Oracle® Retail Demand Forecasting

Release Notes

Release 13.0.3

February 2009

Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting (RDF) is a Windows-based statistical and promotional forecasting solution. It uses state-of-the-art modeling techniques to produce high quality forecasts with minimal human intervention. Forecasts produced by the Demand Forecasting system enhance the retailer's supply-chain planning, allocation, and replenishment processes, enabling a profitable and customer-oriented approach to predicting and meeting product demand.

Hardware and Software Requirements

The following table provides information about the current release.

Table 1   Hardware and Software Requirements

Release Information	Details
Code Cut-Off Date	January 30, 2009
Supported OS, Server, and Compilers	Sun Solaris 9: gcc 4.1.1
	Sun Solaris 10: gcc 4.2.3
	AIX 5.3 (TL5 or greater): gcc 4.1.1
	HP-UX 11.23 (Itanium): aCC 6.15
	Oracle Enterprise Linux 4, Update 5: gcc 4.1.1
Supported OS, Client	Windows NT, 2000, XP, Vista
Required 3rd Party Software	JRE 1.5 (installed on client and server machines). Note that this patch of RPAS is also certified with JRE 1.6, but it is not necessary to upgrade to JRE 1.6 to take this patch.

Functional Enhancements

Demand Forecasting 13.0.3 includes the following functional enhancements.

RDF Causal Enhancement - External Baseline

RDF Causal has been enhanced to accept external baseline feeds while calculating causal forecasts. This external baseline will be used while generating the Causal forecast by applying computed or loaded promotion effects on top of this external baseline. When Causal fails to fit and an external baseline is specified, RDF now falls back to the external baseline as the forecast.

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A new editable measure called "External Baseline" is available in the Forecast Administration workbook. This can be found under the Advanced Parameters tab, on the Causal Parameters worksheet. The new functionality can be enabled by populating this measure. The external baseline measure needs to be at the same base intersection as the forecast level. For example, when the Causal forecast level is at SKU/Store/Day, the external baseline measure needs to have a base intersection of SKU/Store/Day. The base intersection validation is performed by the system only during the RDF forecast run. If no external baseline measure is specified, then the external baseline functionality is not activated for the Causal forecast level.

Causal Higher functionality will work as before; i.e., average promotion effects from aggregate levels (based on Causal Higher Intersection) are now applied against the external baseline to generate Causal forecasts. Please the *Demand Forecasting User Guide* for additional details on when and how Causal Higher functionality can be enabled.

This new functionality can be set up to enable baseline forecasts generated from source level forecasting (using pre-processed history, cleansed for promotion effects) to be used as (external) baseline for Causal forecasting. Note that this implies configuring two final levels. Also, additional configuration can enable the combination of forecasts and chosen forecast parameters for Causal and non-Causal SKU/Stores (from the two final levels) for review and approval in a single Forecast Approval workbook.

Fixed Issues/Defects

The following table contains issues or defects that have been fixed for the current release.

Table 2   Fixed Issues and Defects

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
RDF Causal forecasts were too low or near to zero in certain situations. A new parameter has been added in the Forecast Administration workbook to enable multiplicative lift calculation.	7295930
Autosource was failing in certain situations. This issue has been corrected.	7573558, 7555211
Curve batch performance has been enhanced	7636783
RDF configuration automation was failing during Save As. This issue has been corrected.	8205793
Configured approval alert was not showing up as an option in the Default Approval method in the Forecast Administration workbook. This issue has been corrected.	7353394
Forecast special expression was failing when using promotion measures in the expression. This issue has been corrected. Promo effect measures will now have to be specified on the left side of the special expression.	7672364
Keep last changes was not functioning under some circumstances when set to total. This issue has been corrected.	7568153

Table 2   Fixed Issues and Defects

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
RDF automation data was getting wiped out when opening two or more configurations with the same name from the Configuration Tools. This issue has been corrected.	7643819
Causal capping was not working as expected as capping was being performed at the forecast level as well as the causal calculation intersection. This issue has been corrected and capping will now be performed only at the forecast level.	7246228
The Forecast Scorecard workbook build was failing under certain selected options. This issue has been corrected.	7559103
PreGenerate binary was not providing help information. This issue has been corrected.	7557839
The Forecast Approval wizard was displaying the additional parameter selection page even when no additional parameters existed for selection. This issue has been corrected, and the page will not be displayed in such cases.	4857000
The RDF build log was logging certain warning messages as error messages. This issue has been corrected.	7599466
After changing the name of a promotion and patching the domain, Causal forecast run was failing. This issue has been corrected.	8222036
PreProcessing was failing under certain circumstances in an HP environment. This issue has been corrected.	7714539
RDF Automation was failing. This issue has been corrected.	8216438

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting 13.0.3 documentation set:

- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation

Previous Releases

For additional information on previous Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting release enhancements and additional information, refer to the release notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.

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