

Product Inventory

If you would like to know, at any given point in time (without having to manually count your stock) how many products you have available to sell on your OFBiz e-commerce store, then you may want to use OFBiz inventory features. While it is not necessary to use OFBiz inventory, this really helpful set of tools can reduce cost of sales and add levels of efficiency to your operations.

To manage OFBiz product inventory you must first set up a “facility” to hold the inventory. A product inventory facility called a “warehouse” is already set up and ready to use right out-of-the-box. This warehouse is named the “Web Store Warehouse” and holds both real physical product inventory and virtual products.



E-commerce sites that deal exclusively in digital media (a product that is downloaded) or in products that require no physical storage location or shipping, may have no need to consider OFBiz inventory management.

In this section we take a quick look at out-of-the-box OFBiz facility and inventory management features. The OFBiz application that simplifies facility organization and manages inventory is the **Facility Manager**. From within the **Facility Manager** application, the logistics of managing one or more warehouse(s), adding and removing items from inventory, creating pick lists and packaging paperwork, scheduling shipments, creating bar code labels and much more are handled.

Many inventory services are automatically integrated with the web store-front. For example, by default when an inventoried product is sold on the e-commerce store-front, OFBiz automatically “reserves” the product - that is changes the product’s inventory status - making it unavailable for fulfillment by other orders.

Inventory is also integrated with OFBiz accounting. For example, once product payment is received, regardless of the method of payment, OFBiz accounting processes mark the order as paid and then the **Facility Manager** is automatically notified so that shipping may commence.

Shipping preferences, as collected from the buyer during checkout, can be used to create a shipping label within the **Facility Manager**. When the product ships from the warehouse facility, the product’s inventory count is automatically debited and the order is automatically marked complete.

View Existing Inventory

To see at a glance the current status of your product store inventory, navigate to the **Facility Manager**, “Facilities” tab as shown below. To get a total of all inventory items, including available to promise (ATP) goods, click on the “Inventory Item Grand Total” link as shown in the following screen shot:

Facilities

Facility

Inventory

Out-of-the-box OFBiz has everything you would expect from an enterprise ERP inventory system.

Product ID	Description	Total ATP	Total QOH	Ordered Qty	Minimum Stock	Reorder Quantity	Days To Ship	QOH minus Min Stock	ATP minus Min Stock	Usage Default Price	List Price	Whole Sale Price
GZ-2644	Round Gizmo Catalog	502	504	5	2.000000	10	15	502	500		31.99	31.99
GZ-8544	Big Gizmo Catalog	18	18	0	20.000000	50	1	-2				
PROD_COST	Demo Product for Costing Catalog	0	0	0	0.000000	1	1	0				
WG-1111	Micro Chrome Widget Catalog	54	55	0	2.000000	10	1	53				
WG-5569	Tiny Chrome Widget Catalog	9	10	0	15.000000	40	2	-5				
WG-9943-B3	Giant Widget B3 Catalog	10	10	0	2.000000	10	1	8				
WG-9943-B4	Giant Widget B4 Catalog	10	10	0	2.000000	10	1	8				
WG-9943-S3	Giant Widget S3 Catalog	10	10	0	2.000000	10	1	8	8			
WG-9943-S4	Giant Widget S4 Catalog	10	10	0	2.000000	10	1	8	8			

QOH Total Qty	ATP Total Qty	Total Cost Price	Total Retail Price
627	623	1,751.5	32,946.13

Checking Inventory Using the OFBiz Facility Manager

Adding Inventory

Before you start adding product inventory, you should know that there are two basic types of OFBiz inventory: Serialized and non-serialized inventory. Serialized inventory is used to track individual items as they exist in your inventory facility. Each serialized inventory item has location and status information associated with it. If the inventory item represents a product, then each individual product has inventory status and location information. That means that if you have 5 million widgets in stock and you are managing your inventory as serialized inventory, you would have 5 million inventory item records. One record for each widget. In contrast, non-serialized inventory tracks collections of products. In the example just cited, you may have a single inventory item record for all 5 million widgets. Or you may have several inventory item records. This will all depend on how you received your inventory.

When should you use serialized or non-serialized inventory? A few examples may help:

Say for example you are a dog food distributor and you wish to inventory cans of dog food. In your business model, one can is pretty much like another. When you sell a can and get ready to fulfill an order, you take any can off the warehouse shelf, pack it up and ship it. In this case you could use non-serialized inventory as you don't really care which particular can you are picking and shipping. Non-serialized inventory will still track the number of cans you have on the shelf, you just will not be able to uniquely identify any single can.

If, on the other hand, you have a slightly different business requirement that dictates you track each can, serialized inventory may be just the ticket. For example, if you need to track each and every can as it is received into the warehouse, placed on a shelf for storage and then picked and packaged for shipping, think serialized inventory. In this case, perhaps you need to trace back to the vendor the origin and contents of each individual can.

Or perhaps you sell digital products such as software and you need to associate a unique license key to each product. You could use serialized inventory to track license keys per product sold. To do this, each license key would be given a unique inventory item identifier using the serialized inventory process. Computers, automobiles (with VIN numbers) and redemption coupons - such as in a deal-of-the-day application where you need to track each coupon as it is sold and then redeemed - are all good candidates for serialized inventory.

With that background, you are ready to add items to the OFBiz real (or virtual) inventory facility. To add inventory either serialized or non-serialized to an existing OFBiz warehouse:

- ↳ Navigate to the **Facility Manager**
- ↳ Locate the warehouse to use for inventory. Out-of-the-box OFBiz is set up with an association between the web store and a facility called the "Web Store Warehouse". You may use this facility to hold your inventory or create another one.
- ↳ Click on the "RECEIVE INVENTORY" top navigation link

Next you must tell OFBiz which product(s) this inventory will be associated with. If you have a purchase order (already created using the OFBiz **Order Manager**), then enter in the purchase order number or find the order identifier using the pop-up search icon provided.

If you are entering inventory for a single product or do not have a purchase order, leave this field blank. Next enter in the product identifier (or use the pop-up search icon to locate the product identifier) for the product this inventory item should be associated with.

- ↳ Click on the “Receive Product” button to tell OFBiz that these products have been delivered and received by the warehouse facility.

Clicking the “Receive Product” button will bring up the “Receive Inventory Into Web Store Warehouse” form. This form allows you to specify all kinds of inventory attributes related to getting your inventory into the warehouse. This is where you designate serialized or non-serialized inventory. By default, inventory is non-serialized.

Be sure to enter in a value in the “Quantity Accepted” field if the number of items you are adding is greater than the default of one (1) item.

When you have finished filling out this form, click on the “Receive” button to make the formal inventory receipt effective:

- ↳ Click on the “Receive” button.

When you click on the “Receive” button, an inventory item(s) - that is a record(s) in the INVENTORY_ITEM database table - is created for the inventory. If you decided to serialize your inventory, then the number of inventory items created will be equal to the quantity you entered. Non-serialized inventory will have a single inventory item created with a quantity field set to the quantity you received. You can double-check and make sure that your inventory was accurately created by checking the inventory using the **Facility Manager** as shown above.



If you are serializing your inventory and wish to put a unique serial number on the inventory item itself, for example if you wish to track an inventory of license keys, you will need to edit each inventory item and add the serial number into the “Serial Number” field.

At anytime after you have received your inventory you may edit inventory item information including changing the quantity and/or number of rejected items.

Should you receive more of the same product and wish to add it to inventory, repeat the process above to create new inventory item records. OFBiz automatically knows to check all inventory items for a particular product regardless of the number of times you have added inventory using this process.