widgets, the height of these widgets has been increased. Even with this change, however, the Homepage widgets will now fit fewer lines of text.

For the Status Selector Homepage widget and the Quick Links widget, the reduced number of lines of text means that fewer states and links can be displayed in each of the widgets. However, if a user requires more workflow states or links than can be displayed in a single widget, it is recommended that either a second widget be added, or the left side panel be configured with a Status Selector Side Bar Widget or a Links Widget. If neither of these options work, users should contact Stibo for additional options that may better accommodate the required content.

For smaller or low-resolution displays, the increased height of the widgets may affect the number of Homepage widgets that can display on the screen at one time. To account for this, it is recommended that users enable paging (Paging Enabled) on the Homepage. If the number of widgets cannot fit on a single page, this setting allows widgets to automatically flow to a new page.

3.2 Toolbar action labels placed to the right

Another change to the toolbar applies to the placement of labels on the toolbar action buttons. With the 8.2 redesign, the label has been moved from below the button to the right of it. By repositioning the label in this way, the toolbar has shrunk in height, thus reducing the prominence of the toolbar and achieving greater visibility for the data. It is useful to note here that users may still opt to display only the buttons' icons and omit the label entirely.

3.3 Toolbar actions will overflow into a dropdown menu

To account for the added length of the toolbar resulting from the repositioning of the toolbar action labels, a space-saving dropdown menu has been added. If the number of toolbar actions configured on a screen exceeds the available space in the toolbar, those excess actions will now flow into a dropdown menu. By careful sequencing of the actions when configuring the screen in the Web UI designer, it is possible to keep the most important or most often used actions in view all the time.

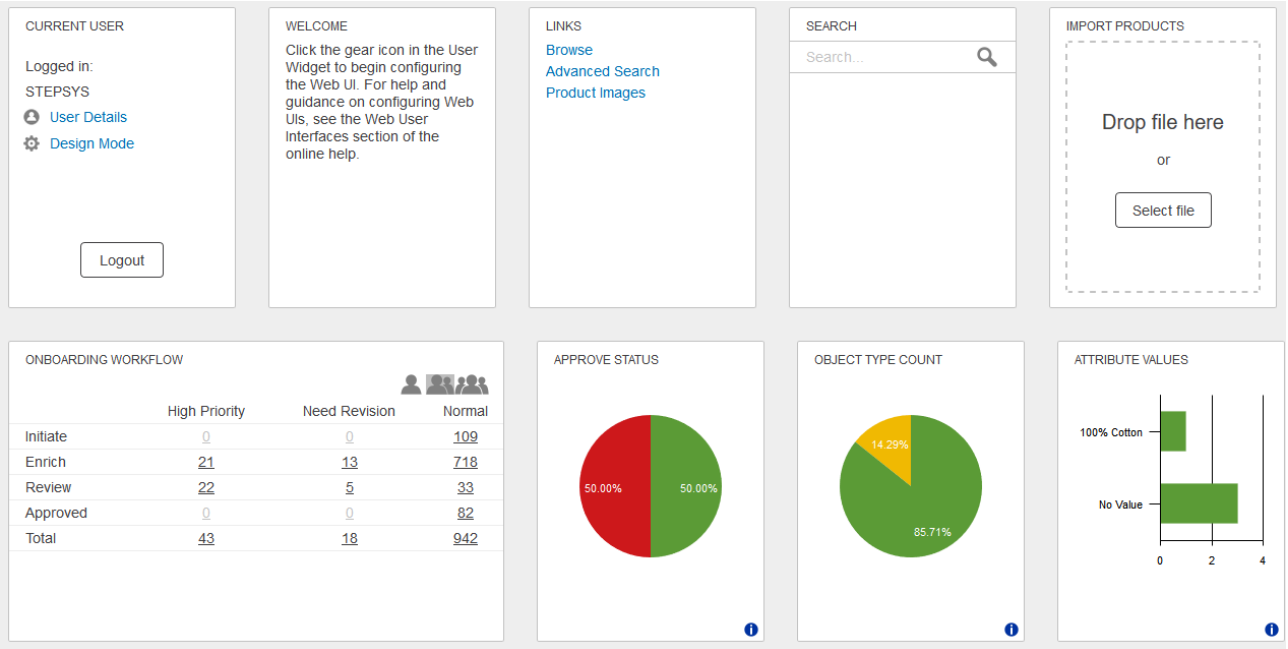
3.4 Display Modes available from a dropdown menu

Display Modes are basically what they sound like: a set of selectable view-styles users can apply to a set of objects to analyze data. Prior to this redesign of the Web UI, the available Display Modes were listed side by side in the toolbar, which meant that each added Display Mode took valuable real estate from the toolbar actions. For the 8.2 release, all Display Modes added to a Web UI screen are now bundled together in a dropdown menu accessible from the toolbar, leaving only the active Display Mode visible. Because of this change, the toolbar's limited real estate will no longer be taken up by display modes, freeing up more space for the user to add additional toolbar actions.

4 A Closer Look at the Changes

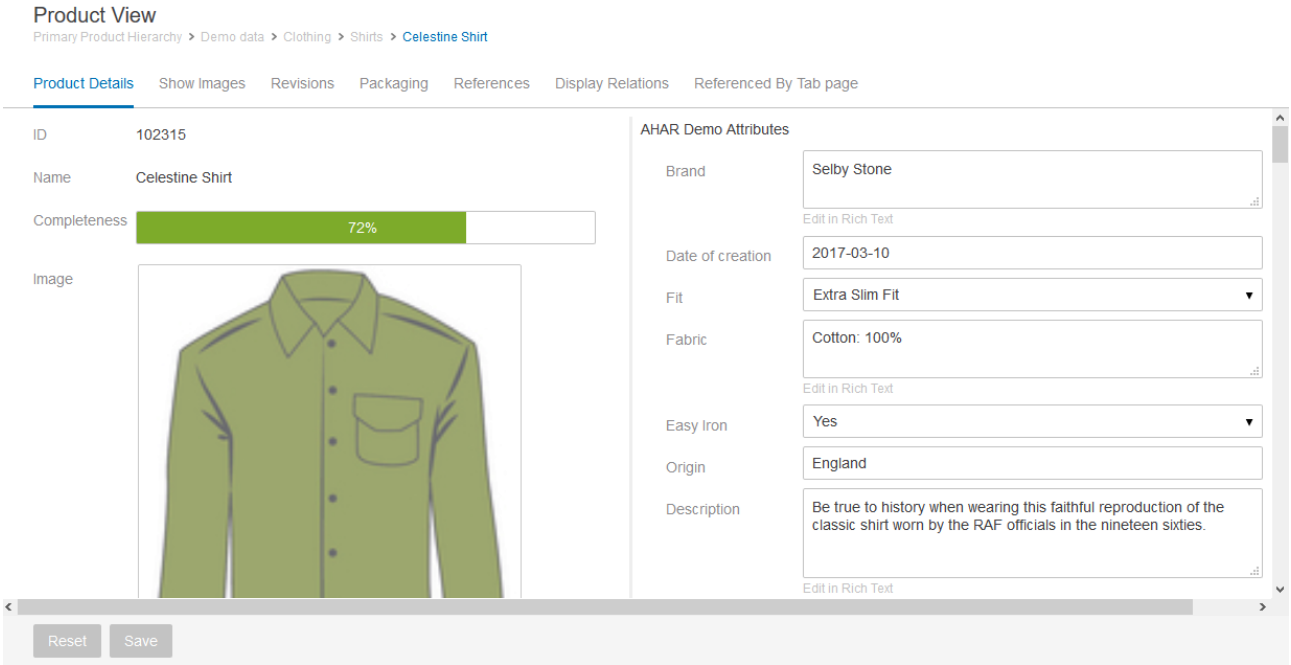
To provide a comprehensive look at the changes included in this redesign, this section focuses on the components that make up the bulk of the Web UI's functionality.

The changes introduced with the redesign manifest themselves throughout the Web UI. Some changes are more visible than others, but all are implemented to fulfill the overall ambition of providing a clean and visually appealing user interface that is both easy to use and engineered to bring the most important content and information into focus.



Among the most visible changes for the 8.2 release is the implementation of a new 8-point grid system adopted from Google's Material Design. The 8-point grid helps define the spatial relationship of the various elements appearing on the screen. By adopting this format to arrange and align content, it is possible to create a scalable layout that is consistent across all the elements, screens, and pages that make up a Web UI. This ensures that, no matter how a Web UI is set up, the user experience is pleasing to the eye and intuitive to use. The 8-point grid is used by many leading companies for their digital offerings because it:

- promotes visual consistency across platforms
- streamlines development work by condensing the available options for placement of screen elements
- provides an easy-to-understand framework for designers and developers to facilitate collaboration



The adoption of the 8-point grid can also be observed in the increased size of the input fields and table elements appearing in the Web UI. This sizing adjustment, coupled with a universal increase in font size, provides users with a more open, more accessible interface.

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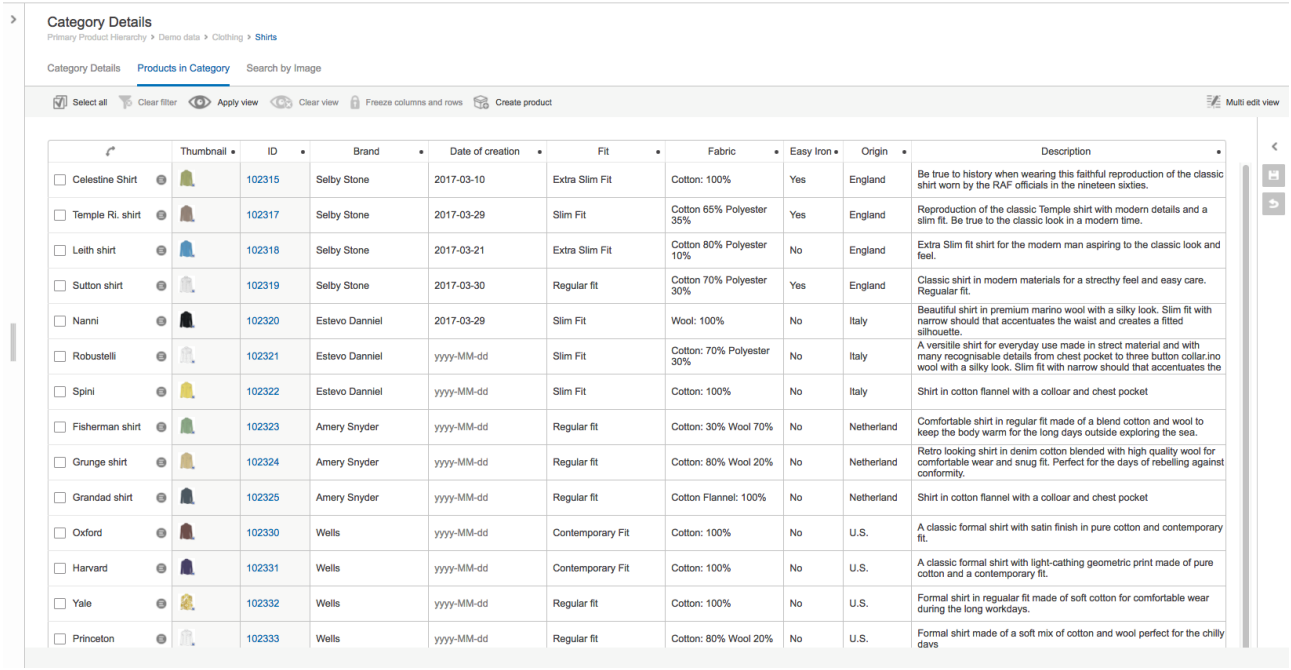

	Thumbnail	ID	Brand	Date of creation	Fit	Fabric	Easy Iron	Origin	Description
Celestine Shirt		102315	Selby Stone	2017-03-10	Extra Slim Fit	Cotton: 100%	Yes	England	Be true to history when wearing this faithful reproduction of the classic shirt worn by the RAF officials in the nineteen sixties.
Temple Ri. shirt		102317	Selby Stone	2017-03-29	Slim Fit	Cotton 65% Polyester 35%	Yes	England	Reproduction of the classic Temple shirt with modern details and a slim fit. Be true to the classic look in a modern time.
Leith shirt		102318	Selby Stone	2017-03-21	Extra Slim Fit	Cotton 80% Polyester 10%	No	England	Extra Slim fit shirt for the modern man aspiring to the classic look and feel.
Sutton shirt		102319	Selby Stone	2017-03-30	Regular fit	Cotton 70% Polyester 30%	Yes	England	Classic shirt in modern materials for a strecthy feel and easy care. Regualar fit.
Nanni		102320	Estevo Danniel	2017-03-29	Slim Fit	Wool: 100%	No	Italy	Beautiful shirt in premium marino wool with a silky look. Slim fit with narrow should that accentuates the waist and creates a fitted silhouette.
Robustelli		102321	Estevo Danniel	yyyy-MM-dd	Slim Fit	Cotton: 70% Polyester 30%	No	Italy	A versitile shirt for everyday use made in strect material and with many recognisable details from chest pocket to three button collar.ino wool with a silky look. Slim fit with narrow should that accentuates the
Spini		102322	Estevo Danniel	yyyy-MM-dd	Slim Fit	Cotton: 100%	No	Italy	Shirt in cotton flannel with a colloar and chest pocket
Fisherman shirt		102323	Amery Snyder	yyyy-MM-dd	Regular fit	Cotton: 30% Wool 70%	No	Netherland	Comfortable shirt in regular fit made of a blend cotton and wool to keep the body warm for the long days outside exploring the sea.
Grunge shirt		102324	Amery Snyder	yyyy-MM-dd	Regular fit	Cotton: 80% Wool 20%	No	Netherland	Retro looking shirt in denim cotton blended with high quality wool for comfortable wear and snug fit. Perfect for the days of rebelling against conformity.
Grandad shirt		102325	Amery Snyder	yyyy-MM-dd	Regular fit	Cotton Flannel: 100%	No	Netherland	Shirt in cotton flannel with a colloar and chest pocket
Oxford		102330	Wells	yyyy-MM-dd	Contemporary Fit	Cotton: 100%	No	U.S.	A classic formal shirt with satin finish in pure cotton and contemporary fit.
Harvard		102331	Wells	yyyy-MM-dd	Contemporary Fit	Cotton: 100%	No	U.S.	A classic formal shirt with light-cathing geometric print made of pure cotton and a contemporary fit.
Yale		102332	Wells	yyyy-MM-dd	Regular fit	Cotton: 100%	No	U.S.	Formal shirt in regualar fit made of soft cotton for comfortable wear during the long workdays.
Princeton		102333	Wells	yyyy-MM-dd	Regular fit	Cotton: 80% Wool 20%	No	U.S.	Formal shirt made of a soft mix of cotton and wool perfect for the chilly days

Other initiatives that have been incorporated as part of the 8.2 Web UI redesign effort include reducing the prominence of less useful screen elements, reclaiming unused white space to take full advantage of the available screen real estate, and optimizing the layout to be more conducive to easy viewing and interaction with the displayed data. As an example, the tabs and the toolbars appearing at the top of tabular screens have been reworked to leave a lighter, less distracting visual footprint so users can focus on the data in front of them.

5 Example Screenshots

What follows are a series of screenshots that provide a clear visual introduction to the new look and feel. The screenshots are ordered in pairs with the first image showing the look and feel of a specific element of the Web UI prior to the redesign, and the second showing the look and feel for that element following the redesign. These before and after views of the redesign are included to clearly show what the changes mean for users working in the interface.

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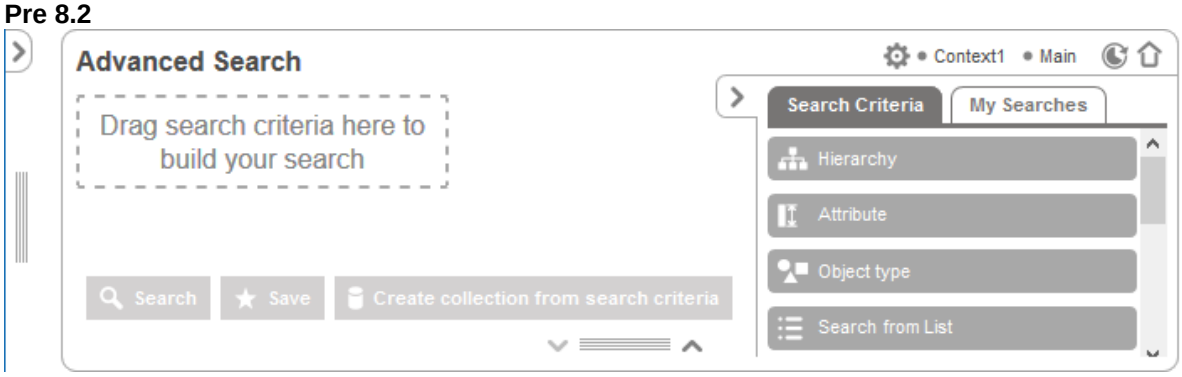
5.1 Advanced Search

Pre 8.2



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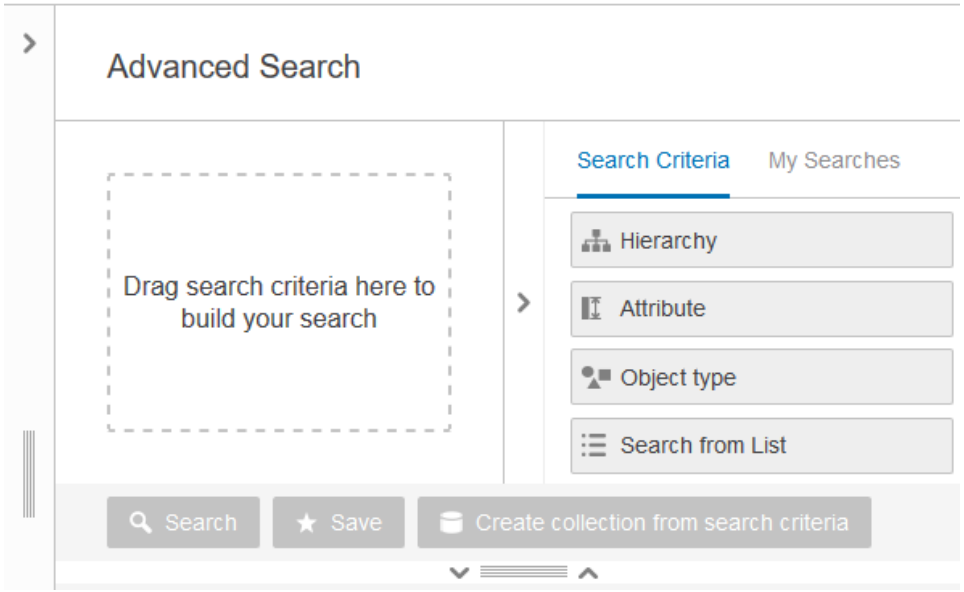
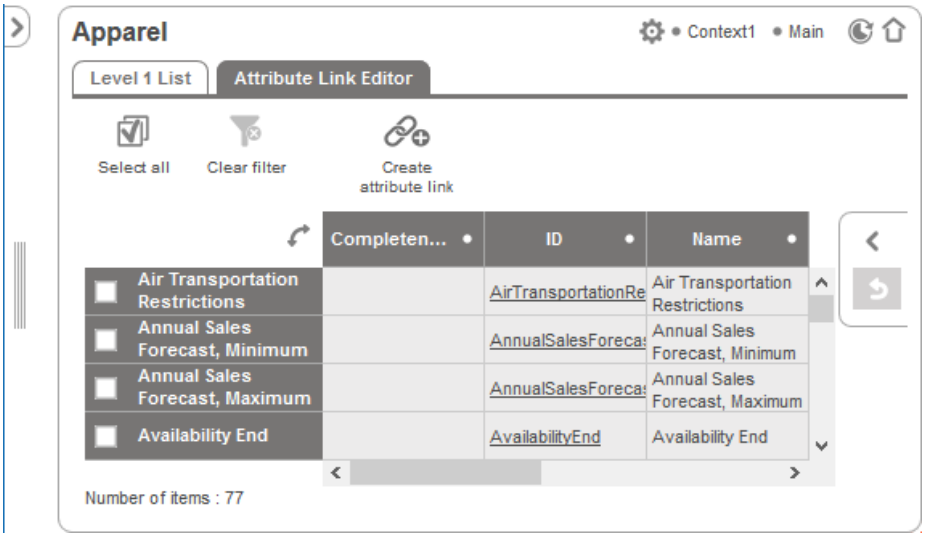
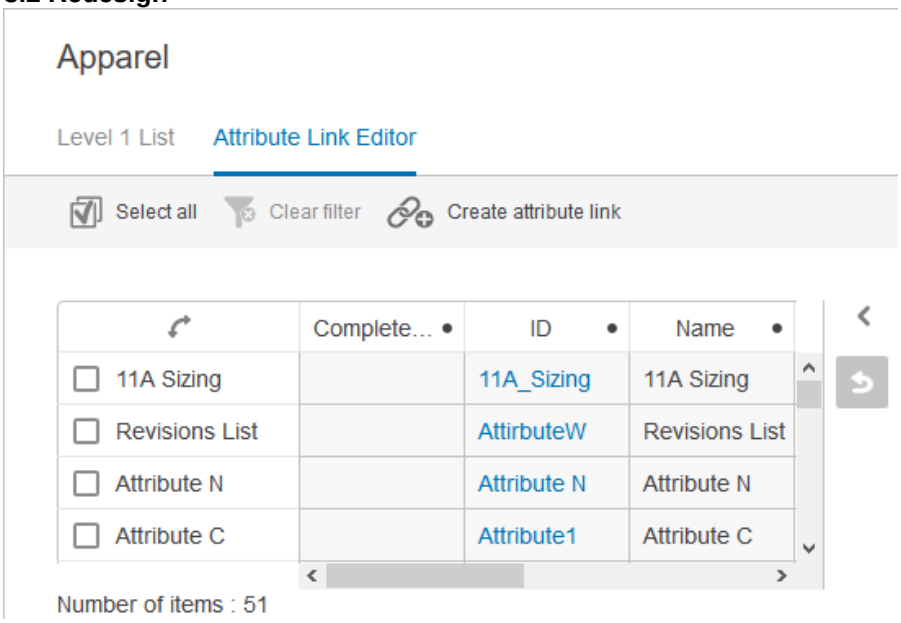


5.2 Attribute Link Editor

Pre 8.2

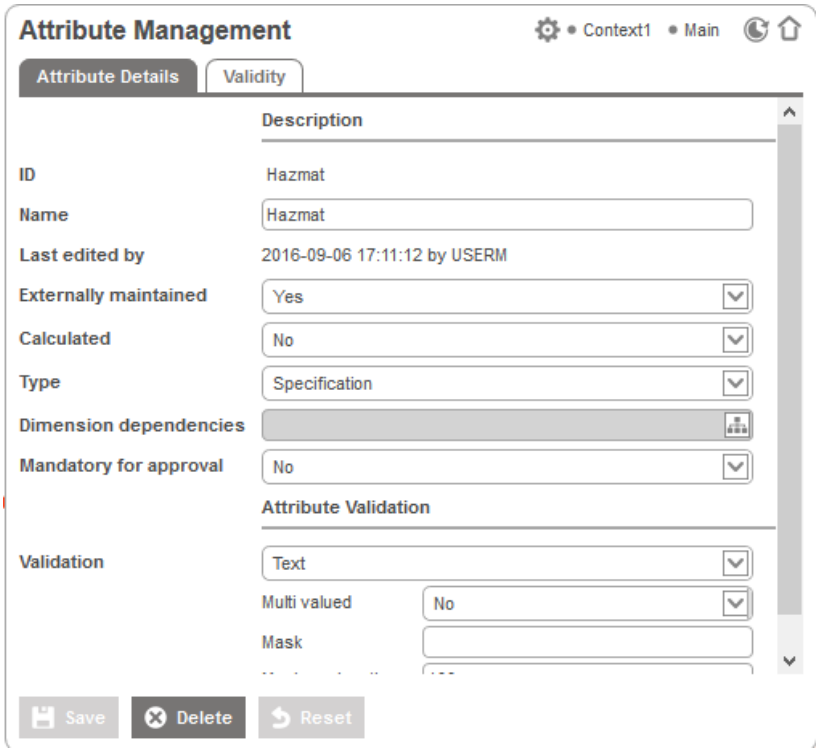


8.2 Redesign



5.3 Attribute Management Screen

Pre 8.2



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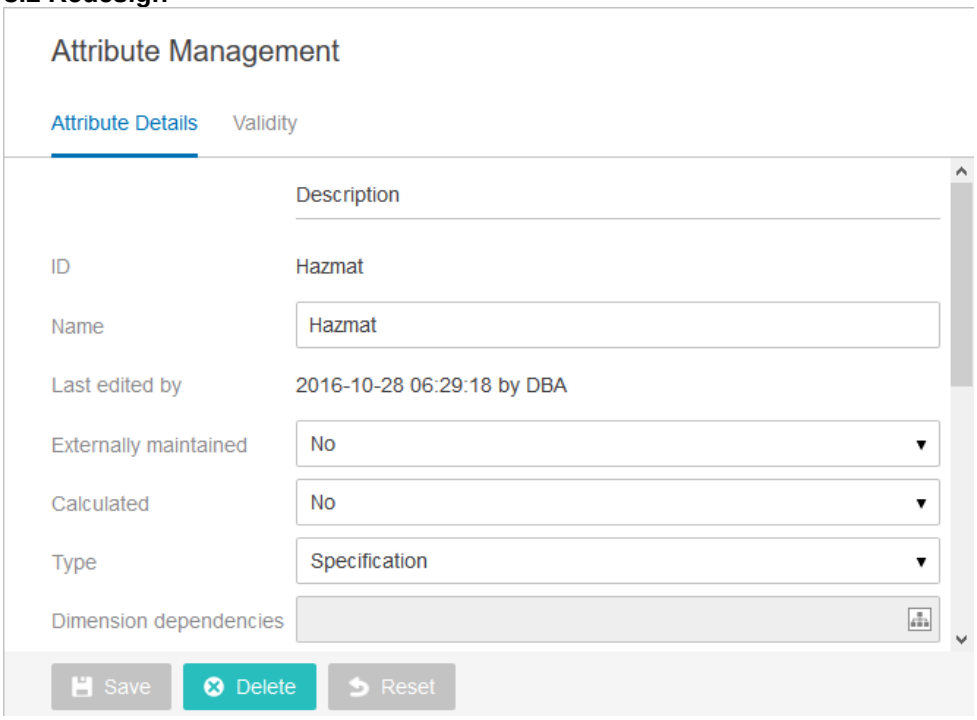
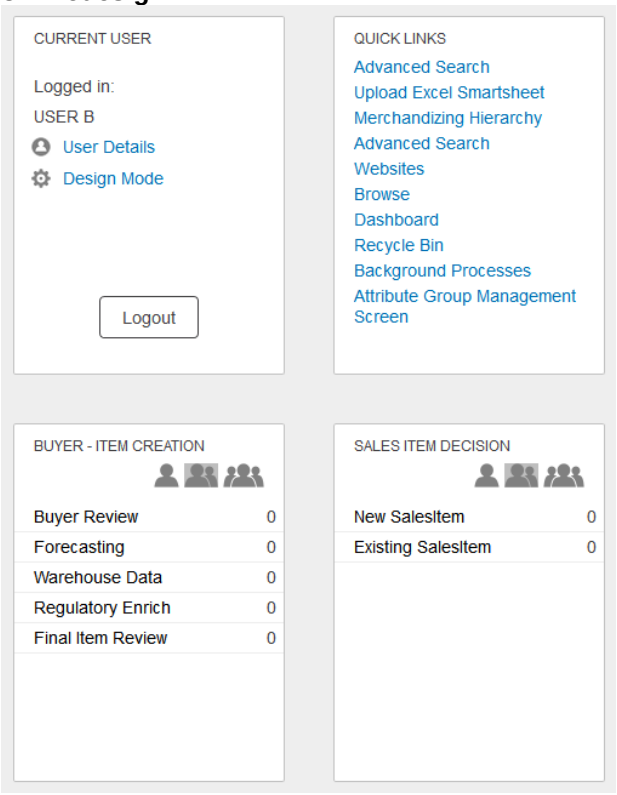


5.4 Homepage Widgets

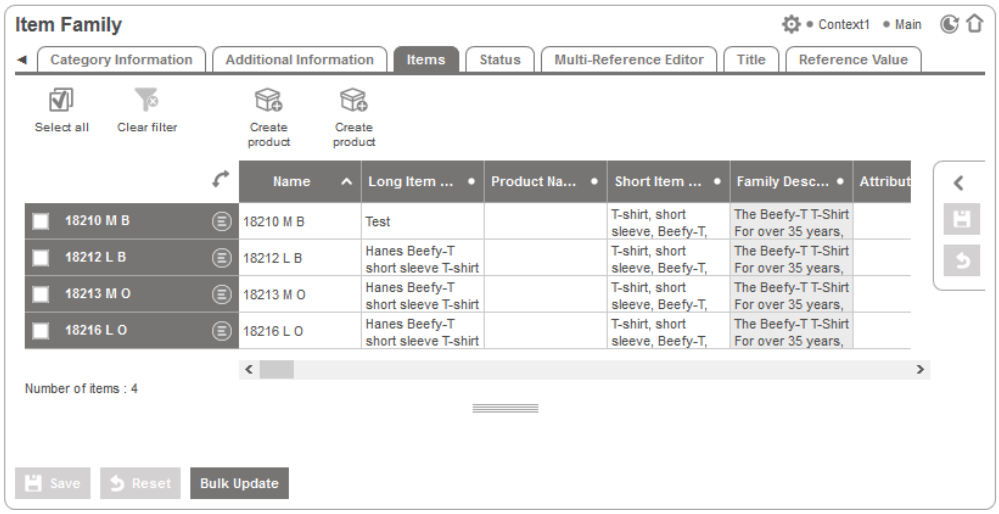
Pre 8.2

8.2 Redesign



5.5 Node List

Pre 8.2



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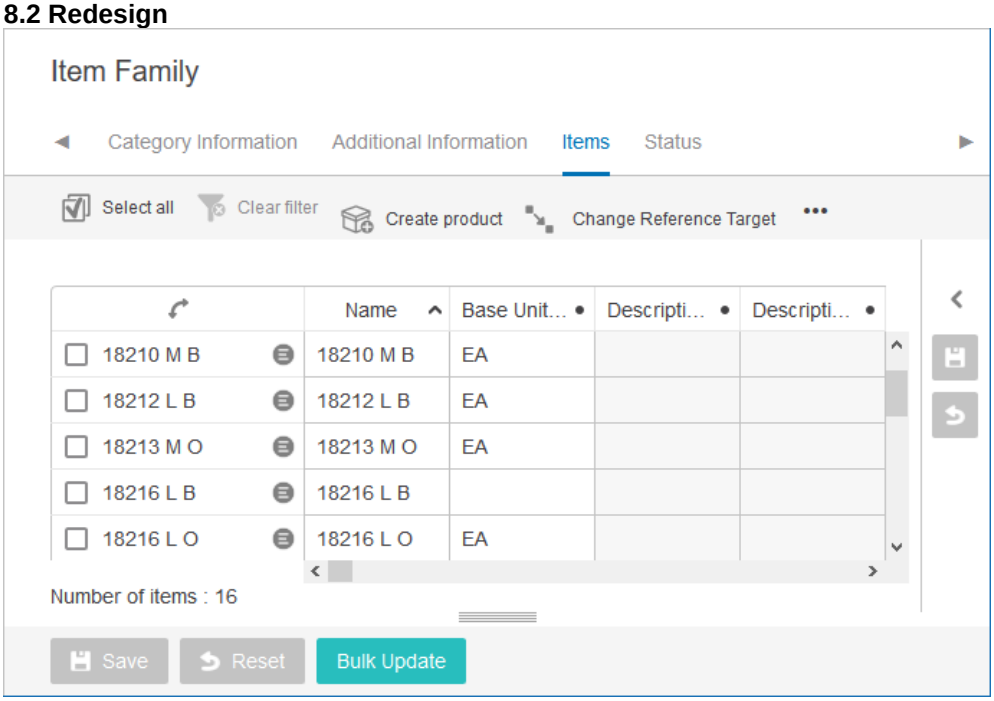
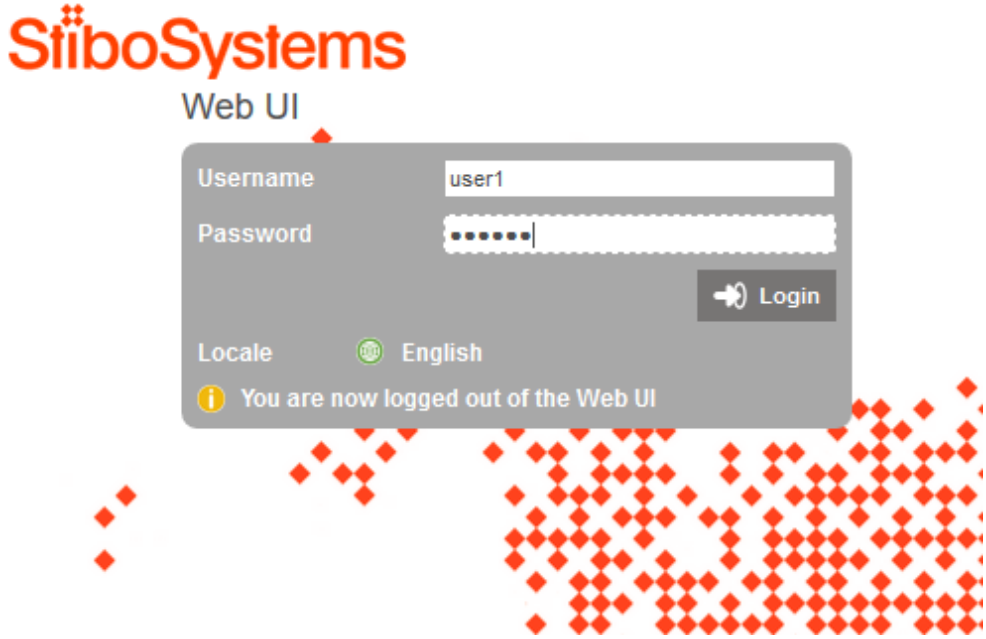


5.6 Login Screen

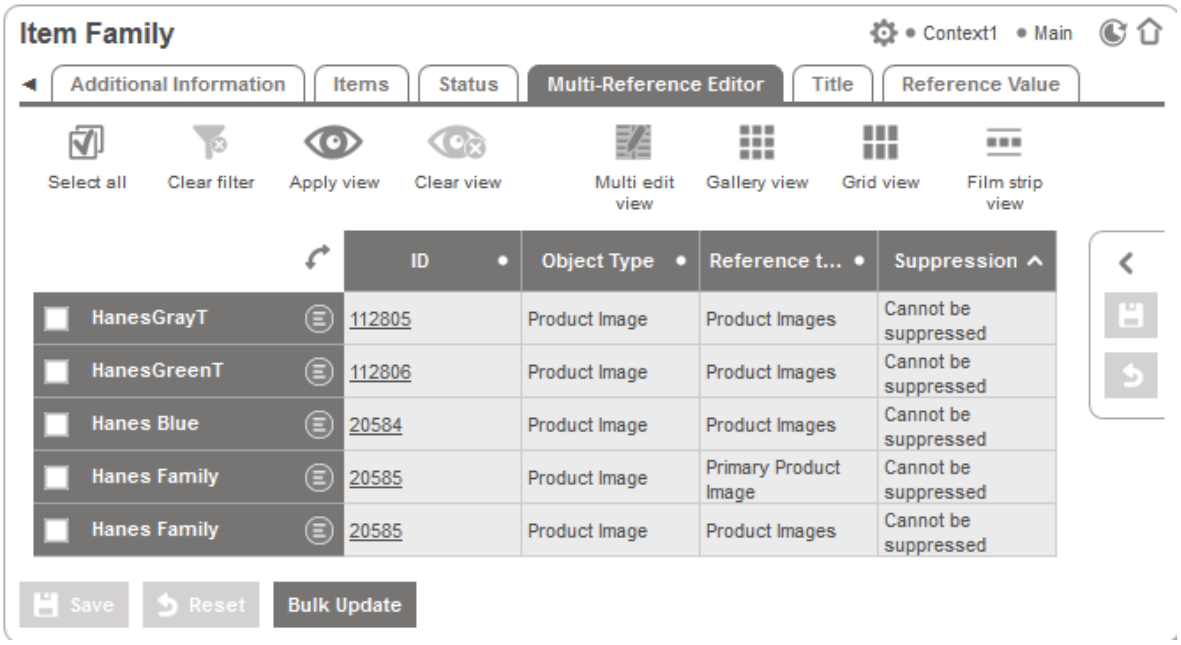
Pre 8.2



8.2 Redesign

5.7 Multi-Reference Editor

Pre 8.2



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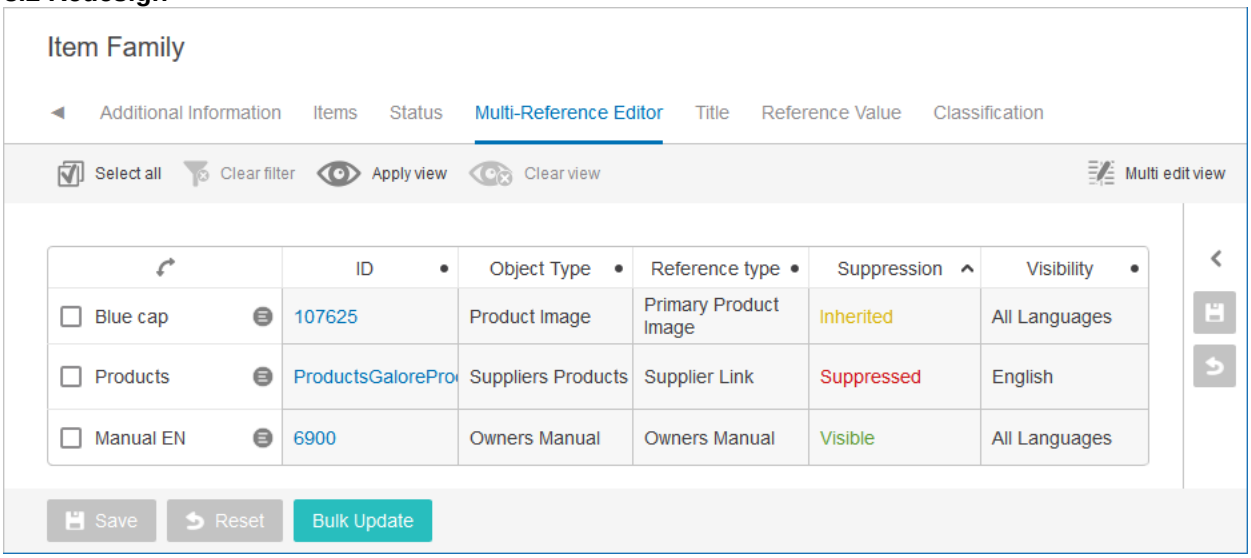
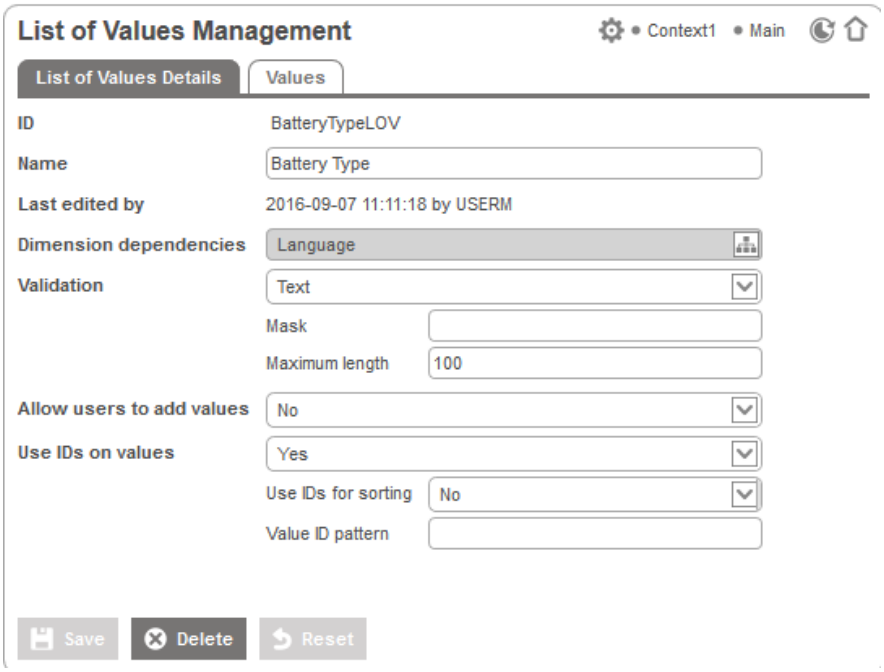


5.8 LOV Management

Pre 8.2



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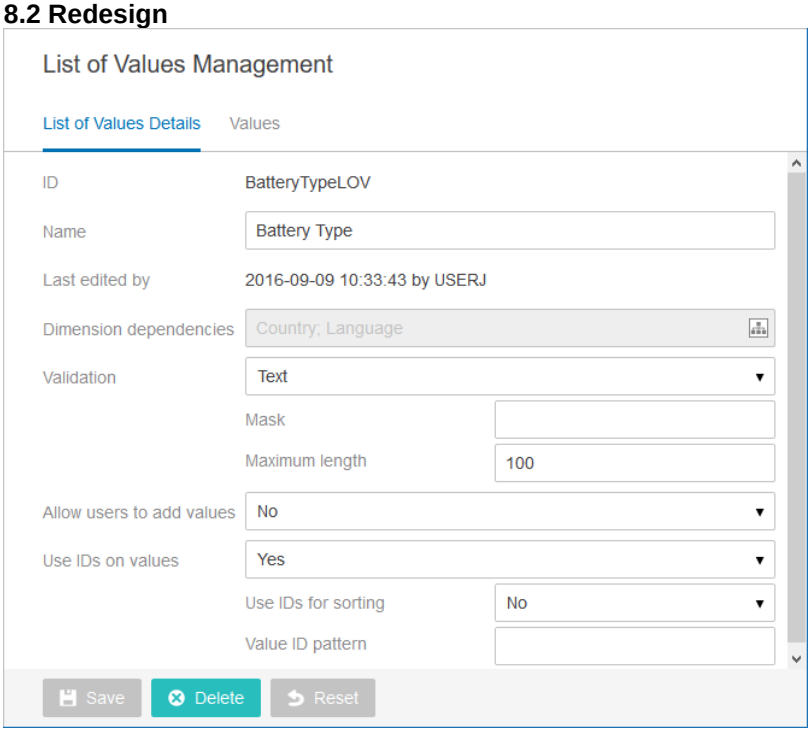

5.9 Node Editor Component

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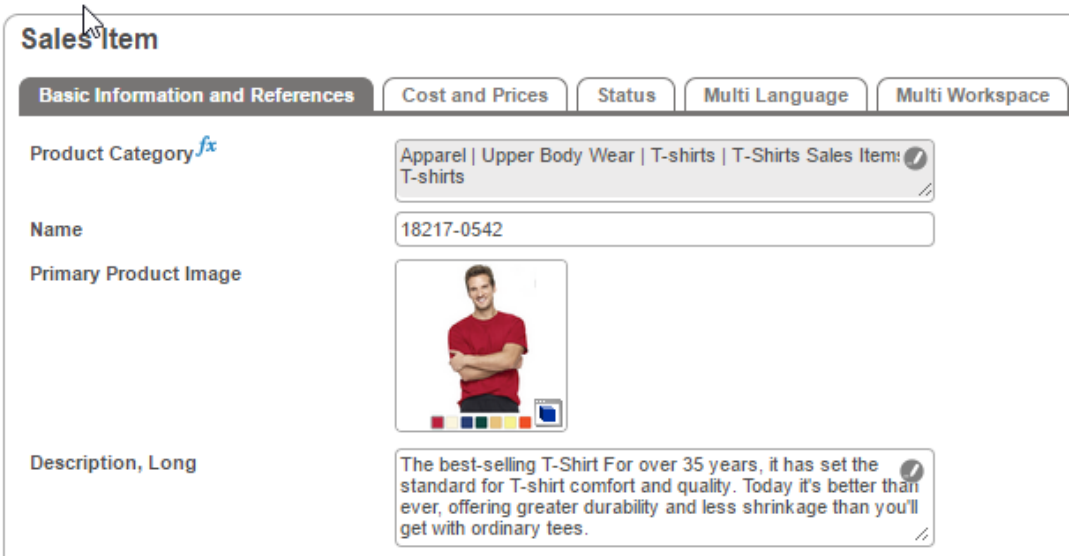

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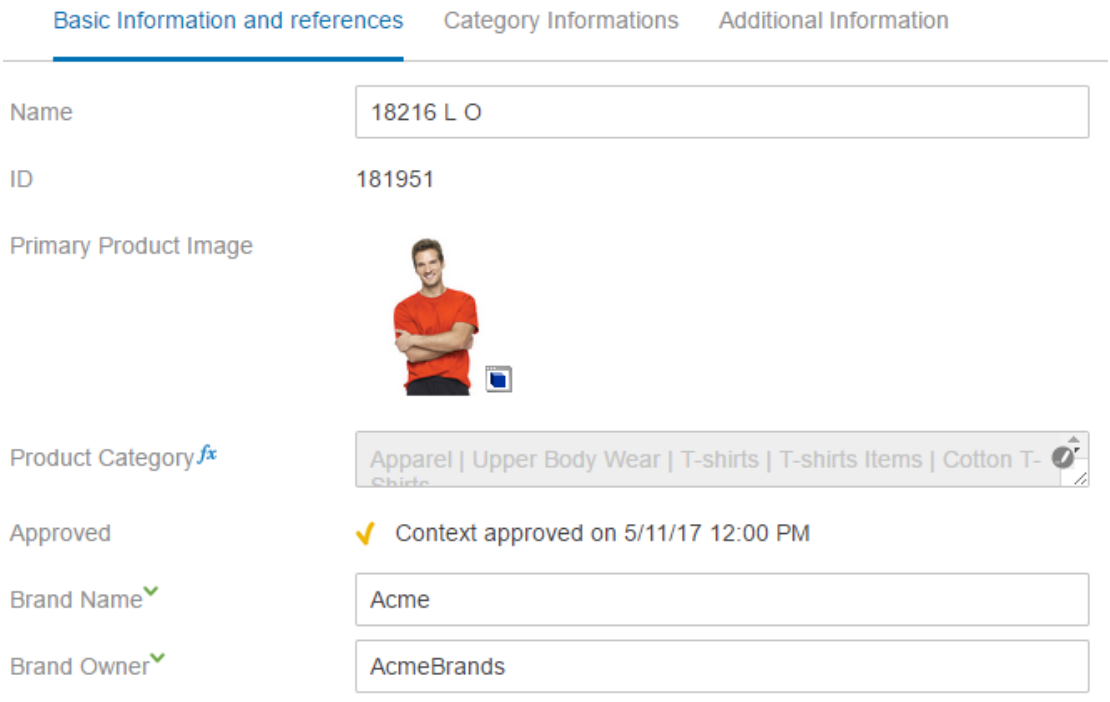

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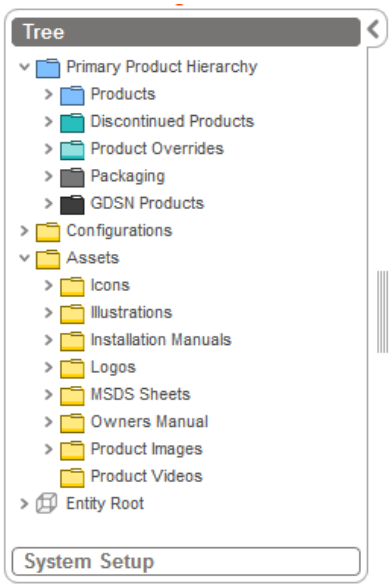
5.10 Tree Navigator

Pre 8.2



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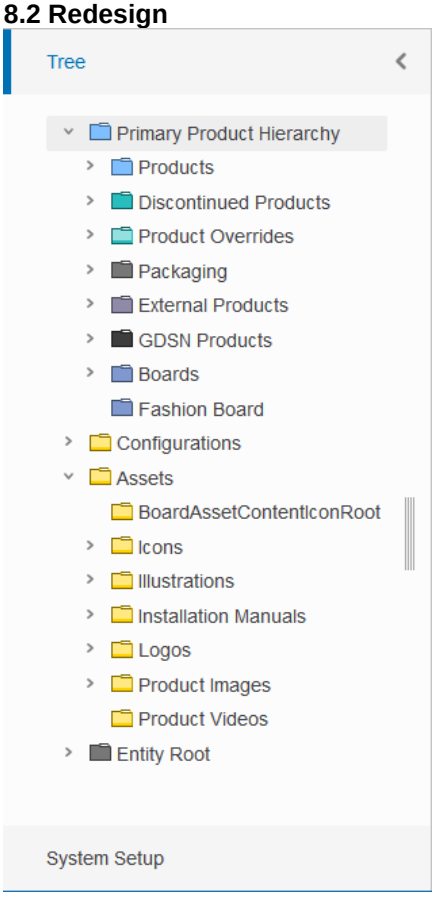
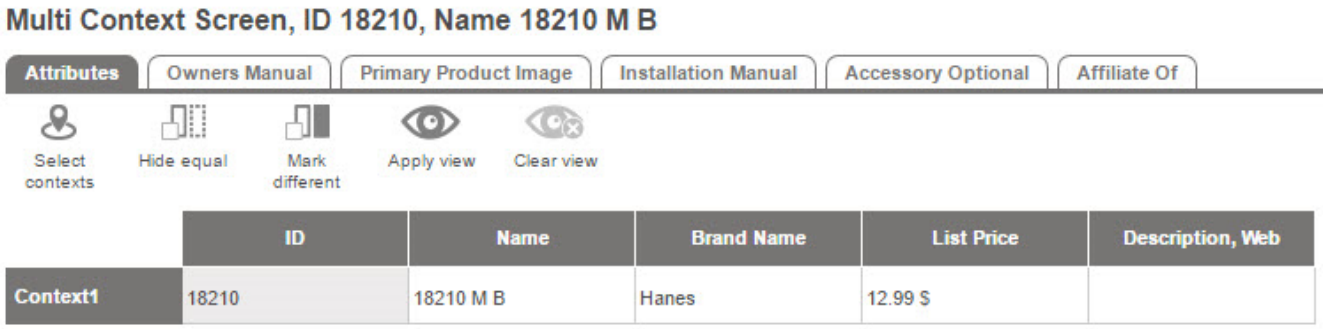


5.11 Multi Context Screen

Pre 8.2



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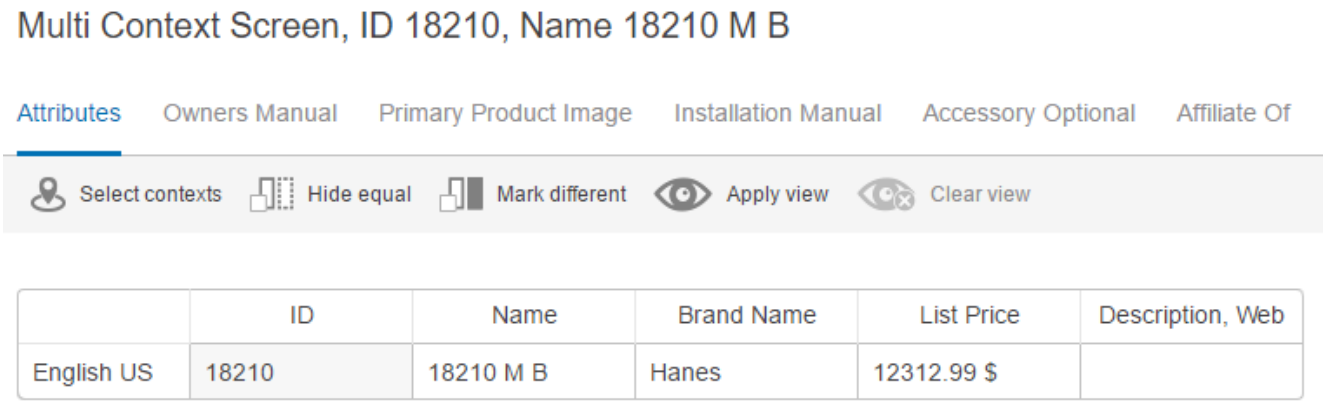

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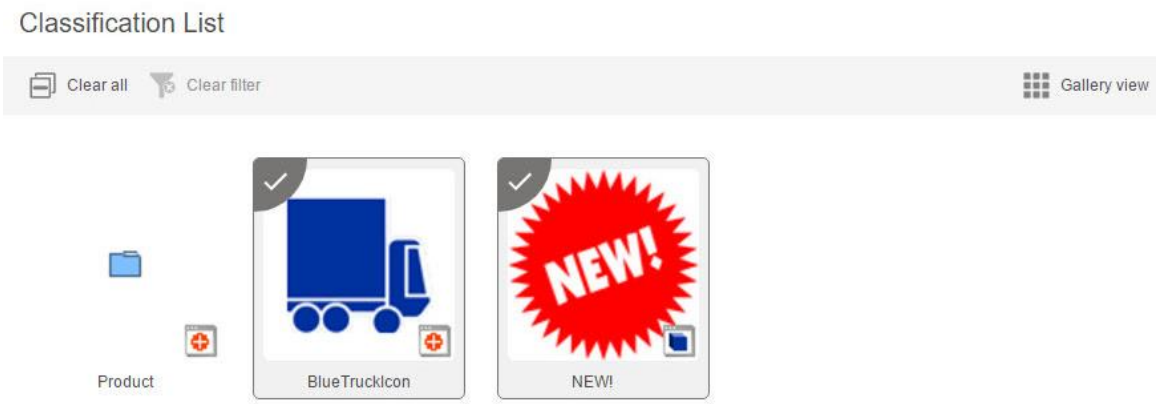
5.12 Classification Screen

Pre 8.2



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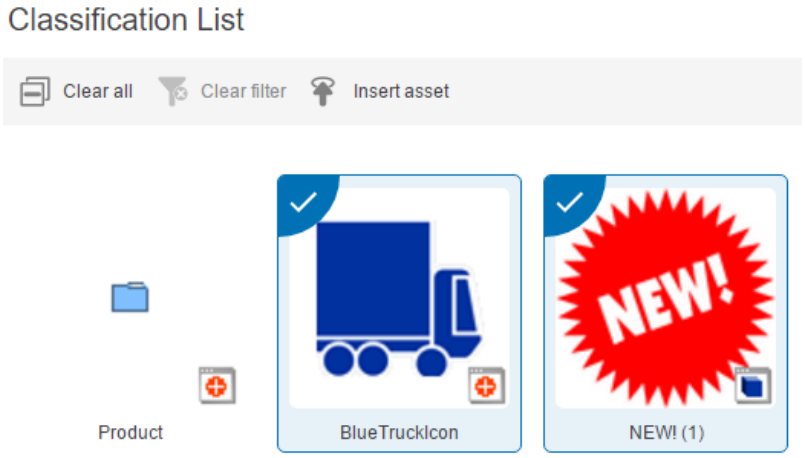
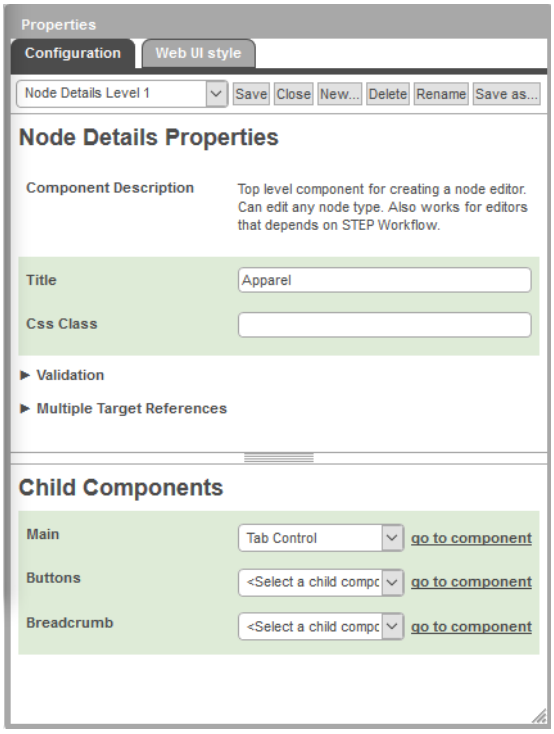


5.13 Design Mode

Pre 8.2



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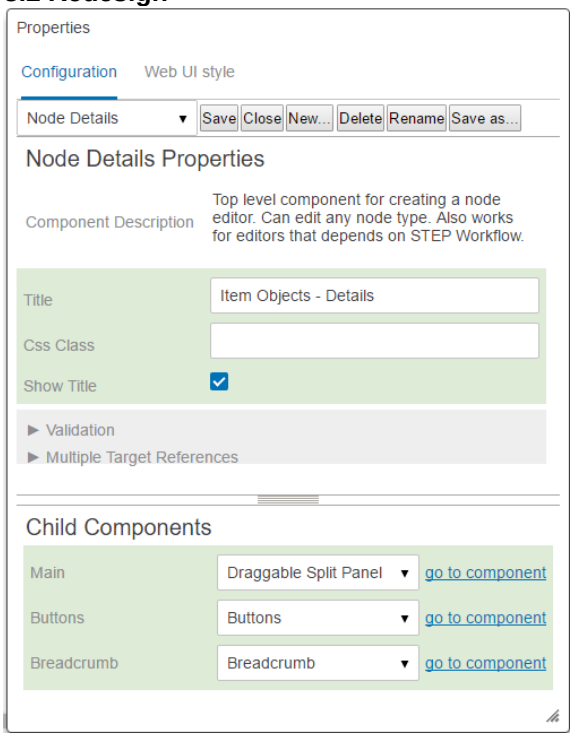

About Stibo Systems

Stibo Systems is the global leader in multidomain Master Data Management (MDM) solutions. Industry leaders rely on Stibo Systems to provide cross-channel consistency by linking product and customer data, suppliers and other organizational assets. This enables businesses to make more effective decisions, improve sales and build shareholder value. During the last 30 years, Stibo Systems has helped hundreds of companies to develop a trusted source of operational information. A privately held subsidiary of the Stibo A/S group, which was originally founded in 1794, Stibo Systems' corporate headquarters is located in Aarhus, Denmark.

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Contact your Stibo Account Manager

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