

Oracle® Retail Demand Forecasting

Release Notes

Release 13.0.4

July 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

See the *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Installation Guide* for information about the following:

- Hardware and software requirements
- Oracle Retail application software compatibility information

Note: The RPAS Client will not be supported on Windows 2000 after the 13.0.4 release. The RPAS Server will not be supported on Sun Solaris 9 after the 13.0.4 release.

Functional Enhancements

RDF 13.0.4 includes the following functional enhancements.

Causal Baseline Smoothing Method

During the causal forecasting generation, after the causal engine calculates the lift based on promotions and demand, the demand is decausalized. The resulting feed is used to forecast the causal baseline. Prior to this version, the smoothing of the decausalized demand was done using the promo flags as indicators. In this version the option to smooth the baseline using the proved moving average method was added.

To access this functionality, build a Forecast Administration workbook. From the Advanced Settings tab, open the Causal Parameters worksheet. Here the user has access to a new parameter called Causal - Smoothing Method. The first option is IndicatorBased, which is the old method and also the default value. The second option is the new method called MovingAverage.

Causal Lift

Prior to 13.0.4 version, the causal engine automatically determined the magnitude of a promotion and whether its effect was positive or negative. In the 13.0.4 version, the user is able to specify if a certain promotion is allowed a negative lift or not.

In the Promotion Management workbook, a new worksheet was added. Here the user can specify if a certain promotion is allowed to have negative lift (select True, the default value) or not (select False).

Technical Enhancements

Demand Forecasting 13.0.4 includes the following technical enhancements.

Translated Files

The translated .ovr files are now released in UTF-8 encoding. Any changes to these files need to be done with a UTF-8 capable editor.

Fixed Issues/Defects

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

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
Specification of causal spread profile was zeroing out forecasts. This issue has been corrected.	8519030
The curve calculations day of week was totaling differently when using the profile calculation. This issue has been corrected.	8515911
The RDFValidation for profile-based forecasting failed when a demand measure was specified in the Deseasonalized Demand Array in the Forecast Administration workbook. This issue has been corrected	8492132
The moving average was failing in some source levels. This issue has been corrected.	8479304
Some additional explanation was added about AutoSource.	8412089
A memory fault coredump error occurred in preprocessing under certain circumstances. This issue has been corrected.	8288425
There were instances where RDF incorrectly calculated the value of the cumulative internal for the first week of the forecast. The initial value was lower than it should have been. This issue has been corrected.	8249057
Errors occurred while building the daily causal FAP workbook. This issue has been corrected.	8398201
The default source level and default forecast method appeared as zeroes. This issue has been corrected.	8355099
The incorrect worksheet name appeared in FAD, FAP, and FMA workbooks in the RDF domain. This issue has been corrected.	8343670

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
The No Override option appeared in different places in the list of measures. For consistency, it has been moved to the bottom of every list where it exists.	76158022

Known Issues

The following table contains issues that have been identified for the current release.

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
For item/stores that are new or highly seasonal, AutoSource may not return the best recommendation since new items may not have an adequate sales history length and highly seasonal items may only sell for a short period during the year. For these items, you should not set the AutoSource recommendation as default at the final level. Only use AutoSource recommendations for item/stores that have an adequate sales history.	8523415

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting 13.0.4 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Administration Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Configuration Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting User Guide*

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.

Supplemental Documentation at My Oracle Support

The following document is available through My Oracle Support (formerly Metalink). Access My Oracle Support at the following URL:

<https://metalink.oracle.com>

Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting 13.0.4 Cumulative Fixed Issues (Doc ID 844687.1)

This document details the fixed issues and defects for all Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting patch releases prior to and including the current release.

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

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