



Understanding the Sync Process

KatanaPIM for Magento 2

Understanding how synchronization works in [KatanaPIM Connect](#). Learn the difference between Full and Incremental sync, and when to use each.

Overview

KatanaPIM Connect synchronizes data in two stages:

1. **Import from PIM** - Fetch data from KatanaPIM API into intermediate tables
2. **Create in Magento** - Process intermediate data to create/update Magento entities

This two-stage approach allows you to review imported data before creating Magento products.

Sync Types

Full Update

A complete synchronization of all entities from KatanaPIM.

What it does:

- Fetches ALL products, categories, attributes, and assets from PIM
- Compares with existing data using hash comparison
- Marks items as "Needs Update" when changes are detected
- Can optionally trigger Magento reindex after completion

When to use:

- Initial setup and first import
- After major changes in PIM
- Weekly/daily scheduled maintenance
- When incremental sync has gaps

Run via CLI:

```
# Full sync of everything
bin/magento katana:import:full

# Sync specific entity types only
bin/magento katana:import:full --attributes
bin/magento katana:import:full --categories
bin/magento katana:import:full --products
```

```
bin/magento katana:import:full --assets
```

Incremental Update

A delta synchronization that only processes changed items.

What it does:

- Fetches only items modified since last sync
- Much faster than full update
- Lower server load
- Ideal for frequent updates

When to use:

- Regular scheduled updates (every few hours)
- After individual product changes in PIM
- To keep Magento in sync throughout the day

Run via CLI:

```
bin/magento katana:import:incremental
```

Sync Order

Entities should be synchronized in this order:

1. **Attributes** - Required first for product data mapping
2. **Categories** - Optional, needed if using PIM categories
3. **Products** - Main product data
4. **Assets** - Product images and videos (requires products)

The Full Update command handles this order automatically.

What Gets Synced

Products

PIM Data	Magento Field
Product name	name (mapped attribute)

PIM Data	Magento Field
Description	description (mapped attribute)
SKU	sku
GTIN	gtin (mapped attribute)
Price data	price, special_price, cost
Category assignments	category_ids
Attribute values	Custom attributes

Categories

PIM Data	Magento Field
Category name	name
URL key	url_key
Parent/child hierarchy	path, level
Position	position

Attributes

PIM Data	Magento Field
Attribute code	attribute_code (katanapim_ prefix)
Attribute label	frontend_label
Attribute type	frontend_input
Options	attribute options

Assets

PIM Data	Magento Field
Image URL	Product gallery
Image order	position

PIM Data	Magento Field
Video URL	Product video
Alt text	label

Hash Comparison

The module uses hash comparison to detect changes:

1. When data is imported from PIM, a hash is calculated
2. When Magento entity is created/updated, another hash is calculated
3. If hashes differ, the item is marked "Needs Update"
4. Matching hashes mean no update is required

This prevents unnecessary Magento saves and improves performance.

The "Needs Update" Flag

In all grids, you'll see a "Needs Update" column:

Value	Meaning
Yes	PIM data differs from Magento - update recommended
No	Data is in sync - no action needed

Items marked "Needs Update" will be processed during the next sync if automation is enabled.

The "Skipped" Flag

Mark items as "Skipped" to exclude them from synchronization:

- Skipped items are ignored during auto-sync
- Useful for products you don't want in Magento
- Can be set/unset via mass action

Automation Flow

When automation is enabled:

1. **Cron triggers** based on configured frequency
2. **Incremental/Full Update** fetches data from PIM
3. **Auto-create** (if enabled) creates new Magento entities
4. **Existing items** with "Needs Update" are updated
5. **Sync Log** records the results

Manual vs Automatic Creation

Automatic (via cron):

- Enable "Auto create new products" in Automation settings
- New products are created automatically during sync
- Less control, more convenience

Manual (via grid):

- Leave auto-create disabled
- Review imported products in grid first
- Select items and use "Update/Create Magento Products" mass action
- More control over what gets created

Performance Tips

1. **Use Incremental** for frequent updates (hourly)
2. **Use Full** for periodic maintenance (daily/weekly)
3. **Adjust batch sizes** if experiencing timeouts
4. **Disable reindex** in production - run manually after sync
5. **Use CLI** for large imports - avoids browser timeouts

Need More Help?

Documentation:

- [All Help Articles](#) - Complete documentation overview

Support:

- [Contact Support](#) - Get help from our team

For a complete overview of features and configuration options, see the KatanaPIM extension on magmodules.eu

All articles for KatanaPIM

Installation

1	Installation using Composer (recommended)
2	Install through FTP and SSH

Configuration

1	Quick Start Guide
2	Configuration
3	Categories Grid
4	Attribute Mapping
5	Configurable Products Setup

Troubleshooting

1	Troubleshooting
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Grids

1	Products Grid
2	Attributes Grid
3	Assets Grid
4	Sync Log Grid

Background

1	CLI Commands
2	Cron Jobs

3	Product to Website Matching
4	Understanding the Sync Process (current)

