

# Your headless commerce cheat sheet

## Application Programmer Interfaces (API)

Is a connection between software systems allowing them to communicate with each other.

## Content Delivery Network (CDN)

A network of servers globally distributed designed to speed up the delivery of web content by reducing the physical distance between server and user.

## Content Management System (CMS)

An application used to create, manage, update and publish content usually on a website. It can all be done without the need for any specialized technical knowledge.

## Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

Is a software system used for managing an organization's current and potential customer relationships and interactions.

## Digital Asset Management (DAM)

It's a centralized system to organize, access and distribute digital media assets.

## Digital experience platform (DXP)

The goal for a DXP is to deliver a better digital experience for both customers and employees. This is done through specific technology that supports the formation, management, optimization and delivery of digital experiences.

## Enterprise resource planning (ERP)

Software used by organizations to manage and integrate core business activities, for example procurement, accounting, supply chain operations.

## Front-end as a Service (FaaS)

A service that's in charge of displaying the correct content in an optimal fashion, depending on the target device and system. For example desktop, mobile, smart watch.

## Headless Commerce

Refers to the decoupling of the front-end of your online store from the back-end. Simplified even further, the customer facing side of your application and the behind the scenes mechanics are now working independently. They do, however, still 'talk' to each other through the use of Application Programmer Interfaces (API's).

## Inventory management system (IMS)

The process of tracking your goods throughout your entire supply chain, from purchasing to production to end sales.

## Product Information Management (PIM)

Is a central hub application used to collect, manage, and enrich product information that's needed to market and sell products through distribution channels.

## Progressive Web Application (PWA)

This is a web application using features and progressive enhancements to provide users with an experience comparable to native apps.

## Single Page Application (SPA)

This is an application that works inside your browsers without requiring page reloading during use, the best example of this is Gmail or Google Maps.

## Static site generators

Takes content and applies it to a layout or template and generates purely static HTML files. This removes any need for server side code, databases, and other resource intensive processes needed to generate a dynamic site.

## Traditional 'Monolithic' Structure

This is where the presentation layer is served from the same system as the backend processing. Historically speaking, the monolithic commerce structure is the most common model used with traditional commerce.

