GURUCODERS · PRESTASHOP MODULE

Virtual Products with Combinations

User manual · version 1.0.0

Overview

In PrestaShop a product is either virtual or has combinations, not both. Virtual Products with Combinations lets you mark a product that has combinations as virtual: customers buy it without a shipping step, while its combinations (attributes, prices, references, quantities and images) keep working the native way.

It is meant for anything you sell in several variants and never ship: tickets, workshops, courses, bookings, subscriptions, gift cards or services, with combinations for the date, session, seat type, level or duration.

The module works per product. For every product you tick, it sets PrestaShop's virtual product flag (`is_virtual`) and keeps it set after each save. Everything that reads that flag, the checkout included, then treats the product as virtual. Module technical name: `virtualcombination`.

Requirements

Item	Value
PrestaShop	1.7.0 to 9.x. Tested on 1.7, 8, 9, 9.1 and 9.2.
PHP	7.1 or newer.
Themes	Any theme for the checkout itself. The progress bar clean-up targets Hummingbird, the default theme of PrestaShop 9.
Languages	The module's texts are in English.
Configuration page	None. The only setting is the checkbox on each product.

Installation

1. In the back office, go to **Modules > Module Manager**, click **Upload a module** and select the `virtualcombination` archive.
2. Wait for the confirmation. There is no **Configure** button: the module has no settings page.

The installer creates one table, `PREFIX_virtualcombination_product`, which holds the IDs of the products you opt in. Products that already have combinations and are already marked virtual when you install the module are added to it automatically, so their behaviour does not change.

Quick start

1. Go to **Catalog > Products** and open a product that already has combinations.
2. Open the **Options** tab. The first option is **Treat as virtual product (no shipping step at checkout)**.
3. Tick it and click the product's **Save** button. The checkbox is saved together with the rest of the product; it has no separate save button.
4. In your store, add the product to the cart and go to checkout. After the address step the customer goes straight to payment.

> **The checkbox only appears on products that already have combinations.** For a new product, create its combinations and save the product first, then reopen it and tick the option.

Where the option appears

PrestaShop version	Where you find it
1.7 and 8 (product page with the Basic settings, Combinations, Shipping, Pricing, SEO and Options tabs)	At the top of the **Options** tab, above **Visibility**, with the help text *Saved together with the rest of the product when you click "Save".*
9 (product page with the Description, Details, Combinations, Shipping, Pricing, SEO and Options tabs)	As a native field of the product form, moved to the top of the **Options** tab, with the same label and help text.

In both cases the option is part of the product form: it is saved, and only saved, when you click **Save** on the product page.

How it works

When	What the module does
You tick the option and save	Adds the product to its table and sets `is_virtual = 1` on the product.

You untick the option and save	Removes the product from its table and sets `is_virtual = 0`, so the product is shipped again like any other.
Any later save of an opted-in product	The product page resets the virtual flag of a product with combinations when it saves. The module sets it back right after the save, only for products in its table.
A save that does not touch the option (for example a price change)	Leaves your choice as it is. The option is only changed when the checkbox itself is submitted.
Checkout page on Hummingbird	When the cart is virtual and contains at least one opted-in product, removes the *Shipping Method* entry from the checkout progress bar, renumbers the steps and points the mobile *Next:* label to the payment step.

The module does not modify the product type, attributes, combination prices, references, quantities or images.

What the customer sees at checkout

PrestaShop treats a cart as virtual when every product in it is virtual. For such a cart:

- there is no shipping method step, no carrier to choose and no shipping cost;
- the address step stays: PrestaShop uses the address as the customer's personal (invoice) address, and the step shows the text *The selected address will be used as your personal address (for invoice).*

If the cart also contains a physical product, it is no longer virtual: PrestaShop shows the shipping step and calculates shipping as usual.

On the Classic theme the shipping step is simply not displayed for virtual carts. On Hummingbird (PrestaShop 9), the theme still lists a disabled *Shipping Method* entry in its progress bar; the module removes it, so the bar reads *Personal Information*, *Addresses*, *Payment*.

Working with other modules

Modules that check whether a product is virtual (the `is_virtual` field) see opted-in products as virtual. This is how the module works with GuruCoders' **Advanced Event Booking Pro**: an event product can use combinations, for example one per session or ticket type, and still be sold as a virtual product, without shipping.

The "virtual product can't have combinations" warning

On the PrestaShop 1.7 and 8 product page, opening a product that is virtual and has combinations makes PrestaShop show the dialog *A virtual product can't have combinations* as soon as the page loads. Answering **Yes** in that dialog deletes all the product's combinations.

The module prevents this for you:

- for an opted-in product, it sets the product type field to **Standard product** before the page reads it, so the dialog normally does not open at all;
- if the dialog still opens in the first seconds after the page loads, before you click or type anything, the module answers **No** automatically. **No** only resets the type field and never deletes anything.

> **Warnings caused by your own actions are left to you.** If you change the product type yourself and PrestaShop asks whether to delete the combinations, read the dialog carefully: **Yes** deletes them.

Turning it off and uninstalling

To turn a product back into a regular, shipped product, untick the option and save the product.

> **Before uninstalling, untick the option on your products and save them.** Uninstalling deletes the module's table but does not reset the virtual flag, so products ticked at that moment stay virtual. Without the module, the PrestaShop 1.7 and 8 product page opens the "virtual product can't have combinations" dialog again for those products: answer **No**, because **Yes** deletes the combinations.

Troubleshooting

Problem	What to check
The checkbox is not in the Options tab	The product has no combinations yet, or they were added after the page was opened. Save the product with its combinations and reload the page.
The shipping step still appears	Every product in the cart must be virtual: either ticked in this module or a regular virtual product. Make sure the product was saved after you ticked the option.
The option does not stay ticked	Click the product page's own **Save** button after ticking it; leaving the page without saving discards the change, like any other field.

Another module still treats the product as physical	That module probably decides by something other than the `is_virtual` field, for example by the product type, which this module does not change.

Technical reference

Item	Details
Database	`PREFIX_virtualcombination_product` (`id_product`), created at install, dropped at uninstall.
Product hooks	`actionObjectProductAddAfter` , `actionObjectProductUpdateAfter`
Product form hooks (PrestaShop 9)	`actionProductFormBuilderModifier` , `actionProductFormDataProviderData` , `actionAfterCreateProductFormHandler` , `actionAfterUpdateProductFormHandler`
Assets	`actionAdminControllerSetMedia` loads `views/js/admin.js` on the product pages; `actionFrontControllerSetMedia` loads `views/js/front-checkout.js` on the checkout page, only for virtual carts that contain an opted-in product.
Multistore	The virtual flag is a field of the product itself, so the choice applies to the product in every shop.