

Oracle® Retail Demand Forecasting

Release Notes

Release 13.1.2

January 2010

Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Overview

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.

Important Steps to Address RMS-RPAS/RDF Integration

This section describes important steps to address the RMS-RPAS/RDF integration.

Change of Class and Subclass Naming

Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) sends hierarchy files to Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting (RDF). RMS ensures that a class is unique to only its department and a subclass is unique to only its own class. In other words, Dept10 and Dept 20 both can contain Class 100. However, within RPAS, unless class names are unique across the domain, it results in a multi-parent problem. Until this release, RDF tried to ensure uniqueness by concatenation of positions as follows:

- RDF Class = RMS Dept + RMS Class
- RDF Subclass = RMS Dept + RMS Class + RMS Subclass

However, this can result in a multi-parent problem. For example:

RMS Department	RMS Class	RPAS/RDF Class
10	110	10110
101	10	10110

In this scenario, Clss10110 rolls into both Dept10 and Dept101. This is not acceptable in any RPAS application.

Resolution

Position names are made unique by adding an underscore. In the example above, the classes would be named Clss 10_110 and Clss101_10. However, when these position names are corrected and new hierarchy files are created, the existing class/subclass name no longer exists. Therefore, if the upgrade process is not specifically followed, any data that was stored at the class or subclass level (such as Clss10110 above) is erased.

Important: Failure to follow these upgrade instructions could result in data loss.

The following upgrade process needs to be followed only by the customers who:

- Use standard integration between RMS and RPAS based applications (other than AIP).
- Have stored data at class or subclass levels.
- Upgrade from a version prior to 13.0.4.18 to 13.0.4.18 or later. Those customers must apply the process described below. In the future, customers already on 13.0.4.18 or later do not need to use this process again.

Upgrade Process

1. Point the environment variable RPAS_HOME to the new RPAS_HOME.
2. Run the script \$RPAS_HOME/rfx/src/rmse_rpas_merchhier.ksh to generate the rmse_rpas_merchhier.dat file. This is how the new position names are generated.
3. Run repos.ksh with the -a n flag to produce the position rename file and run renamePositions **without** applying the changes. Examine the log file PRODrename.log for errors.
4. When ready, run the repos.ksh script without the -a y flag to apply the changes.

Change of Position Label Widths

Fields lengths for RDF hierarchies were increased to accept wider labels from RMS. These new field lengths are currently not patchable directly in any RPAS domain. Therefore, the following upgrade process must be followed:

Upgrade Process

All customers applying 13.0.4.18 and above should perform the steps below every time a new hot fix is applied.

1. Export the following environment variables in the environment before running the upgrade scripts.
 - UPGRADE_HOME: This variable should point to the path of upgrade scripts where environment.ksh, updateschemafiles.ksh, updatetoolsconfiguration.ksh, and other configuration files are present.
 - RDF_DOMAIN_PATH: The path of RDF domain which you are going to patch. The dimension field length of this RDF domain is taken and applied to the configuration and schema files.

- **RDF_SCHEMA_DIR:** The RETL RDF schema files directory. This must be the latest release directory, which you use for patching. It points to the SCHEMA files location in the release, which you use for patching the RDF domain.
 - **TOOLS_CONFIG_DIR:** The Configuration Tools XML files directory. It points to the directory where the hierarchy.xml file is present. It must be the latest release directory which you use for patching.
 - **UPGRADE_BACKUP_DIR:** A backup of SCHEMA and hierarchy.xml files is kept in this directory.
2. Set up the following upgrade scripts:
 - **updateschemafiles.ksh** script updates the dimension field length of schema files to the length as available in the domain.
 - **updatetoolsconfiguration.ksh** script updates the dimension field length of configuration files to the length as available in the domain.
 3. Change the directory to UpgradeScripts directory.

```
$ cd UpgradeScripts
```
 4. Run **updatetoolsconfiguration.ksh**. This updates the hierarchy.xml file.

```
$ ./ updatetoolsconfiguration.ksh
```
 5. Run **updateschemafiles.ksh**. This updates the RETL RDF schema files.

```
$ ./ updateschemafiles.ksh
```

Note: For added visibility for retailers, these instructions are included in both the *RDF Release Notes* and the *RDF Installation Guide*. In the future, see the *RDF Installation Guide* for more information.

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

Functional Enhancements

RDF 13.1.2 includes the following functional enhancements.

Cloning Expression

The cloning expression was enhanced to clone date type measures, for example, History Start Date. In previous releases, it was only able to clone real and integer type measures.

Cloning Functionality

The cloning functionality was enhanced to optionally adjust the level of the cloned sales to match the level of the actual sales.

Pre-processing Methods

The STD ES and STD ES LS pre-processing methods were enhanced to accept a flag, which allows you to skip flagged periods from the calculation of past and/or future velocities.

Source Measures

You have the ability to specify different source measures at the source and final forecasting levels. In previous releases, the source measure specified for the final level was used for the corresponding source levels as well.

History Start Dates

You can specify different history start dates for source and final forecasting levels.

Bayesian Reactivity

You can set the Bayesian reactivity, that is, Bayesian alpha, at every intersection of the available forecast levels (final and source). It was a domain setting prior to this release.

Documentation Enhancement

RDF 13.1.2 includes the following documentation enhancement.

RDF Implementation Guide

The *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Implementation Guide* describes post-installation tasks that need to be performed in order to bring RDF online and ready for production use.

The *RDF Implementation Guide* covers these topics in detail:

- Key Features of RDF
- Skills Needed for Implementation
- Implementation Considerations
- RDF Integration
- Installation Consideration
- Configuration Considerations
- Batch Processing
- AutoSource
- Forecast Approval Alerts
- Adding New Local Domains
- Internationalization

The *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Administration Guide* is deprecated. Most of the content for that guide was transferred to the new *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Implementation Guide* with other applicable sections moved to the

Fixed Issues/Defects

The table below contains issues that have been fixed for the current release.

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
The pre-process expression does not work when the NFUT parameter is set to zero. This issue has been corrected	8806949
In the Forecast Administration workbook, when selecting the 'Manual' approval method, the cell was emptied out and the label disappeared. This issue has been corrected	8693908
The RDF_E_RMS.KSH SCRIPT EXTRACTS the cumulative intervals at the SKU/STR/calendar intersection. AIP needs the cumulative intervals at the SKU/STR intersection. This issue has been corrected	8646595
Causal forecast does not use causal data source. This issue has been corrected	8634024
The Autosource online help and PDF's need to clarify the usage of the TODAY parameter. This issue has been corrected and the <i>RDF User Guide</i> was updated	8236160
Exception when running clone on a domain upgraded from version 11.x to 13.x. This issue has been corrected	8804632
RMSL_RPAS_FORECAST program fails on AIX because of rejected records. This issue has been corrected	8355594
Problems running RDFT_MERCHHIER.KSH (DUP) because RDF field lengths were different than RMS field lengths. This issue has been corrected	8894387
Selecting refresh in the Like Item workbook causes calcengine exception. This issue has been corrected	8913034
RETL - invalid field name in schema file. This issue has been corrected	8933418
Error on the LIKESKU workbook: LIKESKU measure has too many picklist options. This issue has been corrected	8992769
Forecast start and end dates are not being honored in some instances. This issue has been corrected	9023545
RETL - data overflow problem in ORG HIER. This issue has been corrected	9056075
Create export: RDF daily and weekly forecast to AIP. This issue has been corrected	9056086
Running Pregenerate is failing when removing old forecasts from the front end. This issue has been corrected	9113810
After upgrading from 12.1.3.x to 13.1.1.2, pre-processing is failing. This issue has been corrected	9147661
Rekeying the same adjusted forecast impacts adjusted cumulative intervals. This issue has been corrected.	9163627
RETL - concatenation of dimensions in the merchandise hierarchy. This issue has been corrected.	9106294

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting 13.1.2 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Implementation 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. Access My Oracle Support at the following URL:

<https://support.oracle.com>

Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting 13.1.2 Cumulative Fixed Issues (Doc ID 973725.1)

This document details the fixed issues and defects for all RDF patch releases prior to and including the current release.

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

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