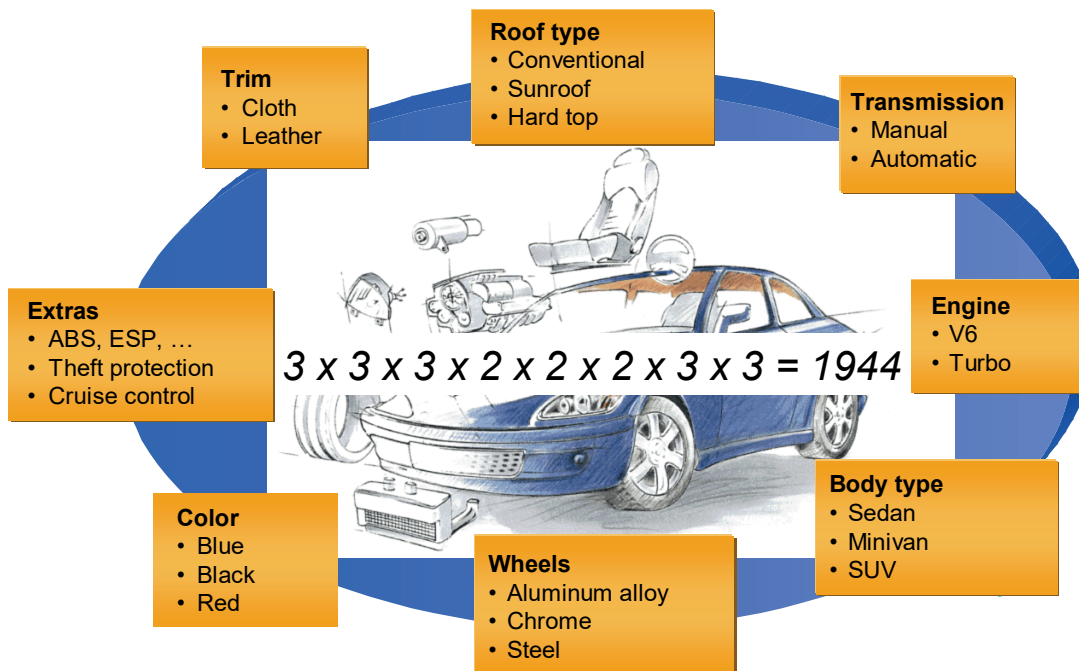


- **Before you plunge further into modeling in the iPPE, inform yourself about the required master data for the variant configuration.  
What master data can you find directly in the PVS?**

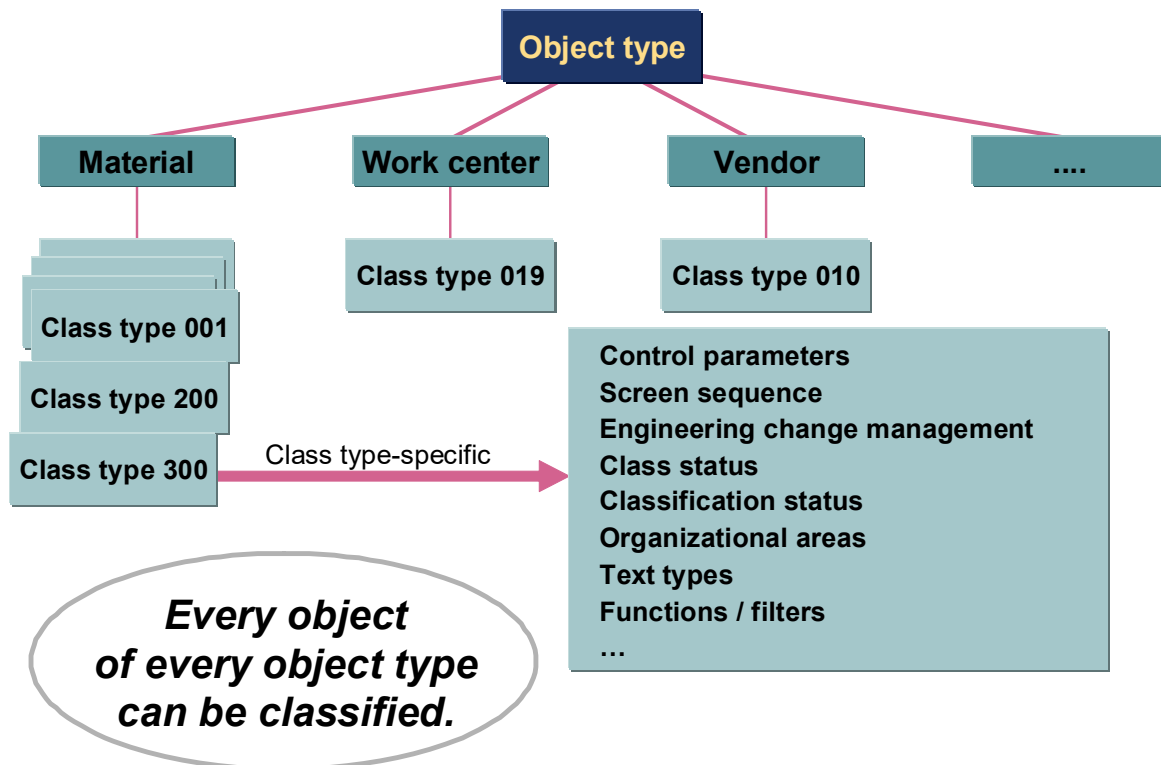
## Why use variant configuration?



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- Multivariant products have a vast selection of variants, arising from the combination of individual product features. Variant configuration is used in the SAP ERP system for this reason.
- As you would expect, complex products are reflected in complex configuration tasks in sales and production. However, a company that sells or produces products with variants must perform these configuration tasks quickly and accurately.
- A product that is to be manufactured in multiple variants is described as a configurable material. The configurable material covers all possible features of the product, so it is not a finished product in itself.
- In the SAP system, characteristics are used to describe the features of configurable products.

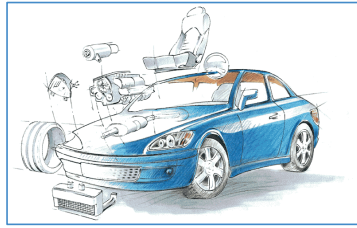
## Class Types



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- The class type has central control functions in class maintenance.
- You cannot change the class type once you have created a class.
- You can define additional class types with different features in Customizing, if required.
- Class statuses, classification statuses, organizational areas, text types, functions, and filters are all defined per class type.

## Variant Configuration Class Type

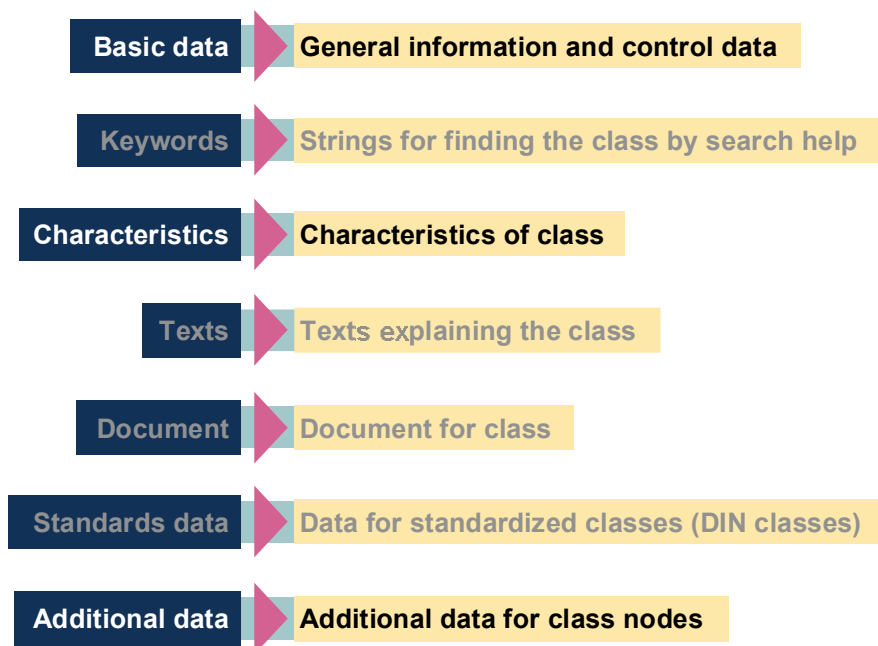


The class type for variant configuration is:

**300**



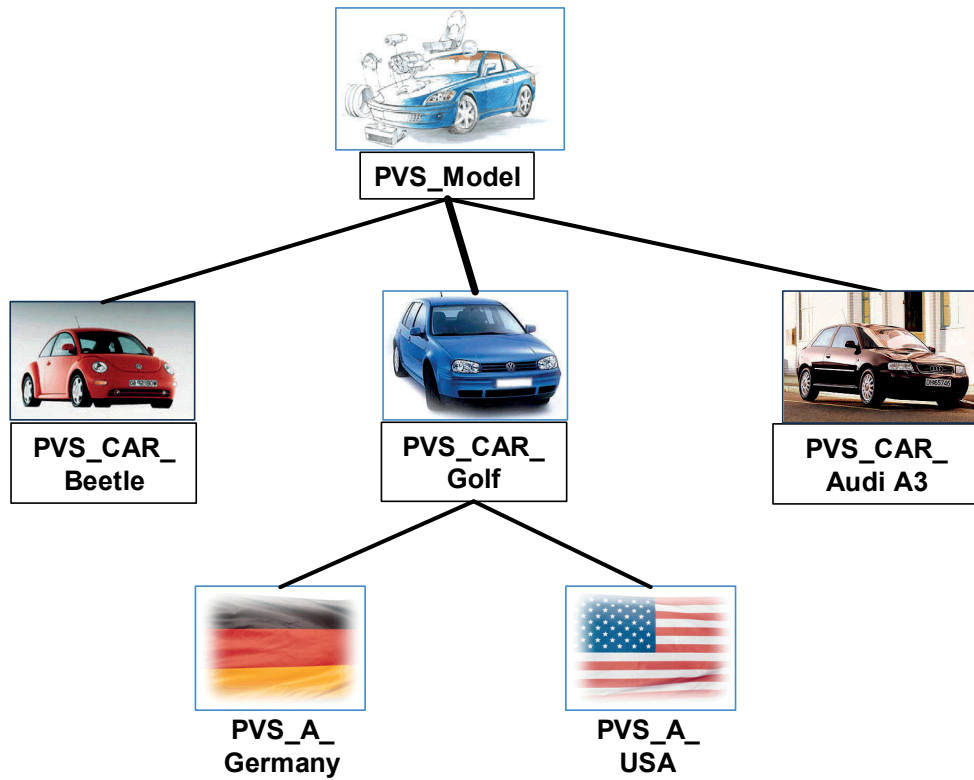
## Creating Classes: Screens



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- You must start on the basic data screen when processing classes. The basic data screen contains the central settings for a class, such as the status, the organizational areas, and the authorization group. You can assign catchwords to help you in matchcode searches. The most important step is assigning the relevant characteristics. These characteristics generate the value assignment screen when, for example, the material master is later to be added to the sales order by the user. The product/material can thus be assigned values. You can assign documents to the class. You can create classes according to a standard (such as DIN, ISO, or ANSI). With special classes (200, 201), you can define that a class can be used as a BOM item in the BOM of a configurable material.
- Basic data: You can assign the status for the class. In the standard system the class statuses for all class types are:
  - 0 = In preparation (only class maintenance allowed)
  - 1 = Released (no restrictions)
  - 2 = Locked (no classification allowed)
- Characteristics:
  - You can assign characteristics to your class. In the standard, the sequence of the characteristics in the class is also the sequence of characteristics that is displayed during configuration. These describe the objects that you classify in your class.
- Additional data:
  - You can specify data relevant to use the class as a BOM item for a configurable material (Class Node).

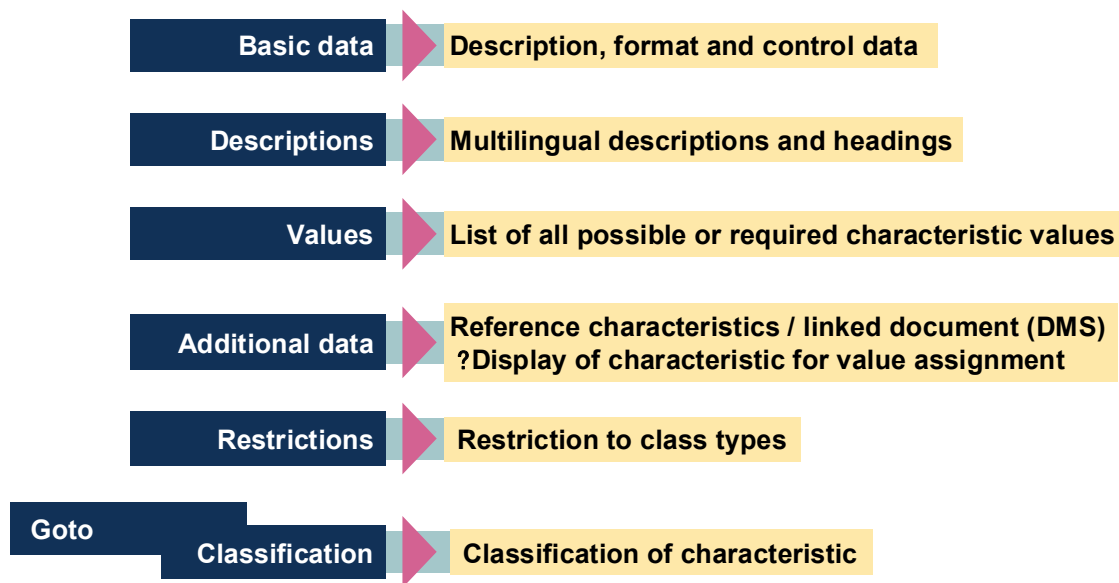
## Class Hierarchies



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- You can arrange classes in a class hierarchy.

## Creating Characteristics: Screens



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- Characteristics are used to describe the properties of a configurable product. Characteristics must be created for all areas for which variability is planned, e.g. motor, color, transmission.
- The basic data must be maintained. A binding list of allowed values should be maintained.
- Characteristic maintenance should be done using the corresponding transaction (CT04), but can also be done via the assignment (CL02).
- Naming conventions:
  - Letters, numbers, underscores, (hyphens – unsuitable in object dependencies)
  - Characteristic names must start with a letter
- Characteristic names with a hyphen require the use of a keyword when used in dependencies. If you use characteristics with a hyphen, you can only use them in dependencies if you precede them with keyword “SKEY”. You enter the characteristic name in single quote marks:
  - SKEY 'EXT-COLOR'.
- You can rename characteristics, provided that they are not addressed in dependencies. Technically, they are stored under an internal number.

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