



eBay Active Listing Downloader (with Variations)

File Specification and Documentation

Document Information

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1. Introduction

What is Canvas2u?

It is a tool for eBay sellers to download details of their active (running) listings **and to include details of listing that have variations**. The downloaded files are in comma separated values format (.csv) which can be opened in spreadsheet programmes (Excel for example) or text editors (notepad for example), or imported into a database (MS Access for example).

The csv files are downloaded from any web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome etc).

Who is the software aimed at?

The software is useful for sellers who have difficulty keeping track of what is listed against inventory that is available. In particular, eBay structure their underlying database in the very complex way which make it very difficult to keep track of listings that have variations, in fact, even eBay's own tool 'File Exchange' cannot download listings showing variation details. Canvas2u will instantly show quantity listed for each variation and the 'buy now' price of each variation.

Canvas2u will work best when each listing has an identifier called an SKU (eBay calls it a 'Custom Label') and each variation within a listing also has unique SKU.

2. Setting-up.

The user will need open an 'eBay Developer Account.' This is free to do. Canvas2u uses the 'Keys' and 'Token' provided in the 'eBay Developer Account' to access the users listings. The 'Keys' and 'Token' are provided by the user to Canvas2u (by email) and after a brief set-up period (should only be an hour or two) the user will be provided with the URL to access their listings data.

3. Retrieving the outputted files.

A URL (web address) is typed into any web browser, approx 20 seconds later (maybe slightly longer for >1000 listings) a download link is displayed for your files. The URL is unique to each user and is static (so it can be bookmarked if necessary). The URL is password protected and provided to the user upon account creation.

4. File Specification

Two files are produced for download, called: **Activelist_item.csv** and **Variation.csv**.

Activelist_item.csv will download listings. Variation.csv will download details of variations within listings (this file will be empty if users listings have no variations). Both files contain the 'parent SKU' of the listing and this field can be used to join the files if they are to be imported into a database.

Speciation of file 'Activelist_item.csv'

The file contains the following fields:

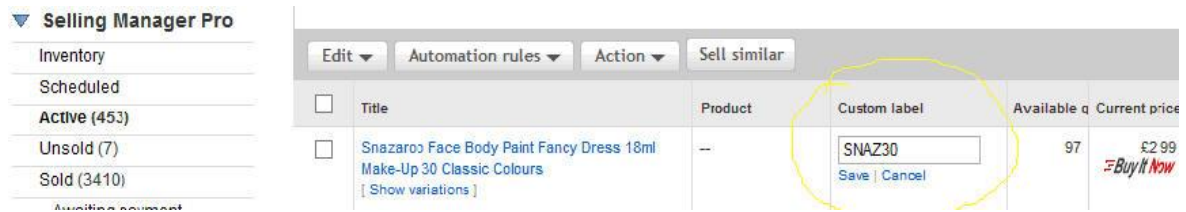
'SKU'

Also know as 'custom label' A SKU (stock keeping unit) is an identifier defined by a seller. Some sellers use SKUs to track of complex flows of products and information on the client side. A seller can specify a SKU when listing an item.

A parent SKU is not required to be unique. A seller can specify a particular SKU on one item or on multiple items. Different sellers can use the same SKUs

This is the SKU (custom label) associated with the main listing (know in this document as the 'Parent SKU')

The Parent SKU can be viewed/added/amended in 'Seller Manger' as show below.



'ItemID'

The ID that uniquely identifies the item listing. eBay generates this ID when an item is listed. This ID is unique across all eBay sites.

'BuyItNowPrice'

The listing's Buy It Now Price (if any).

'ViewItemURL'

The URL (website address) to view this listing on eBay.

'ShippingServiceCost'

The basic shipping cost of the item. If there are more than one shipping option then this value is the first (default) shipping option.

'QuantityAvailable'

The total quantity available to buy in the whole listing. If the listing has variations then this is the sum of the quantity available across all the variations.

Specifcation of file 'Variation.csv':

The file contains the following fields:

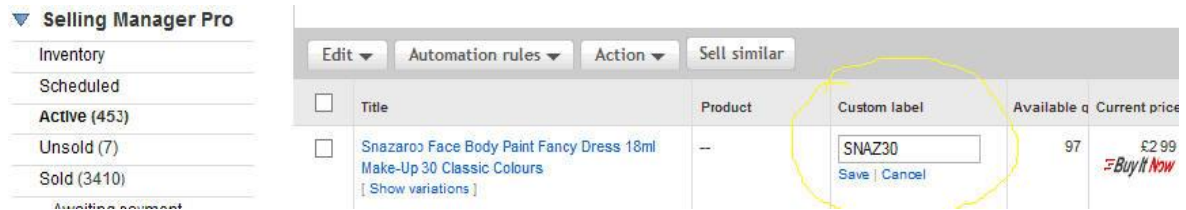
'ParentSKU'

Also know as 'custom label' A SKU (stock keeping unit) is an identifier defined by a seller. Some sellers use SKUs to track of complex flows of products and information on the client side. A seller can specify a SKU when listing an item.

A parent SKU is not required to be unique. A seller can specify a particular SKU on one item or on multiple items. Different sellers can use the same SKUs

This is the SKU (custom label) associated with the main listing (know in this document as the 'Parent SKU')

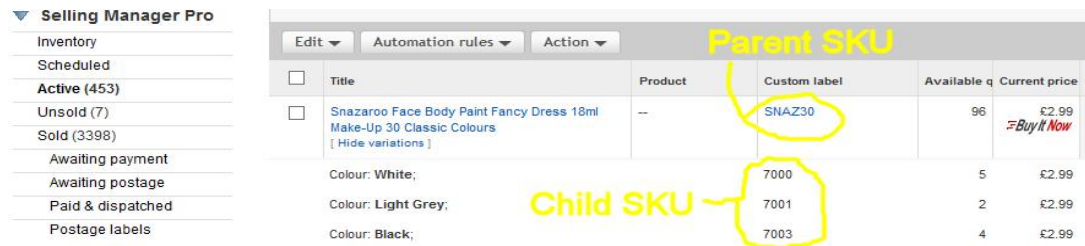
The Parent SKU can be viewed/added/amended in 'Seller Manger' as show below.



It is in fact the same data as 'SKU' in file 'Activelist_item.csv', this can be used for linking across the two files if they are imported into a database.

'VariationSKU'

This is the SKU (Custom Label) of each individual variation item within a listing, otherwise know as a Child SKU. Must be unique.



'StartPrice'

The variations 'Buy It Now' Price.

'Quantity'

The total quantity available when the listing was first opened.

'VariationSpecifics'

A list of name/value pairs that uniquely identify the variation within the listing. All variations specify the same set of names, and each variation provides a unique combination of values for those names. For example, if the items vary by colour and size, then every variation specifies Colour and Size as names, and no two variations can specify the same combination of colour and size values. In the above example this would be Colour: White, Colour: Black etc

'QuantitySold'

The quantity sold of each variation.

**** The quantity currently listed will need to be calculated by the user, thus: Quantity Listed = 'Quantity' minus 'QuantitySold' ****

This is easily calculated by a simple formula in a Spreadsheet application or update query in a database.

5. File Samples

The file '**Activelist_item.csv**' (in the above example) will output the below:

```
SKU,ItemID,BuyItNowPrice,ViewItemURL,ShippingServiceCost,QuantityAvailable  
SNAZ30,370656907469,2.99,http://www.ebay.com/itm/Snazaroo-Face-Body-Paint,1.0,99
```

The file '**Variation.csv**' (in the above example) will output the below:

```
ParentSKU,VariationSKU,StartPrice,Quantity,VariationSpecifics,QuantitySold,  
SNAZ30,7000,2.99,175,Colour=White,170,  
SNAZ30,7001,2.99,120,Colour=Light Grey,118,  
SNAZ30,7003,2.99,120,Colour=Black,116,
```

Note in 'Variation.csv' quantity available is Quantity minus Quantity sold.

6. Security and Privacy

No one else can access the users files for download. The URL is password protected and the directory hidden. The downloaded data is not encrypted and is in plain text, however the data does not contain any information that is not freely available for anyone to view in the listing on eBay's website (price, quantity available for example).