Subject: Is there a way to allow people to pick and choose which parts they want to buy from a single file?
Posted by echotransformer on Tue, 11 Dec 2012 00:37:42 GMT
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Hello,

I have a kit of 26 parts that I'd like to make modular, that is to allow customers to buy all the parts or specific parts in the kit.

Right now I am using 'design configurations' in my CAD software, but creating all the sub-kits and variations is VERY labor intensive. Is there a way to create this on the Shapeways side?

For reference, here is the kit:

http://www.shapeways.com/model/820929/echo-herc-v5-the-full-monty.html?key=2d42e57ee60c947dc818eb04425659fa

Any help is greatly appreciated...

Thanks,

Steve

Subject: Re: Is there a way to allow people to pick and choose which parts they want to buy from a single fil
Posted by stonysmith on Tue, 11 Dec 2012 04:39:24 GMT
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No, you can't offer individual shells within a file for sale separately.
You'll have to upload each of them as a separate file.

Subject: Re: Is there a way to allow people to pick and choose which parts they want to buy from a single fil
Posted by bartv on Tue, 11 Dec 2012 10:30:28 GMT
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Stony is right - we don't offer this functionality at this time.

If you're looking to automate this, take a look at OpenSCAD: http://www.openscad.org/

It's an open-source, scriptable tool. You should be able to create a script that loads the required parts (maybe even by parsing a simple configuration file), combining them and writing a new .STL file.

That might save you some time?

Bart

Subject: Re: Is there a way to allow people to pick and choose which parts they want to buy from a single fil
Posted by echotransformer on Fri, 14 Dec 2012 01:39:00 GMT
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@Stonysmith: Thanks for the fast reply!

bartv wrote on Tue, 11 December 2012 10:30Stony is right - we don't offer this functionality at this time.

If you're looking to automate this, take a look at OpenSCAD: http://www.openscad.org/

It's an open-source, scriptable tool. You should be able to create a script that loads the required parts (maybe even by parsing a simple configuration file), combining them and writing a new .STL file.

That might save you some time?

Bart

@Bart: Solidworks is automating the configuration nicely, but maybe this scriptable tool can help manage the STLs...breaking down a large multi-body file into individual kits that can be uploaded...thanks, I'll look into it. Still, I really wish Shapeways had a feature like what I described above (not that this isn't the coolest service on the web these days...you guys rawk!)

Subject: Re: Is there a way to allow people to pick and choose which parts they want to buy from a single fil
Posted by woody64 on Wed, 26 Dec 2012 10:41:45 GMT

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I followed a similar problem for some time. Therefore I've started some investigations and created an experimental frontend.
The intension was similar. Let the user choose from a subet of X items and create one new part out of it.

http://stlcreator.mac-au.eu/indexb.html

There's a php engine in the background which generates a new stl where all the parts were connected via a sprue.
The system can be configured to deal with new items of my production.

Unfortunately the upload interface stopped working after the first trials and I never got it running again.
(currently it fails with another failure maybe the interface has been changed)
[Correction: I get a Mail that i have uploaded a stl fiile but the model doesn't become visible in the my models page
that could also be caused by a failure on my side. If I upload the stl file per hand it's normally ok]

To be honest I think this topic is very difficult to solve on the shop owner side. There's a request in the shapeways' feedback platform to deal with this topic but so far the effort seems to high ...

Woody64

Subject: Re: Is there a way to allow people to pick and choose which parts they want to buy from a single fil
Posted by echotransformer on Wed, 26 Dec 2012 17:00:02 GMT
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Thanks Woody64...you have impressive know-how in this regard.

Here's hoping there's a strong enough business case in the near future...I know my sales would increase!